

Discovery of the Genus *Protisobrachium* Benoit 1957 from the Oriental Region (Hymenoptera: Bethyliidae)¹

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ABSTRACT The genus *Protisobrachium* is newly recorded from the Oriental Region on the basis of *P. asianum* n. sp. This new species is separated from the other congeners from Africa by the single toothed mandible, obscure notauli, elongate propodeum, and large basal triangular area on propodeum.

KEY WORDS Insecta, Hymenoptera, Bethyliidae, *Protisobrachium asianum*, Oriental Region

The bethylid wasp genus *Protisobrachium* Benoit 1957 belongs to the subfamily Pristocerinae and is known from 2 species, *P. gracile* Benoit 1957, and *P. rwindicum* Benoit 1957, both occurring in Zaire, Africa. This genus is characterized in the subfamily as follows: 1) eyes with long erect hairs; 2) clypeus broadly produced anteriorly; 3) basal vein of forewing reaching subcosta far based of pterostigma; 4) small body size (less than 3 mm).

In the course of my study on the bethylid fauna of Asia, I have examined several specimens of the genus from Thailand. These represent a new record of the genus from the Oriental Region and a third species of the genus which is described and illustrated herein.

Measurements and their abbreviations used in this paper follow those in Evans (1964, 1978).

Protisobrachium asianum Terayama n. sp.
(Figs. 1-4)

Description of holotype (male).

Measurements: HL 0.55 mm; HW 0.44 mm; WF 0.29 mm; LA 1.00 mm; LP 0.43 mm; WPD 0.30 mm; FWL 1.9 mm; TL 2.6 mm.

Color: Head black; alitrunk castaneous; gaster brown; mandibles, antennae and legs yellow.

Head: Rectangular, 1.25 × as long as wide, moderately microreticulate, with straight posterior border in frontal view. Mandibles with an apical tooth only. Clypeus broadly produced anteriorly as in Fig. 1. Antennae slender; first 5 segments in a ratio of 7:2:6:6:5.8 in length; scape relatively long, 3.6 × as long as wide; 2nd segment as long as wide; 3rd to 5th segments each about 3.0 × as long as wide. Eyes 0.24 mm in length, with long erect hairs; WF 1.2 × EL. Ocelli large, forming an acute triangle; OOL 1.33 × WOT.

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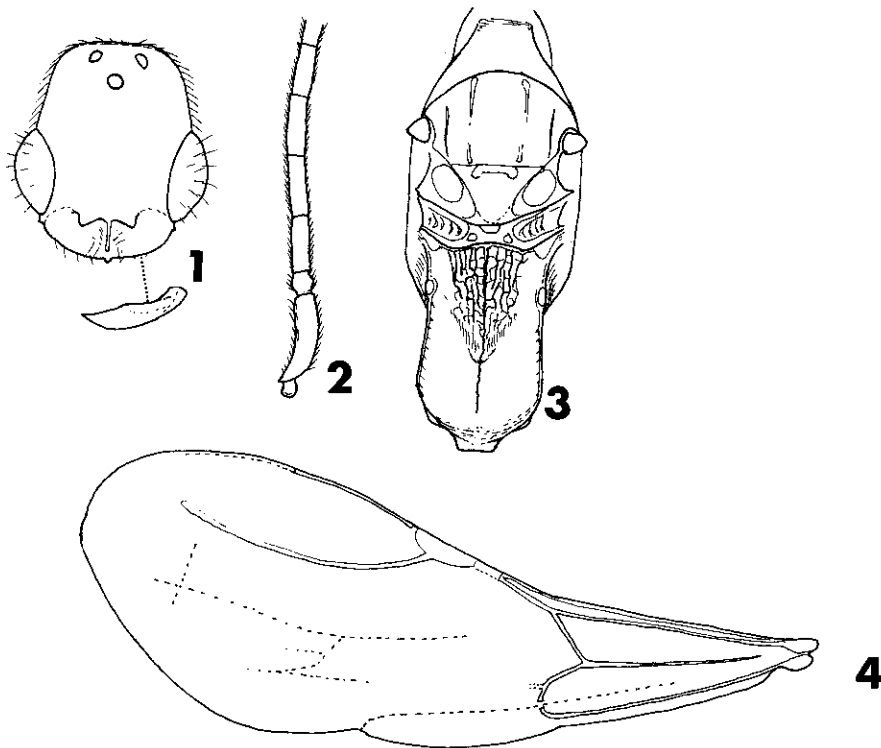


Fig. 1-4. *Protisobrachium asianum* n. sp., male. 1, Head and left mandible, frontal view. 2, First 6 segments of antenna. 3, Alitrunk, dorsal view. 4, Forewing.

Alitrunk: Pro- and mesonotal dorsa microreticulate; notauli obscure, and unrecognizable at the middle of mesonotum; parapsidal furrows present. Propodeum $1.43 \times$ as long as wide in dorsal view; median carina present on basal $3/5$ of disc; basal triangular area microreticulate, present on basal half of disc; posterior half of disc smooth and shining. Mesopleura with a shallow fovea.

Gaster: Slender and sessile; approximately $2.9 \times$ as long as wide in dorsal view.

Wings: Forewing venation as in Fig. 4; basal vein reaching subcosta far based of pterostigma; metacarpus vein long, $2.0 \times$ as long as pterostigma; discoidal vein arising well down on transverse median vein.

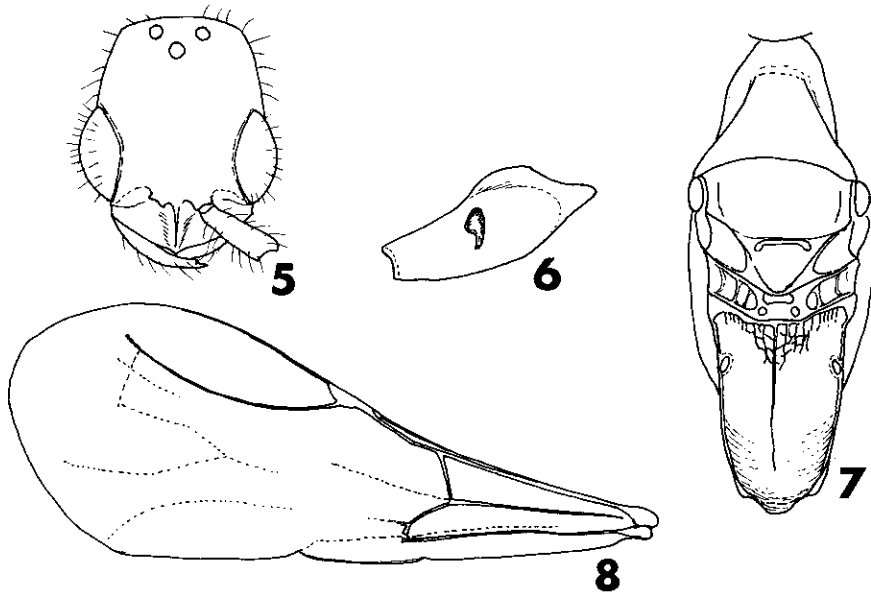
Holotype. Male, Nakhon Ratchaaima, Khao Yai National Park, 700-800 m alt., Thailand, 18-24. IV. 1990. E. Fuller leg.

Paratypes. 2 males, same data as holotype; 1 male, Khao Yai National Park, 800 m alt., Thailand, 10-16 IV.1990, B. V. Brown leg.; 1 male, Khao Yai National Park, Thailand, 10-17.II. 1989, T. W. Thormin leg.

Type deposition. Provincial Museum of Alberta, Canada.

Etymology. The present species is named for the region in which it was first collected.

Discussion. This species is separated from *P. gracile* by the obscure notauli (lacking in *gracile*) and the large and acute basal triangular area on propodeum (small and obtuse in *gracile*); from *P. rwindicum* by a single toothed mandible (3 toothed in *rwindicum*) and longer propodeum (1.4 × as long as wide in *asianum*; almost as long as wide in *rwindicum*). The type species *P. gracile* is illustrated in Figs. 5-8. Nothing has been recorded regarding the biology of these wasps.

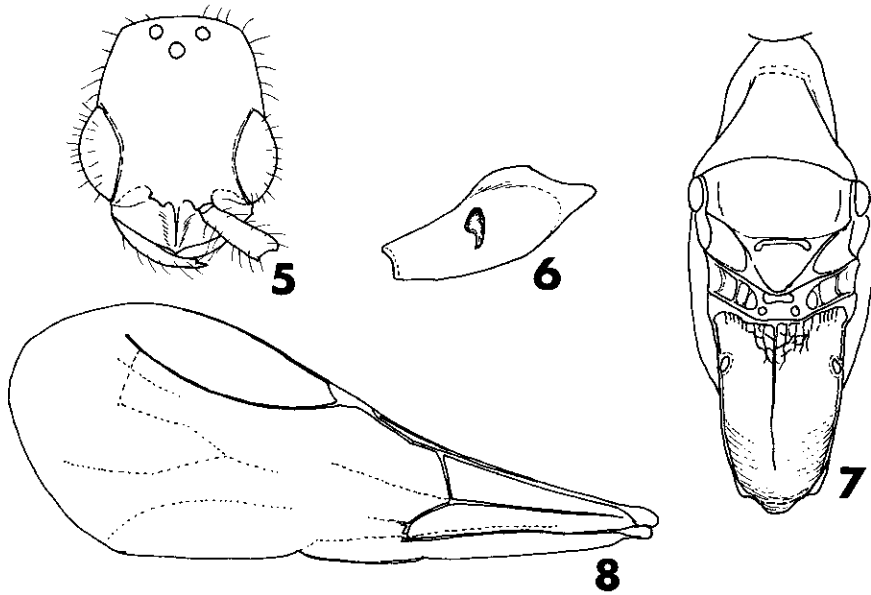


Figs. 5-8. *Protisobrachium gracile* Benoit, 1957, (male; type species). 5, Head, frontal view. 6, Mesopleurum, lateral view. 7, Alitrunk, dorsal view. 8, Forewing.

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Figs. 5-8. *Protisobrachium gracile* Benoit, 1957, (male; type species). 5, Head, frontal view. 6, Mesopleurum, lateral view. 7, Alitrunk, dorsal view. 8, Forewing.

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