

## **Tetracyclos boreios n. g. et sp.**

(Hym. Chalcididae, Aphelinini).

By

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### **Tetracyclos n. g.**

Antennae: 7-jointed consisting of scape, pedicellus, 4-jointed funicle and a solid club without any articulation; funicle only sparingly provided with sense hairs, some sense organs are seen on the club.

Head: Nearly as wide as long, mandibles with one strong tooth. Palpi not to be seen. Eyes small, no ocelli.

Thorax: Nearly one and a half times as long as the head and somewhat narrower. The segmentation difficult to see as the specimen is very thin and transparent and no attempt has been made to make a proper mount.

Abdomen: A trifle longer and wider than thorax; ovipositor slightly protruding, rather stout. Cerci near tip of abdomen. The segmentation very faint.

Legs: Short and stout, tarsi 4-jointed, the joints nearly of equal length; tibial spurs on middle legs longer than 1st tarsal joint, but rather weak.

### **T. boreios n. sp.**

♀. Antennae: Scape spindle-shaped, pedicellus pear-shaped, half as long as scape; the four funicle joints of nearly equal length, much wider than long, increasing in width; the fourth nearly twice as wide as the first; club long and stout, as long as funicle and pedicellus together.

Eyes red. Wings rudimentary.

Cerci exhibiting 5 small protuberances each bearing a bristle, the middle one the strongest.

Length 0.5 mm.

The whole animal light yellow.

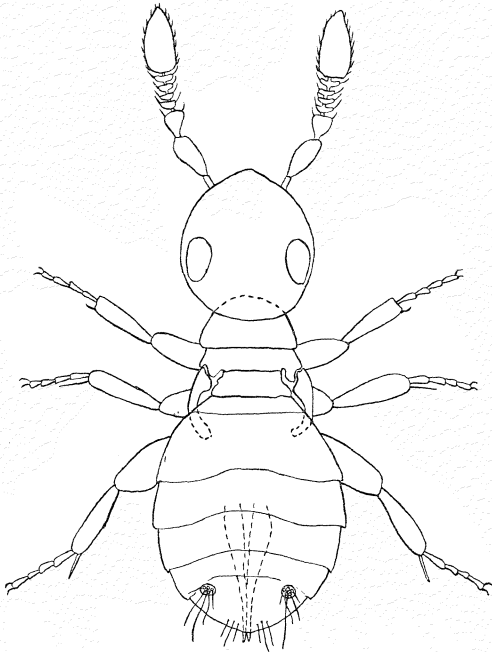


Fig. 1. *Tetracyclos boreios* n. g. et sp. ♀.

Host unknown.

Type: One specimen, ♀, on a slide. Zool. Museum, Copenhagen.

Patria: Northeast Greenland, Mørkefjord.

As said above the specimen is very thin and transparent, and as it is wholly unprepared it is very difficult to get an idea of the sclerites and segmentation and surface of thorax and abdomen.

In the key in Mercet: Los Afelininos, Madrid 1912, p. 253 the genus must be near to *Casca* How. and *Bardylis* How.

5. Antennae 7-jointed ..... 6.  
 — Antennae 8-jointed ..... 7.  
 6. No ocelli..... *Tetracyclos* Kr.  
 — Ocelli present ..... 6a.  
 6a. Tibial spurs on middle legs as long as the first two tarsal joints together ..... *Casca* How.  
 — Tibial spurs on middle legs as long as first tarsal joint ..  
 ..... *Bardylis* How.

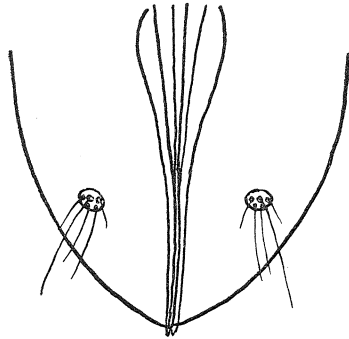


Fig. 2. Tip of abdomen.

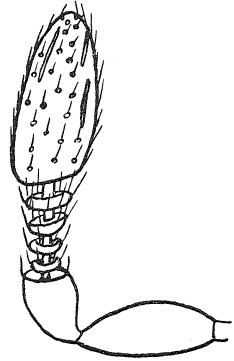


Fig. 3. Antenna.

The genus must without doubt be a parasite on some *Coccus*, and as at least 3 species of this group are known from Greenland (see Kai L. Henriksen: A revised index of the insects of Grønland. Medd. om Grønland Bd. 119, Nr. 10, 1939, p. 22) it is very likely that one of these is the host. But as several species of Aphelinini are known to be parasites on *Aphididae*, it is also possible that the genus may infect a species of this group.

*Tetracyclos boreios* was collected by Niels Haarløv, who was a member of "Dansk Nordøstgrønland Expedition" (leaders: Ebbe Munck and Eigil Knuth), during his wintering at Mørkefjord Station from 1939 to 1940.

The animal was found in nearly all samples (10×10 cm) from the glumiflores meadow (see N. Haarløv: *Acarina* etc. *Medd. om Grønland* Bd. 128 Nr. 1 1942). Samples from the other investigated localities did not contain any specimen or at any rate only very few. The vegetation of the glumiflores meadow was dominated by several species of *Carex* and *Juncus*, *Salix arctica* and other species that are typical of localities which have plenty of water during the whole summer. The lowest temperature of the soil during the winter of 1939—40 was from  $-30^{\circ}$  to  $-35^{\circ}$  C.

The animals were driven out of the samples by means of a warm water funnel.

Owing to the present war Mr. Haarløv did not succeed in getting all his collections back to Denmark and so I have got only one individual for this description.

It must be considered a curious feature that an animal like *Tetracyclos boreios* lives in the far north; one would rather believe it to be a native of the tropics, and the collector deserves the highest recognition for having been able to secure this small fly for science.

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