

A new species of *Platygaster* Latreille, 1809 from Romania

(Hymenoptera, Platygastridae)

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A very distinct new species, *Platygaster romanica* sp. nov. (female), is described from Romania. It is characterised by thick head, stout antenna, lack of notauli and unusually long and slender metasoma.

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There are no studies regarding Romanian *Platygaster*, although in collection samples *Platygaster* specimens are very abundant. Because of the difficulty of the genus, we have only studied and identified specimens obtained from hosts, or specimens with very distinct features.

Among the about 260 described Palaearctic species of *Platygaster*, numerous species have more or less prolonged metasoma to provide for the long ovipositor necessary to reach the gall midge host (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) in its host plant tissue. But few species have such a long, narrow and flattened metasoma as the new species described in the present paper. Its affinities with these few species are discussed below.

Platygaster romanica sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Female. Body length approximately 2.2 mm.

Body black, shiny. Antennae light brown, with distal section of segment two and proximal section of segment three yellowish. Legs with coxae and femora brown, trochanters and tarsi yellow; fore tibiae light brown proximally, yellow distally, mid and hind tibia light brown.

Head in dorsal view 1.6 times as wide as long, 1.1 times as wide as thorax, sculpture smooth, shiny. Ocular ocellar line:posterior ocellar line:lateral ocellar line = 3:8:4. Distance between compound eyes, measured at level of anterior ocellus, more than two times distance between posterior ocelli. Longitudinal diameter of compound eyes 1.5 times as long as transverse diameter. Transverse diameter of compound eyes more than 2 times as long as genae and 1.2 times as long as vertex. Antennae with ten segments, scapus 4.5 times as long as wide. Segment two 2 times as long as wide and 2 times as long as segment three. Segment three 1.3 times as long as wide and 0.7 times as long as segment four. Segments four and five each 1.3 times as long as wide, segments six to nine each as wide as long, and segment 10 is 1.3 times as long as wide. Maxillary palpus with two segments, labial palpus with one segment.

Mesosoma 1.3 times as long as wide. Pronotum hardly visible in dorsal view, hairless. Mesoscutum shiny, smooth, hairless, notauli virtually absent. Scuto-scutellar groove deep, wide, and hairless. Scutellum convex, smooth and shiny, hairless, 2 times as wide

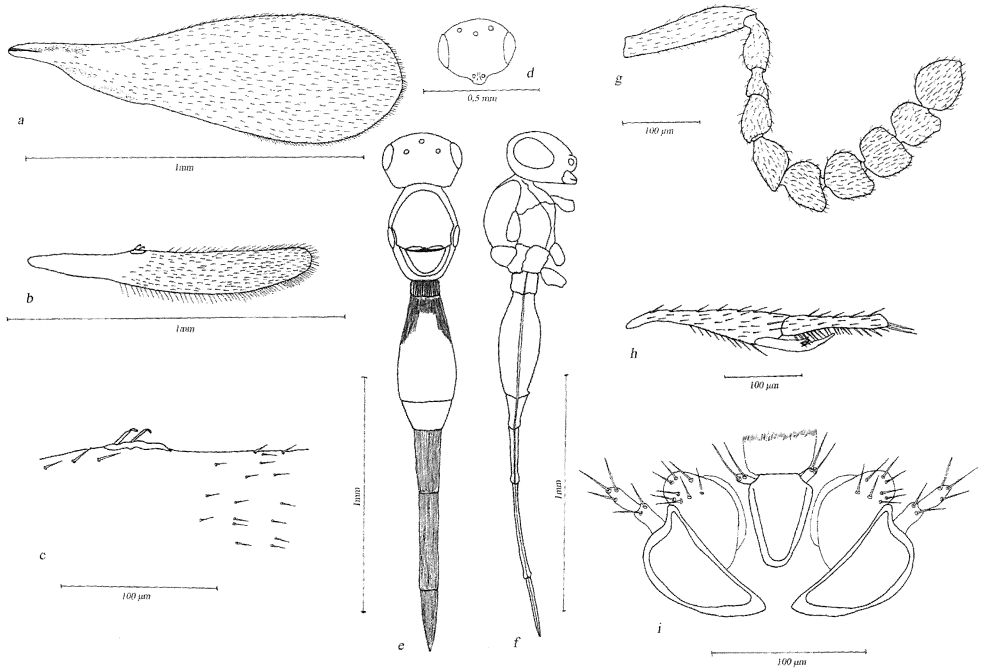


Fig. 1. *Platygaster romanica* sp. nov., female. a, forewing; b, hindwing; c, hamuli; d, head, frontal view; e, habitus, dorsal view; f, habitus, lateral view; g, antenna; h, fore tibia and first segment of tarsus; i, maxillo-labial complex.

as long. Pro- and mesopleuron smooth, shiny and hairless. Fore tibia rather slender, with strong spur.

Forewing transparent, 2.4 times as long as wide, 3.9 times as long as broadest part of mesosoma. Hindwing transparent, 6.4 times as long as wide, two hamuli present sub-basally. Hairs on edge of hindwing at most 0.25 times as long as width of hindwing. Metasoma 6.4 times as long as wide and 2.5 times as long as head and metasoma combined. T1 2 times as wide as long, crenulated, without keels. T2 well developed, 1.8 times as long wide, without hump anteriorly; longitudinal ridges extend for 44 % of total length of T2, longer laterally than medially. T3 trapezoidal, 1.9 times as long as wide. T2 and T3 predominantly smooth, shiny. T4 elongate, 2.25 times as long as wide. T5 very elongate, 4.7 times as long as wide. T6 as long as T4, 3 times as long as wide. T4-T6 dull, with longitudinal microsculpture.

Material examined: Holotype female, Romania, Piatra Neamţ district, Potoci, 15.ix. 2004, swept in vegetation, O. Popivici leg. In the collection at the Faculty of Biology, University Al.I.Cuza, Jassy, Romania.

Etymology: Named after the country of the type locality.

Affinities: The species is characterised by its thick head and antenna and long metasoma. Similar to *P. lanceolata* Buhl, 1996 from Sweden, but this species has preapical antennal segments twice as long as wide, incomplete notauli, T2 striated to half of length, and metasoma more constricted behind T2. In shape of metasoma *P. romanica* is more

similar to *P. oblonga* Buhl, (2005) from Finland, but this species has head twice as wide as long, preapical antennal segment 1.2 times as long as wide, and it has strong notauli. *P. floricola* (Kieffer, 1916) from France and *P. masneri* Huggert, 1975 from Sweden are similar to *P. romanica* in their lack of notauli, but they have both more transverse head and more elongate flagellar segments. *P. romanica* differs from *P. gibba* (Szelényi, 1938) from Hungary in having less slender antenna and more slender and more flattened metasoma. Cf. Kieffer (1926), Szelényi (1938), Huggert (1975) and Buhl (1996, 2005).

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