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A NEW SPECIES OF *RHYNCHOSTERES FISCHER* FROM ZAÏRE (HYMENOPTERA, BRACONIDAE)

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With 22 text-figures

ABSTRACT

Rhynchosteres tuberculatus spec. nov. (Braconidae, Opiinae, Opiini) from Zaïre is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

While studying the type-specimens of *Rhynchosteres tubiformis* Fischer, 1965, i.e. of the type-species of *Rhynchosteres* Fischer, 1965, it turned out that these in fact belong to two species: *R. tubiformis* as defined by its holotype, and *R. tuberculatus* spec. nov. The latter species is described and figured in the present paper, whereas figures of the former one are given for comparison.

In total there are four species in the genus, all known from Zaïre only. A key to these species is given.

The biology of the *Rhynchosteres* species is unknown. Other Opiini are endoparasites of dipterous larvae.

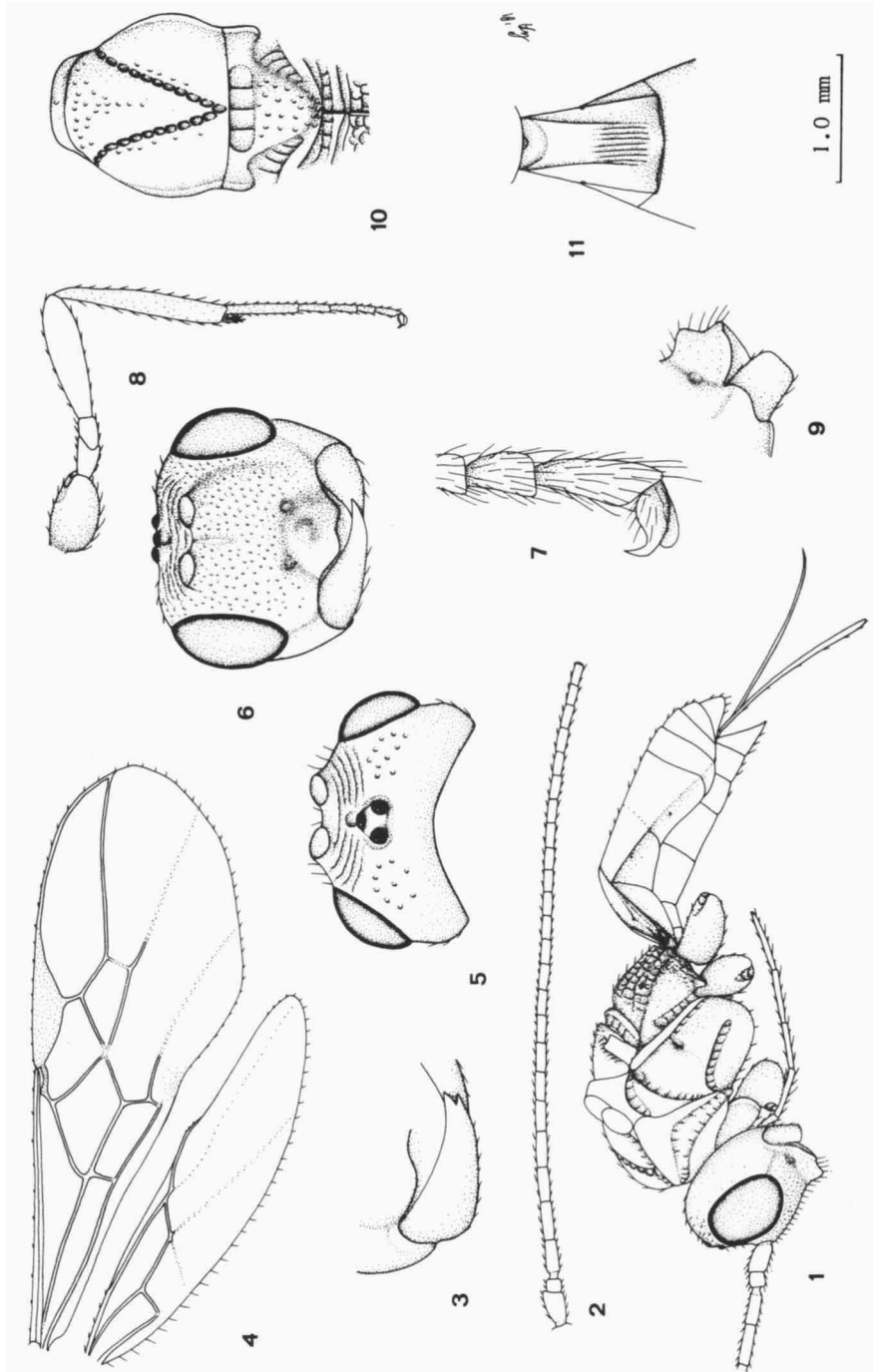
For the technical terms used, see Van Achterberg, 1979.

Rhynchosteres Fischer

Rhynchosteres Fischer, 1965: 314-315.

Type-species: *Rhynchosters tubiformis* Fischer, 1965.

Diagnosis. — Third antennal segment (without anellus) shorter than 4th segment (fig. 15); occipital carina absent dorsally and not connected with hypostomal carina ventrally; clypeus bulging outwards (figs. 9, 15), resulting in a distinct hypoclypeal depression below it; mandible not widened, (rather) convex and more or less bulging basally (figs. 6, 17), not distinctly twisted apically; pronope absent or nearly so; vein M + CU1 of fore wing sclerotized; vein 2-SR of fore wing present; 1st subdiscal cell of fore wing closed; vein 3-SR of fore wing



Figs. 1-11. *Rhynchoseres tuberculatus* spec. nov., holotype. 1, habitus, lateral aspect; 2, antenna; 3, mandible, dorsal aspect; 4, wings; 5, head, dorsal aspect; 6, head, frontal aspect; 7, outer hind claw; 8, hind leg; 9, clypeus, lateral aspect; 10, mesosoma, dorsal aspect; 11, 1st tergite, dorsal aspect. 1, 2, 4, 8: scale-line (= 1 x); 3, 9: 2 x; 5, 6, 10, 11: 1.4 x; 7: 5 x.

shorter than vein 2-SR; vein 1-M of fore wing curved posteriorly (figs. 4, 14); vein m-cu of hind wing present; vein M + CU of hind wing longer than vein 1-M; precoxal sulcus present; postpectal carina present medio-ventrally; dorsope absent; 2nd tergite smooth; 2nd suture of metasoma obsolete; 4th-7th tergites exposed; ovipositor sheath largely glabrous dorsally, 0.32-0.86 times fore wing (unknown in *R. microps*).

Distribution. — Afrotropical: four species.

KEY TO SPECIES OF THE GENUS *RHYNCHOSTERES* FISCHER

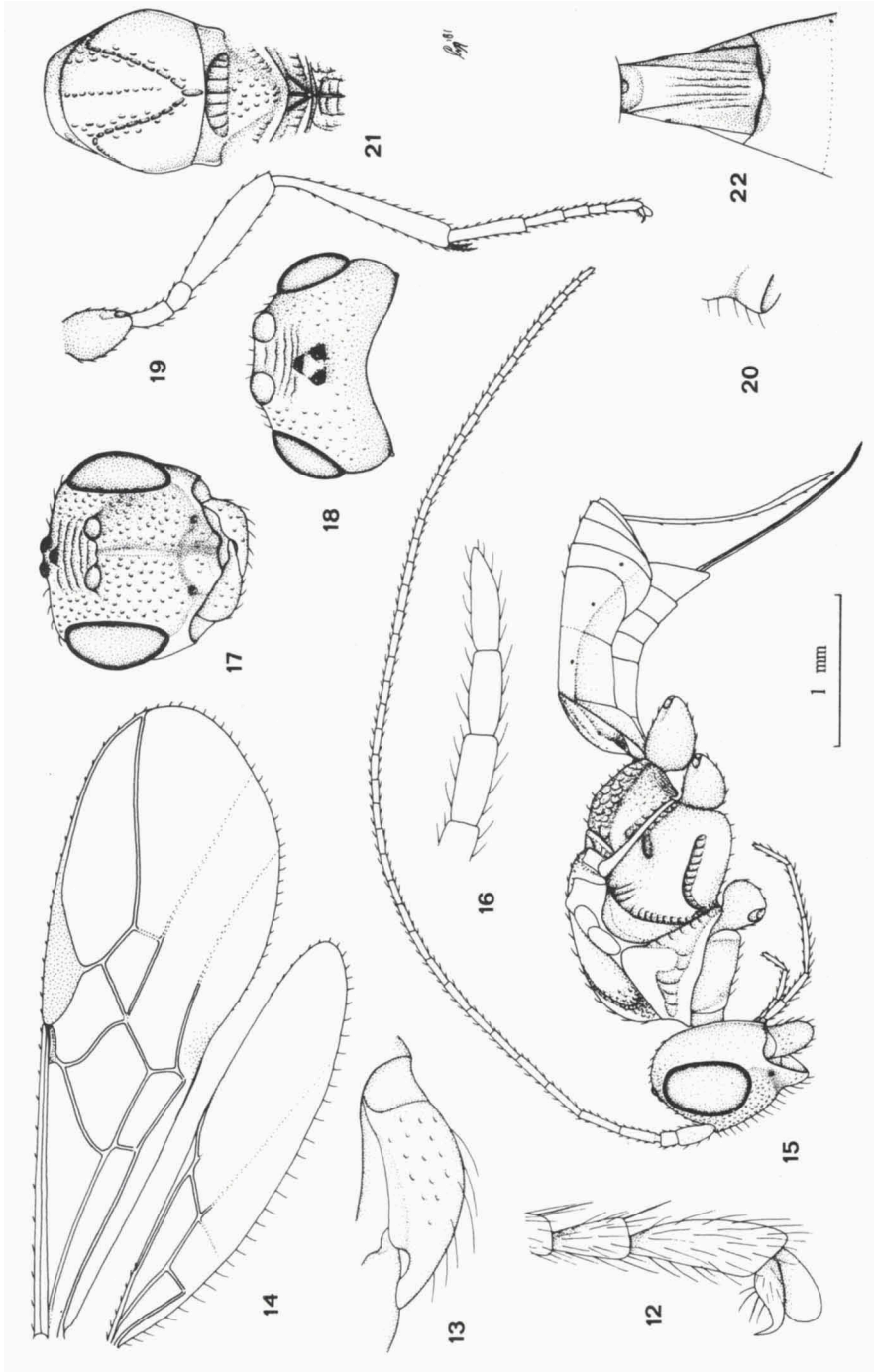
1. First tergite smooth; head and mesosoma completely black; metasoma completely brownish-yellow; ovipositor as long as body *brunigaster* Fischer, 1965
— First tergite at least medially striate (figs. 11, 22); head and metasoma completely brown or only prothorax light yellow; metasoma at least partly blackish; ovipositor shorter than body (fig. 15; unknown of *microps*) 2
2. Temples in lateral view medially about as wide as eye (cf. fig. 5 in Fischer, 1965); vein cu-a of fore wing interstitial; body largely brown *microps* Fischer, 1965
— Temples in lateral view medially about 2/3 as wide as eye (figs. 1, 15); vein cu-a of fore wing postfurcal (figs. 4, 14); head and mesosoma largely black, but prothorax light yellowish 3
3. Clypeus with tubercle (figs. 1, 9); vein 1-SR + M of fore wing slightly sinuate (fig. 4); inner dorsal margin of mandible evenly curved (fig. 3); basal half of metasoma propodeum brownish-yellow; mandible moderately convex (fig. 3); basal half of metasoma and propodeum brownish-yellow; mandible moderately convex (fig. 6) *tuberculatus* spec. nov.
— Clypeus without tubercle (figs. 15, 20); vein 1-SR + M of fore wing strongly sinuate (fig. 14); inner dorsal margin of mandible sinuate (fig. 13); dorsal half of metasoma and propodeum largely black; mandible strongly convex (fig. 17) *tubiformis* Fischer, 1965

Rhynchosteres tuberculatus spec. nov. (figs. 1-11)

Rhynchosteres tubiformis Fischer, 1965: 320, fig. 8.

Holotype, ♀, length of body 4.5 mm, of fore wing 4.6 mm.

Head. — Antennal segments 26, mutillated, length of 3rd segment (without annellus) 0.8 times 4th segment (including annellus equal to 4th segment); length of maxillary palp 1.4 times height of head; length of eye in dorsal view 1.3 times temple (fig. 5); POL:Ø ocellus:OOL = 6:7:24; frons flat, transversely rugose; vertex convex and with some coarse and spaced punctures (fig. 5); face rather convex and densely punctate (fig. 6); clypeus convex, with a medial tubercle (figs. 1, 9) and some fine punctures; length of malar space 0.9 times basal width of mandible; malar suture shallow; mandible moderately convex (fig. 6), its inner dorsal margin evenly curved (fig. 3).



Figs. 12-22. *Rhynchositeres tubiformis* Fischer, holotype. 12, inner hind claw; 13, mandible, dorsal aspect; 14, wings; 15, habitus, lateral aspect; 16, apex of antenna; 17, head, frontal aspect; 18, head, dorsal aspect; 19, hind leg, dorsal aspect; 20, clypeus, lateral aspect; 21, mesosoma, dorsal aspect; 22, 1st and 2nd tergites, dorsal aspect. 12, 16: 5 ×; 13: 3 ×; 14, 15, 19: scale-line (= 1 ×); 17, 18, 20-22: 1.2 ×.

Mesosoma. — Length of mesosoma 1.4 times its height; side of pronotum shortly crenulate medially and posteriorly (fig. 1); epicnemial area crenulate, but smooth ventrally; precoxal sulcus present in anterior 3/4 of mesopleuron; below episternal scrobe punctulate, rest of mesopleuron smooth; metapleural flange acute (fig. 1); metapleuron medially punctulate, ventrally rugose; notauli complete, coarsely crenulate (fig. 10); mesocutal lobes rather flat, glabrous, except for some setae near notauli, largely smooth, but near notauli and anteromedially punctate (fig. 10); scutellum rather flat, coarsely punctate; metanotum with complete medial carina, somewhat protruding (fig. 1); surface of propodeum coarsely reticulate; medial carina present in anterior half of propodeum.

Wings. — Fore wing: 1-SR + M slightly sinuate (fig. 4); r: 3-SR:SR1 = 4:10:39; 1-CU1:2-CU1 = 3:31; CU1b present; 2-SR:3-SR:r-m = 12:10:5; m-cu shortly antefurcal, subparallel to 1-M. Hind wing: marginal cell parallel-sided apically.

Legs. — Hind coxa smooth; tarsal claws slender, simple (fig. 7); length of femur, tibia and basitarsus of hind leg 3.6, 9.2, and 5.7 times their width, respectively; length of both hind tibial spurs 0.3 times basitarsus; hind tarsus with ventral row of setae.

Metasoma. — Length of 1st tergite 1.4 times its apical width, its surface medio-posteriorly striate, rest smooth (fig. 11), convex medio-posteriorly; dorsal carinae of 1st tergite present in basal 0.7 of tergite; laterope deep; sparse setae of metasoma dispersed; length of ovipositor sheath 0.33 times fore wing; ovipositor somewhat upcurved apically (fig. 1); hypopygium medium-sized, apically acute.

Colour. — Black; palpi, mandible (except apex), clypeus, malar space partly, antennal sockets partly, scapus anteriorly, legs (except tarsi and hind tibia), prothorax, tegulae, propodeum, metanotum laterally, basal half and apex of metasoma, and metasoma ventrally, brownish-yellow; wing veins, para- and pterostigma, dark brown; wing membrane light brown; tarsi, hind femur, and ovipositor sheath largely infuscated.

Holotype in Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren: "Coll. Mus. Congo, Rutshuru, 15.v.(19)36, L. Lippens, 119", "*Rhynchosteres tubiformis* n sp., ♀, det. Fischer", "Paratypus".

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