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Ichneumonid parasitoids (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) of fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) in the northwest of Iran

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Subject Editor: Samira Farahani ABSTRACT. This study was conducted to collect and identify ichneumonid parasitoids of tephritid fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) feeding on the plants of the family Asteraceae in the northwest of Iran during 2013-2015. Five species of ichneumon wasps on five species of fruit flies were reared. They were as follows: Cremastus lineatus on Urophora terebrans; Diadegma maculatum on Hypenidium robrowskii; Scambus brevicornis on Sphenella marginata, Scambus rufator on Terellia gynacochroma and Urophora sp. and Tranosema sp. on Tephritis sp. dioscurea group. Of them, Cremastus lineatus, S. rufator and Tranosema sp. are new records for ichneumonid fauna of Iran. All host-parasitoid-plant associations were newly established to the science. General distribution of these parasitoids and their biological associations were discussed.

Key words: Host, distribution, new record, Palaearctic.

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Introduction

The family Ichneumonidae is known as the most diverse family of Hymenoptera parasitoid wasps in the world with more than 24481 described species classified into 8 higher groups and 48 subfamilies (Yu et al. 2012; together with subsequent described species). Almost all ichneumonids are parasitoid and mainly parasitize larvae of holometabolous insects through different host-parasitoid interactions and life history patterns (Belshaw and Quicke 2002; Quicke et al. 2009). Thus, they could play a substantial

role as biological control agents in decreasing the population of forest and agricultural pests (Bennet 2008).

Dipterans provide a large source of hosts for ichneumonid parasitoids. Their relationship may be vary from highly specific even at high taxonomic categories to general. Four families of Diptera are specific hosts of three subfamilies of Ichneumonidae (Quicke *at al.* 2009). Hover flies (Dip.: Syrphidae) are attacked by the wasps of the subfamily Diplazontinae

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(Klopfstein 2014). Tipulids (Dip.: Tipulidae) are parasitized by members of the subfamily Cylloceriinae and species of Mycetophilidae and Sciaridae are known as hosts of Orthocentrinae (Wahland Gauld 1998). Other species of Diptera are attacked by wasps of eight subfamilies of Ichneumonidae, mainly Campopleginae, Cryptinae, Cremastinae, Ophioninae and Pimplinae (Yu et al. 2012).

Tephritid fruit flies (Dip.: Tephritidae) comprises more than 4400 phytophagous species feeding in the world reproductive organs of plants (White 1988). Some species such as Ceratitis capitata (Wiedemann), Bacterocera oleae (Rossi) and Rhagoletis cerasi (L.) are among wellknown and economically the most important pests of fruit crops around the world (Daniel and Grunder 2012). A wide effort has been made on the implementtation and releasing the biological control agents as an ecologically safe and long term part of integrated pest management programs of tephritid fruit flies. For example, Phygadeuon wiesmanni Sachtleben, 1934 (Hym.: Ichneumonidae, Cryptinae) is a major parasitoid of European cherry fruit fly, R. cerasi, and released against R. pomonella (Walsh, 1867) from 1985 in Ontario (Hagely et al. 1993).

Plants of the family Asteraceae is one of the largest and economically most important family of flowering plants and consists of 12-17tribes, approximately 1100 genera and 20,000 species (Cronquist 1981). Species of this family are of wide economic importance as vegetables (lettuce, artichokes and endive), sources of oil (sunflower, safflower) and insecticides (pyrethrum), and garden ornamentals (chrysanthemum, dahlia, marigold and many others) (Jansen and Palmer 1987).

Fruit flies are important widespread pests of crop fruits and vegetables, which infest agreat variety of native and exotic fruits (White 1988; Aluja and Norrbom 2001). Almost250 species are known to be associated with plants and vegetables of economic importance, including about 100 that are pests, ranging in status from minor to very serious (White and Elson-Harris 1992). A few species induce the formation of galls in the upper or subterranean parts of stems of Asteraceae (Freidberg 1984; Korneyev 2003).

Till now, more than 502 species of the family Ichneumonidae have been recorded from Iran (Barahoei *et al.* 2012; Mohammadi-Khoramabadi *et al.* 2013a, b). Of them, 21 species belong to the subfamily Diplazontinae, parasitoids of hover flies (Dip.: Syrphidae) (Mohammadi-Khoramabadi *et al.* 2013a) and nine species to the subfamily Orthocentrinae, parasitoids of Mycetophilidae and Sciaridae (Mohammadi-Khoramabadi and Talebi 2013).

Fruit flies (Dip.: Tephritidae) have a rich species diversity. There is not a complete list of determined Iranian tephritids, but based on the available papers, it can estimate more than 120 species of this family were collected (Mohammadzade-Namin and Rasoulian 2009; Mohammadzade-Namin *et al.* 2010; Mohammadzade-Namin 2012; Gharajedaghi *et al.* 2012; Gharali *et al.* 2005).

Tephritid parasitoids were studied by Aluja *et al.* (1990), but in spite of the large material, of more than 1300 reared parasitoids, no ichneumonid wasp was recorded. Most parasitoid species recorded from fruit flies belonged to the families Braconidae, Figitidae, Eulophidae, Diapriidae, Chalcididae, Eurytomidae, and Pteromalidae (Wharton 1998; Sivinski *et al.* 2000; Ovruski *et al.* 2004; Gates *et al.* 2008).

This study was conducted to collect and identify ichneumonid parasitoids of tephritid fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) feeding on the plants of the family Asteraceae in the northwest of Iran during 2013-2015.

Material and methods

This study was carried out in East and West-Azarbaijan provinces of Iran (from 35°58′- 39° 47′ Nto 44° 02′- 48° 21′ E) during 2013 to 2015. Infested reproductive organs of six species of Asteraceae were widely collected and then were reared in separate boxes (3308cm³) at 25±2°Cuntilthe adults of and/or their parasitoids Tephritidae appeared. and their ichneumonid parasitoids were identified using keys and descriptions provided by Korneyev and White (1999), Kasparyan (1981), Broad (2011), Townes (1969, 1970, 1971). Specimens were deposited in the insect collection of the Department of Plant East-Azarbaijan Protection, Research Agriculture and Center for Natural Resources, Tabriz and Department of Plant Production, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Darab, Shiraz University, Iran.

Results

A total of 13 adult individuals of ichneumonid parasitoids were reared on five species of tephritid fruit flies infesting six species of Asteraceae (Table 1). They represented five species belonging to three subfamilies, one from the subfamily Cremastinae, two from the subfamily Campopleginae and two from the subfamily Pimplinae as follow:

Subfamily Cremastinae Forster, 1869 Cremastus lineatus Gravenhorst, 1829 (Fig. 4)

Material examined: Iran, East-Azarbaijan, Aland (38°48'45"N, 44°33'56"E, 1722m), 10 July 2014, 33, ex *Urophora terebrans* (Loew) on *Onopordon* sp., leg.: A.R. Pourhaji.

Distribution within Iran: East-Azarbaijan (new record for Iran).

General distribution: Austria, Germany, Greece, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine (Yu *et al.* 2012).

Host association: It was reared on *Urophora terebrans* (Dip.: Tephritidae) on the plant *Onopordon* sp. (Asteraceae) for the first time in this study. There was no any host record for this species.

Diagnosis: Cremastus lineatus can be distinguished from other species of the genus by a combination of the following characters: first tergite with the ventral edges medially closed together; second recurrent vein interstitial; in male ocelli large; head and thorax shiny, densely punctate and with red pattern; lateral lobes of mesocutum red; propodeum with areola 3 x as long as the posterior width (Fig. 4) (Kasparyan 1981).

Subfamily Campopleginae Forster, 1869 Diadegma maculatum (Gravenhorst, 1829) (Fig. 3)

Material examined: Iran, West-Azarbaijan, Shahin-Dejh (36°36'38"N & 46°33'52"E, 1370m), 19 August 2014, 1♀, ex Hypenidium robrowskii (Becker, 1908) on Lactuca serriola L.; Kilisa-Kandi (38°50'34"N & 44°27'38"E, 2319m), 6 August 2015, 1♂, reared on Cirsium congestum (Fisch. & C.A. Mey. ex DC), leg.: A.R. Pourhaji.

Distribution within Iran: Khorasan-e-Razavi province (Ghahari *et al.* 2014).

General distribution: Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Turkey and United Kingdom (Yu *et al.* 2012).

Host association: *Hypenidium robrowskii* on *Lactucaserriola* L. (Asteraceae) is firstly reported as the host of this species.

Diagnosis: *Diadegma maculatum* can be identified by a combination of the following morphological characters (Fig. 3): head narrowed posteriorly; hind coxa black; hind tibia yellow-red at the middle and brown at the base and top; second and third metasomal tergites in their posterior margin red, the subsequent tergites entirely red; ovipositor sheath less

than 1.5 x as long as hind tibia; fore wing with an areolet; 7^{th} metasomal tergite posteriorly with a deep median incision (Kasparyan 1981).

Tranosema **sp.** (Fig. 6)

Material examined: Iran, East-Azarbaijan, Arshad-Chamani (37°45'00"N &46°18'55"E, 2847m), 11 August 2014, 1\$\frac{1}{3}\$, ex *Tephritis* sp. *dioscurea* group on *Echinops* sp., leg.: A.R. Pourhaji.

Distribution within Iran: East-Azarbaijan province (new record for Iran).

General distribution: Holarctic (Yu *et al.* 2012).

Host association: Species of the genus are mainly parasitoids of Microlepidoptera (Yu *et al.* 2012). *Tephritis* sp. *dioscurea* group on *Echinops* sp. is newly established.

Diagnosis: The genus *Tranosema* can be identified by the following characters (Fig. 6): clypeus weakly convex; eyes weakly indented opposite antennal sockets; fore wing with an areolet; hind wing with nervellus vertical and not intercepted; posterior mesosternal carina medially absent; hind tibia with basal and apical dark bands; propodeal spiracle circular; propodeum with a short and wide areola which is confluent with the very wide petiolar area; first metasomal tergite with glymma (Townes 1970).

Subfamily Pimplinae Wesmael, 1845 Scambus brevicornis (Gravenhorst, 1829) (Fig. 5)

Material examined: Iran, East-Azarbaijan, Arshad-Chamani (37°45'00"N &46°18'55"E, 2847m), 28 July 2014, 23, ex *Sphenella marginata* (Fallen, 1814) on *Senecio vulgare* L., leg.: A.R. Pourhaji.

Distribution within Iran: Kurdistan (Kolarov and Ghahari 2006) and Qazvin provinces (Ghahari and Schwarz 2012).

General distribution: Europe, North America, northern Africa and Middle East (Yu *et al.* 2012).

Host association. Scambus brevicornis is a very polyphagous parasitoid and has been reported on 133 host species on Hemiptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Diptera Hymenoptera (Yu et al. 2012). Dipteran hosts of this species are Chaetostomella cylindrica (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830), Euphranta connexa (Fabricius, 1794) and Noeeta pupillata (Fallen, 1814) (Dip.: Tephritidae) and Gimnomera dorsata (Zetterstedt, 1838) (Dip.: Anthomyidae) (Yu et al. 2012). In this study, the fourth host species of tephritid fruit fly, Sphenella marginata (Fallen, 1814) on Senecio vulgare L., has been recorded for this species.

Diagnosis: *Scambus brevicornis* can be separated from other species of the genus by a combination of the following characters: antenna short, as long as the distance between base of the fore wing to the pterostigma; upper angle of pronotum before tegula white; coxae black; trochnaters yellow with black base; hind tibia white with dark pattern on base and top; all metasomal tergites black; metasomal tergites 6 and 7 with distinct and sharp edge punctures (Fig. 5) (Kasparyan 1981).

Scambus rufator Aubert, 1963 (Figs. 1-1, 2)

Material examined: Iran, East-Azarbaijan, Arshad-Chamani (37°45'00"N & 46°18'55"E, 2847m), 28 July 2014, 3&1\$\,\text{c}, ex Terellia gynaecochroma (Hering) and Urophora sp. on Onopordon acanthium L.: in Eest-Azarbaijan, Kandovan (37°47'42"N & 46°14'58"E, 2265m), 22 September 2013, 2\$\,\text{c}, ex Terellia gynaecochroma, on Onopordon acanthium, leg.: A.R. Pourhaji.

Distribution within Iran: East-Azarbaijan (new record for Iran).

General distribution: Bulgaria, former Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Romania, Turkey and former Yugoslavia (Yu *et al.* 2012).

Host association: This species has yet been reported only on *Chamaesphecia palustris* (Kautz, 1927) (Lep.: Sesiidae) (Yu et al. 2012). In this study, *Terellia gynaecochroma* and *Urophora* sp. (Dip.: Tepharitidae) on *Onopordon acanthium* L. were found as new hosts for *S. rufator*.

rufator Diagnosis: Scambus can be identified by the combination of the following characters: female (Fig. 1) with hind tibia monochrome red; metasomal tergites 1-4 red; first metasomal tergite laterally smooth and finely sculptured; ovipositor compressed laterally, about 0.8 x as long as metasoma; hypopygium with a large membranous area; male (Fig. 2) with hind tibia uniformly red; head distinctly narrowed posteriorly; propodeum with longitudinal carinae dorsal widely separated; first metasomal tergite as long as wide (Kasparyan 1981).

Discussion

From five parasitoid species reared on tephritid flies one genus and two species are new record for Iranian ichneumonid fauna. All host-parasitoid-plant associations were newly established to the science (Table 1).

In present study *Scambus brevicornis* and *Cremastus lineatus* were respectively the most abundant parasitoid species of fruit flies in the studied area (Fig. 2).

Ichneumonidae quite rarely parasitize dipterous hosts, and few ichneumonid subfamilies are trophically connected with ichneumonid flies. Two subfamilies, Diplazontinae and Orthocentrinae, on dipterous specialized hosts Syrphidae and Mycetophilidae, and most other host records from Diptera belong to Cryptinae and Pimplinae (Hoffmeister 1992; Hagley et al. 1993). López-Ortega and Khalaim (2012) reported for the first time, a Calliephialtes species associated

with Diptera, representing one of the few detailed records of an ichneumonid parasitoid on Tephritidae. *Calliephialtes sittenfeldae* was reported as a common parasitoid of the fruit fly *Anastrepha spatulata* Stone (Diptera: Tephritidae).

In the subfamily Cremastinae, the genus Cremastus Gravenhorst relatively large one with about 129 described species around the world (Yu et al. 2012). In Iran, there have been recorded just two species of the genus and C. lineatus is the third species reported here (Amiri et al. 2015; Barahoei et al. 2012). Members of the genus Cremastus associated with species from Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Diptera and Hymenoptera (Yu et al. 2012). One species of the genus, Cremastus incompletus (Provancher, 1875), has been reported as a monophage parasitoid of Rhagoletis pomonella (Dip.: Tephritidae) in the world (Yu et al. 2012). Here we reported, the second genus, Urophora (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830) of the family Tephritidae as host for this genus. Similar to *C. incompletus*, it may be possible that C. lineatus is a species-specific parasitoid for its hosts, *Urophorasp*.

Diadegma Förster is a large genus of the subfamily Campopleginae that mainly known as parasitoids of Microlepidoptera (Yu et al. 2012). From Cyclorrhapha, some families Ephedridae, the species of Chloropidae and Syrphidae has been reported as hosts of the genus (Yu et al. 2012). Tephritidae is established as the fourth cyclorhaph family parasitized by one species of Diadegma. Hypenidium (Loew, 1862) has three species worldwide which of them two species occurred in Iran on the plant *Lactuca* spp. (Korneyev *et* al. 2011). A recent study showed that there were no any ichneumonids associated with its nearst species, H. oculatum in Iran (Mohammadi-Khoramabadi et al. 2014).

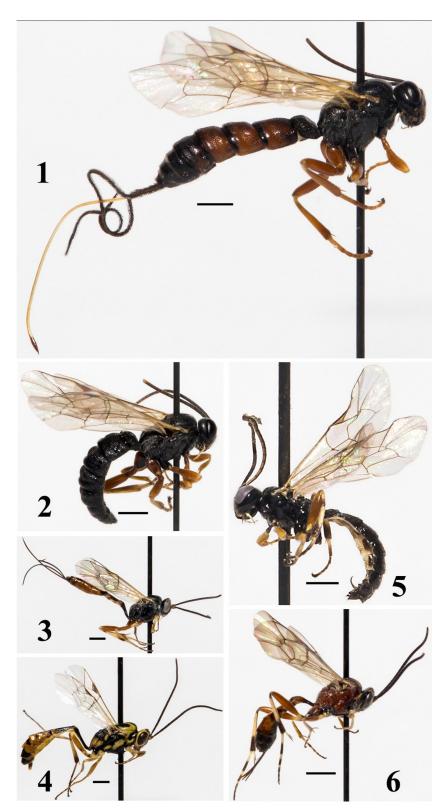


Figure 1-6. Ichneumonidae parasitoids of Tephritidae in Iran: 1. *Scambus rufator* (female); 2. *Scambus rufator* (male); 3. *Diadegma maculatum* (female); 4. *Cremastus lineatus* (male); 5. *Scambus brevicornis* (male); 6. *Tranosema* sp. (female) (scale bar: 1 mm).

Table 1. Tephritid hosts and host plants of Ichneumonidae in Iran († new record of parasitoid, * new host record, ** new host plant record).

Parasitoid	Hosts	Host plants	References
Cremastus lineatus†	Urophora terebrans *	Onopordon sp. **	Present study
Diadegma maculatum	Hypenidium robrowskii*	Lactuca serriola**	Present study
	Unknown species	Cirsium congesthum**	Present study
Scambus brevicornis	Sphenella marginata*	Senecio vulgare**	Present study
Scambus rufator†	Terellia gynaecochroma*	Onopordon acanthium**	Present study
	<i>Urophora</i> sp. *	Onopordon acanthium**	
Tranosema sp.†	Tephritis dicoides *	Echinops sp. **	Present study

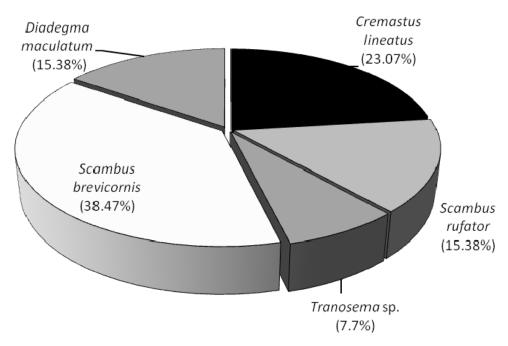


Figure 2. Composition of ichneumonid parasitoids of Tephritidae (Dipera) in the northwest of Iran.

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زنبورهای ایکنئومونید (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) پارازیتویید مگس های میوه (Tephritidae) در شمال غرب ایران

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چکیده: این تحقیق به منظور جمع آوری و شناسایی زنبورهای پارازیتویید مگسهای میوه (Diptera: Tephritidae) که از گیاهان خانواده Asteraceae در شمال غرب میوه (Diptera: Tephritidae) که از گیاهان خانواده شد. پنج گونه زنبور ایران تغذیه می کنند در طبی سالهای ۱۳۹۲–۱۳۹۴ انجام شد. پنج گونه زنبور ایکنئومونید روی پنج گونه از مگسهای میوه پرورش داده شد که عبارتند از: ایکنئومونید روی پنج گونه از مگسهای میوه پرورش داده شد که عبارتند از: ایکنئومونید ایران هستنده از مگسهای میوه پرورش داده شد که عبارتند از: Sphenella marginata روی Scambus brevicornis Hypenidium robrowskii Tranosema و Terellia gynacochroma و پروی چوب چوب وی پروی پروی پروی از بین آنها گونههای Tranosema و پروی چوب وی زنبورهای ایکنئومونید ایران هستند. همه ارتباطات پارازیتویید-میزبان برای دنیای علم جدید هستند. انتشار جغرافیایی پارازیتوییدها و ارتباطات زیستی آنها مورد بحث قرار گرفته است.

واژگان کلیدی: میزبان، انتشار، گزارش جدید، پالئارکتیک