

Order Hymenoptera, family Sapygidae

Christian Schmid-Egger

INTRODUCTION

The small family Sapygidae includes about 30 species in the Palaearctic region (Kurzenko & Gusenleitner, 1994). Specimens measure between 6–22 mm and can be recognized easily in the field by the elongate shape of the combined with their black and yellow (or black reddish) body colour and by a clubiform antennae. Females of Sapygidae lay eggs into the nests of solitary bees, mostly of the family Megachilidae, and the developing larvae consume both the host larvae and the supply of food provided for them. The palaearctic species are keyed by Kurzenko & Gusenleitner (1994). Gusenleitner (1996, 1997) describes additional species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This chapter is based on material collected by the author during a visit to Sharjah in March 2009 for the UAE Insect Project. The systematic account follows that of Kurzenko & Gusenleitner (1994). The material is deposited in the collection of the author.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

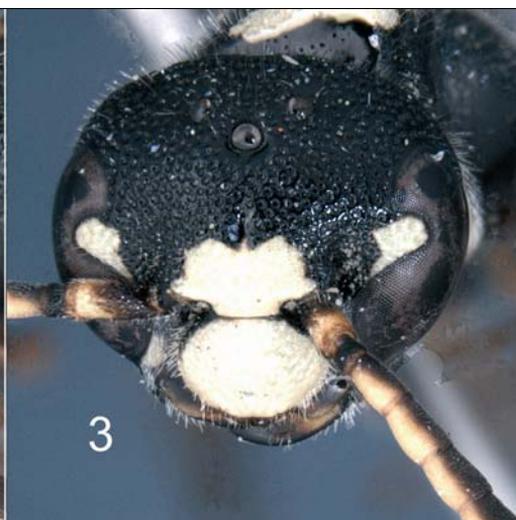
Asmisapyga guichardi Gusenleitner, 1996

Specimens examined: Jebel Hafit, S of al-Ain, 1♀, 18.iii.2009, leg. C. Schmid-Egger. Wadi Wurayah 1♂, 17.iii.2009, leg. C. Schmid-Egger.

Remarks: The specimens from UAE agree in morphologically with specimens from Morocco and Israel, but differ in colour. The female from the UAE has the body whitish-yellow, the clypeus predominantly yellow with a large black basal spot, the tergum II with a lateral spot and in general the pale colour is more extended than in females from Morocco. A female examined from Israel represents an intermediate form; it has the clypeus with a small apical reddish band, pale parts of the head and the mesosoma are yellowish-reddish, the colour of the metasoma is pale white-yellowish. The male from the UAE (compared with a male from Morocco representing the typical form) has the clypeus and a large area above it completely white-yellowish (the clypeus black and the area above it with a small reddish band in the male from Morocco), the pronotum with a large pale band (with a narrow and darker band), the terga II and V with lateral spots, the terga III–VI with large white-yellowish band (the terga III–IV with a lemon yellow band and remaining terga black). In addition, the punctuation of the upper part of the head and the middle part of the pronotum is much sparser and includes larger shiny interspaces in the male from the UAE compared to the male from Morocco.

Ecology: The specimens were collected by hand-netting on flowering *Ochradenus aucheri* (Resedaceae).

Distribution: Morocco (Gusenleitner, 1996), Egypt (Gusenleitner, 1997), Israel (Iddan, 38°49'N 35°17'E), 1♀, 31.iii.1995, leg. M. Irwin, coll. CSE). New to the UAE.



Plates 1–3. *Asmisapyga guichardi* Gusenleitner. 1: Habitus; 2: Head of female; 3: Head of male.

Key to the species of *Asmisapyga* Kurzenko, 1994.

The genus *Asmisapyga* is characterized by a large inpunctate and shiny lateral area on the propodeum. This area is lacking in *Sapyga* and in other Palaearctic genera. Two species have been described in *Asmisapyga*, which can be recognized as follows (key for males and females):

- 1 Flagellomere I 1.3–1.5 times as long as its apical width, shorter than scape. Mesothorax and propodeum black. Terga III–IV with a yellow band, terga II and V black or with lateral spots. Terga with scattered and weak punctures, interspaces 0.5–1.0 times of punctures. Anterior edge of pronotum rounded. Smaller species, 6–8 mm. [Morocco, Egypt, Israel, UAE] *Asmisapyga guichardi* Gusenleitner, 1996
- Flagellomere I twice as long as its apical width and as long as scape. Mesothorax and propodeum with yellow spots. All terga with reddish or yellow bands or spots. Terga densely and distinctly punctate. Anterior edge of pronotum right-angled or with a small carina. Larger species, 9–11 mm. [Turkey, Syria, Israel, Jordan, Tunisia (in Tunisia subspec. *rubescens* Gusenleitner, 1996, with distinctly red colour)]
 *Asmisapyga warncke* Kurzenko, 1994

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Author's address:

Dr. Christian Schmid-Egger, An der Bucht 70, 10317 Berlin, Germany; e-mail: christian@bembix.de