

Descriptions of the hitherto unknown males of *Synopeas craterus* (Walker, 1835) and *S. hyllus* (Walker, 1835) (Hymenoptera, Platygasteridae)

Peter Neerup Buhl

Buhl, P. N.: Descriptions of the hitherto unknown males of *Synopeas craterus* Walker, 1835) and *S. hyllus* (Walker, 1835).

Ent. Meddr 62: 25-26. Copenhagen, Denmark, 1994. ISSN 0013-8851.

The hitherto unknown males of the species *Synopeas craterus* (Walk.) and *S. hyllus* (Walk.) are described with regard to the characters separating them from their respective females. *S. hyllus* is recorded as new to the Danish fauna. The discovery of the male *S. craterus* confirms that the long gaster of the female of this species has only specific and not generic value.

P. N. Buhl, Breslaugade 14, 1-2, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark.

The descriptions of the females of *Synopeas craterus* (Walk.) and *S. hyllus* (Walk.) in Vlug (1985) correspond closely with the females from Denmark mentioned below. As usual in Platygasteridae the males are very similar to the females except in the shape of antennae and gaster. The discovery of the male *S. craterus* is of considerable interest as this species is the only European representative of *Synopeas* with an elongate gaster in the female sex. These species were formerly united in the genus or subgenus *Ectadius* Foerster with *Synopeas craterus* as the type. The present opinion that the long female gaster is only an ecological adaptation at specific level is confirmed by the description of the male *Synopeas craterus* below; its antennal structure (Fig. 1) is very similar to that of a typical *Synopeas* s. str., cf. e.g. *S. hyllus* (Fig. 3).

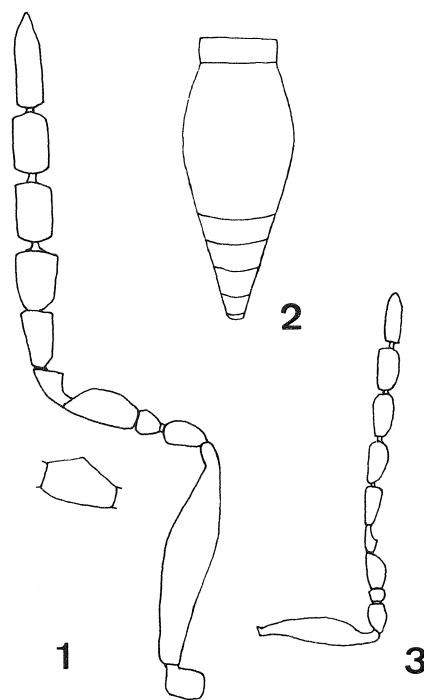
In recent years I have collected many of the *Synopeas* spp. described from the British Isles in Denmark. Thus, Vlug's (1985) statement that many species which occur in Great Britain and Ireland are not represented in continental north-western Europe perhaps has to be reconsidered.

It is my experience that females of *Synopeas* are always much more common than males. The records of *S. craterus* and *S. hyllus* given below correspond with this.

Synopeas craterus (Walker, 1835) (Figs 1-2)

Male: Head and thorax as in female. Antenna

(Fig. 1) with 2nd flagellar segment triangularly widened dorsally; all flagellar segments except



Figs 1-2. *Synopeas craterus* (Walk.), male. 1, antenna (segment 4 from two angles); 2, gaster in dorsal view.

Fig. 3. *Synopeas hyllus* (Walk.), male. Antenna.

the first longer than wide; whole flagellum with hairs standing away from the segment to a distance equal to about half the width of the segments. Gaster (Fig. 2) as long as head and mesosoma combined, 2.5 times as long as wide and about as wide as high. Tergite 2 smooth; tergite 3-7 with microsculpture (as T3-T6 in female). Colour as in female. Length: 1.4 mm.

Allotype ♂: Denmark, East Jutland, Mols Laboratory area, Sletten 9.viii.1993 (P. N. Buhl leg.), deposited in the collection of the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen. In the Mols Laboratory area several females of this species have been collected: Krattet vi; The Beach viii (P. N. Buhl leg.), deposited in the collection of the Mols Laboratory (the Natural History Museum, Aarhus) and in the collection of the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen.

The male is easily separated from the male of *S. abaris* (Walk.) which is next to *S. craterus* in Vlug's (1985) key. *S. abaris* has antennal segments 1-5 bright red and gaster less than twice as long as wide, cf. Vlug (1985).

Synopeas hyllus (Walker, 1835) (Fig. 3)

Male: Head and thorax as in female. Antenna (Fig. 3) with 2nd flagellar segment thickened; flagellar segments 2-8 all longer than wide; whole flagellum with hairs standing away from the segments to a distance equal to the width of the segments. Gaster in dorsal view more rounded apically

and in lateral view much less convex than in female. Tergites 2-7 all with microsculpture at hind margins (T2 smooth in female). Colour as in female. Length: 1.2 mm.

Allotype ♂: Denmark, East Jutland, Mols Laboratory area, Strandengen 3.ix.1991 (T. Munk leg.), deposited in the collection of the Mols Laboratory (the Natural History Museum, Aarhus). On the same locality and date 5 females of this species were collected (T. Munk leg.), and in the Mols Laboratory area, Den italienske Sti 22.vi.1992 one additional female was collected (P. N. Buhl leg.), all deposited in the collection of the Mols Laboratory. The species is new to Denmark (hitherto known only from the type locality in Ireland).

Sammendrag

De hidtil ukendte hanner af *Synopeas craterus* (Walk.) og *S. hyllus* (Walk.) er beskrevet. *S. hyllus* er ny for Danmark. Opdagelsen af *S. craterus*-hannen bekræfter, at denne art tilhører *Synopeas* s. str., hvorfor underslægten *Ectadius* er uberettiget.

References

- Vlug, H. J., 1985. The types of Platygastriidae (Hymenoptera, Scelionoidea) described by Haliday and Walker and preserved in the National Museum of Ireland and in the British Museum (Natural History). 2. Keys to species, redescriptions, synonymy. - *Tijdschrift voor Entomologie* 127 (1984): 179-224.