

A new oddly-coloured species of *Ceraphron* Jurine from Mexico (Hymenoptera: Ceraphronidae)

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Alekseev, V.N. & Trjapitzin, V.A. 1997. A new oddly-coloured species of *Ceraphron* Jurine from Mexico (Hymenoptera: Ceraphronidae). *Zoosystematica Rossica*, 6(1/2): 320.

Ceraphron chouvakhinae sp. n. having unique body colour is described from Mexico.

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Ceraphron chouvakhinae sp. n.

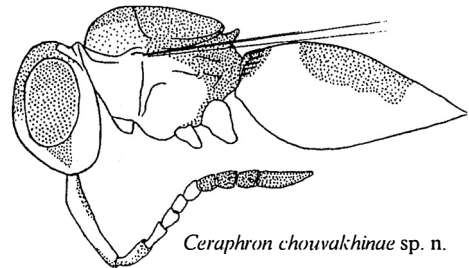
Holotype. ♀, Mexico, Tamaulipas, Gomez Farias, Reserva "El Cielo", El Vivero, Sierra Madre Mts, 1400 m, 24.VII.1995 (E. Chouvakhina), Institute of Zoology, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico-City.

Description. Body pale yellow. The following parts are dark: flagellar segments VII-IX, vertex, eyes, frons, triangular areas of cheeks below eyes, top of mesosoma up to tegular level, anterior margin of metasoma, large rounded spot on middle tergites of metasoma, transverse strip on fore wings.

Head broader than mesosoma (329 : 286), shagreened punctate, except for supraclypeal depression; ocellar triangle rather small, acute-angled; OOL equal to POL; eyes large, slightly elliptical; minimum facial interocular distance equal to 40% of head width; supraclypeal depression deep, almost reaching middle of face length.

Antennae 10-segmented; scape longer than 5 following segments combined (72 : 65); pedicel about as long as 2 following flagellomeres combined; width of flagellomeres slightly increasing from III to X; flagellomeres IV to IX slightly transverse. Length / maximum width ratio of flagellomeres: I, 72/15; II, 22/7; III, 15/6; IV, 10/8; V, 10/8; VI, 8/9; VII, 9/10; VIII, 12/11; IX, 13/11; X, 34/11.

Mesoscutum, axillae and scutellum shagreened; mesoscutum only with median furrow; axillae confluent; posterior part of mesosoma with median spur rounded at top and stout lateral propodeal spurs; side of



pronotum shiny; meso-metapleuron sculptured at its upper two-thirds and shiny at its lower third.

Fore wings long, well developed, with long and strongly curved radius.

Metasoma almost as broad as mesosoma (300 : 286); tergites and sternites shiny; basal edge of large tergite with 8 short carinae; Waterston's organ not studied.

Length of body 1.1 mm. Ratio length / width / height of head 200 : 329 : 310; of mesosoma 357 : 286 : 286; of metasoma 543 : 300 : 286.

Diagnosis. The new species is easily recognized by the unique body colour. Some other species of *Ceraphron* also have III-V (or III-VI) flagellomeres light yellow and the following ones dark brown, e.g. *C. trioichros* Dessart and *C. tetraochros* Dessart from Africa, *C. thegaleos* Dessart from Sri Lanka. But only *C. chouvakhinae* has bicoloured body.

Etymology. This species is named for the Russian entomologist Mrs. Elisaveta Ya. Chouvakhina, specialist on biology and practical use of Chrysopidae.

Received 17 July 1997