

A new species of the bee genus *Nomioides* Schenck from Afghanistan (Hymenoptera: Halictidae)

Yu.A. Pesenko

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Nomioides bactriensis sp. n. is described from a single male from Quandahar (Afghanistan). The new species is similar to *N. chalybeatus* Blüthgen differing from the latter in the dull metallic green coloration of the head and mesosoma and the structure of the male terminalia.

Yu.A. Pesenko, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab. 1, St.Petersburg 199034, Russia. E-mail: hymenopt@zin.ru

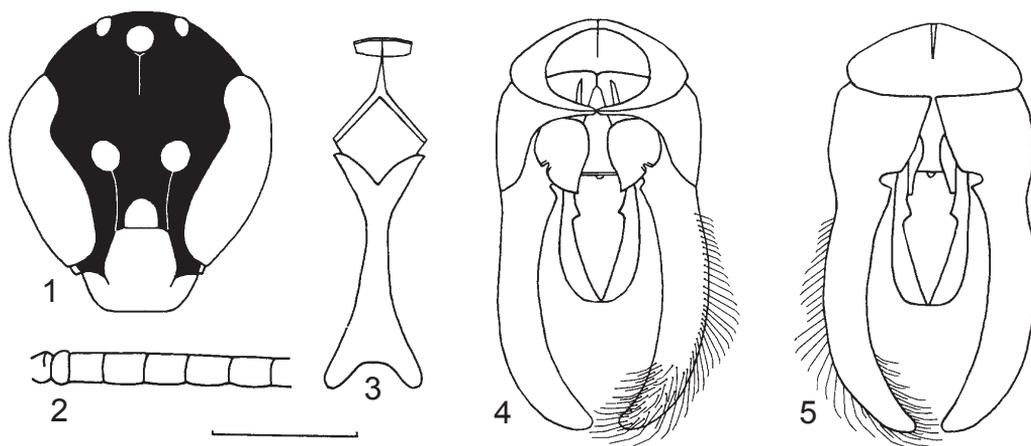
Nomioides (Nomioides) bactriensis sp. n. (Figs 1-5)

Holotype: ♂, **Afghanistan**, *Quandahar*, 37 km of Quandahar, on Kabul rd., 24.VII.1975, light shrub / semi-desert (Cambridge Bactria Expedition 1975, [leg.] [P.H. B.] Baker et [E. J.] Munday). This specimen was sent to me for study by the late Dr. Donald B. Baker. It is deposited at the Snow Museum of the University of Kansas (Lawrence, USA).

Description. Male. Structure. Body length 3.8 mm. Head longitudinally elliptic in frontal view; its height / width ratio 1.15 (Fig. 1). Median lobe of clypeus flattened, 1.13 times as high as wide (estimated as distance between anterior tentorial fossae); clypeus extending a half of its height below eyes. Malar space linear. Face transversely depressed at the level of antennal sockets.

Antenna relatively long, reaching the middle of propodeum; middle flagellomeres 1.35 times as long as their diameters (Fig. 2). Metapostnotum slightly transversely depressed, semicircular, occupying entire dorsal surface of propodeum. The latter somewhat shorter than scutellum. Apical lobe of metasomal sternum VIII relatively long, broadened towards apex, where bilobed (Fig. 3). Gonobase semicircular in dorsal view (Fig. 5). Gonoforceps long, nearly parallel-sided, roundly curved mesad, narrowly rounded at apex, provided on ventral side with dense and long hairs along outer margin and in distal quarter (Fig. 4).

Sculpture. Clypeus shiny, densely punctate in lower half, sparser, in upper half. Frons and vertex densely and finely granulate, mat. Genal area



Figs 1-5. *Nomioides bactriensis* sp. n., male. 1, head in frontal view; 2, flagellomeres 1-5 in lateral view; 3, metasomal sternum VIII; 4, 5, genital capsule in ventral and dorsal views. The scale line represents 0.5 mm for the head and antenna; 0.25 mm, for the metasomal sternum VIII and genital capsule.

weakly shiny, densely obscurely punctate. Mesoscutum shiny, with traces of very obscure granulation in anterior third and with few obscure punctures. Scutellum polished, with few punctures. Mes- and metepisterna finely granulate, mat. Metapostnotum silky mat, finely and densely granulate, with short fine striae in anterior third. Metasomal tergum I mat, densely and finely granulate; tergum II submat; subsequent terga shinier.

Coloration. Main coloration of head and mesosoma metallic dull olive-green; of metasoma, black, without metallic tints. Labrum, clypeus, spot on supraclypeal area (Fig. 1), mandibles (except for reddish apices), malar spaces, scapus on lower side, pronotal collar and spiracular lobes, scutellar crests, median area of metanotum, spot on infuscate tegula, basal sclerites of wings, fore and middle legs, hind tibia and tarsus, pregradular areas of metasomal terga II-V seen through translucent posterior areas of preceding terga; all

whitish yellow. Flagellum ochre-yellow on lower side, fuscous on upper side. Wing membrane hyaline; veins light yellow.

Vestiture. Relatively poor, whitish. White tomentum present only on dark-coloured parts of face below antennal sockets and as tracts on genal areas.

Female unknown.

Comparison. In the size, structure, poor pale pattern of the body, and the high head, the new species is similar to *N. chalybeatus* Blüthgen occurring in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, but differs from the latter in the metallic dull-green coloration of the head and mesosoma and in the structure of the male terminalia (bilobed metasomal sternum VIII and unusually dense and long pubescence of the gonoforceps).

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