

First record of the genus *Syncrasis* in Spain, with a redescription of *Syncrasis (Eusyncrasis) talitzkii* Tobias, 1986 (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Alysiinae)

Первая находка рода *Syncrasis* в Испании с переописанием *Syncrasis (Eusyncrasis) talitzkii* Tobias, 1986 (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Alysiinae)

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The genus *Syncrasis* Foerster, 1862 as subgenus *Eusyncrasis* Tobias, 1986 is recorded for the first time in the fauna of Spain. A key to subgenera, and a detailed redescription of *Syncrasis (Eusyncrasis) talitzkii* Tobias, 1986 on the basis of Spanish material collected by a Malaise trap in the Alicante Province, are provided.

Род *Syncrasis* Foerster, 1862 в качестве подрода *Eusyncrasis* Tobias, 1986 впервые отмечается для фауны Испании. В статье дается ключ для определения подродов и детальное переописание *Syncrasis (Eusyncrasis) talitzkii* Tobias, 1986 на основе испанского материала, собранного ловушкой Малеза в провинции Аликанте.

Key words: endoparasitoids of flies, first record, Spain, Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Alysiinae, *Syncrasis*, *Eusyncrasis*, redescription

Ключевые слова: эндопаразитоиды мух, первая находка, Испания, Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Alysiinae, *Syncrasis*, *Eusyncrasis*, переописание

INTRODUCTION

The subfamily Alysiinae is one of the most common braconid subfamilies in natural habitats, with about 2000 catalogued species worldwide (Yu et al., 2005) and two recognized tribes, Alysiini and Dacnusiini (Shenefelt, 1974). The members of this subfamily are exclusively koinobiont endoparasitoids of the various families of cyclorrhaphous Diptera, and the adults of these parasitoids emerge from the puparium of these flies. Both alysiine tribes can also be divided into several morphological groups (the *Aspilota* and *Coelinius* groups of gen-

era, for example), though they do not have defined taxonomical categories (Wharton, 2002). The new information received during the last period on the contents and morphological characters of Alysiinae taxa, and the presence of several taxa intermediate to the two tribes, definitely show the necessity of a new supergeneric reclassification of this large, polymorphic subfamily (Wharton, 1994, Perepechaenko, 2000).

During our investigation of the parasitoids of the tribe Alysiini (Alysiinae) in Spain, the genus *Syncrasis* Foerster, 1862 was recorded for the first time in the fauna

of this country. The members of this genus are not common in collections and have been recorded from only a few countries of the Palaearctic region and in USA (Yu et al., 2005).

We collected two specimens belonging to the genus *Syncrasis* using Malaise traps in the Natural Park of Las Lagunas de la Mata-Torrevieja (Alicante Province, Spain). This park extends for over 3,700 ha, of which 2,100 are covered by water. The park is notable for its saline soils that are extensively populated by wild orchids (*Orchis collina* Banks et Sol. ex Russell), salt marsh plants of the genus *Limonium*, reed and bulrush areas with abundant grass plants such as *Arthrocnemum* sp. and *Juncus* sp., and areas with *Senecio auricula* Bourgeau ex Coss (Compositae). The Mediterranean areas in this Park are widely populated by *Quercus coccifera* L., *Pinus halepensis* Mill. and *Thymus* sp. The climate of this place is arid with an annual rainfall below 300 mm and high summer temperatures.

For the terminology of the morphological features and sculptures, and the measurements and wing venation nomenclature we follow Fischer (1973). The Spanish specimens are deposited with barcode labels in the Entomological collection of the University of Valencia (Valencia, Spain; ENV).

TAXONOMIC PART

Order **HYMENOPTERA**

Family **BRACONIDAE**

Subfamily **ALYSIINAE**

Syncrasis Foerster, 1862

Foerster, 1862: 264; Shenefelt, 1974: 1025; Tobias, 1986: 153; Yu et al., 2005.

This Holarctic genus consists of two subgenera, *Syncrasis* and *Eusyncrasis* Tobias, 1986 (Tobias, 1986), and only three described species. *Syncrasis* (*S.*) *fucicola* (Haliday, 1838) is widely distributed in the Palaearctic region penetrating up to the Eastern part of Russia (Belokobylskij, 1998,

Yu et al., 2005); *Syncrasis* (*S.*) *halidayi* Foerster, 1862 is restricted in its recorded distribution to three countries of the Western Europe and single state (Utah) of USA (Yu et al., 2005). *Syncrasis* (*Eusyncrasis*) *talitzkii* Tobias, 1986 was until recently only known from a single specimen from Moldova.

The differences between the subgenera of this genus are showed in the following key:

1. Vein r1 present, separating the united discoidal and first radiomedial cells from the second radiomedial cell ***Syncrasis***
- Vein r1 absent and thus the discoidal, first and second radiomedial cells are completely fused ***Eusyncrasis***

The genus *Syncrasis*, with subgenus *Eusyncrasis*, is recorded for the first time for the fauna of Spain. An illustrated redescription of *Syncrasis* (*Eusyncrasis*) *talitzkii* is provided here because its original description in the Key to braconids of the European part of the USSR (Tobias, 1986) was very short and lacked important morphological information.

Syncrasis* (*Eusyncrasis*) *talitzkii

Tobias, 1986

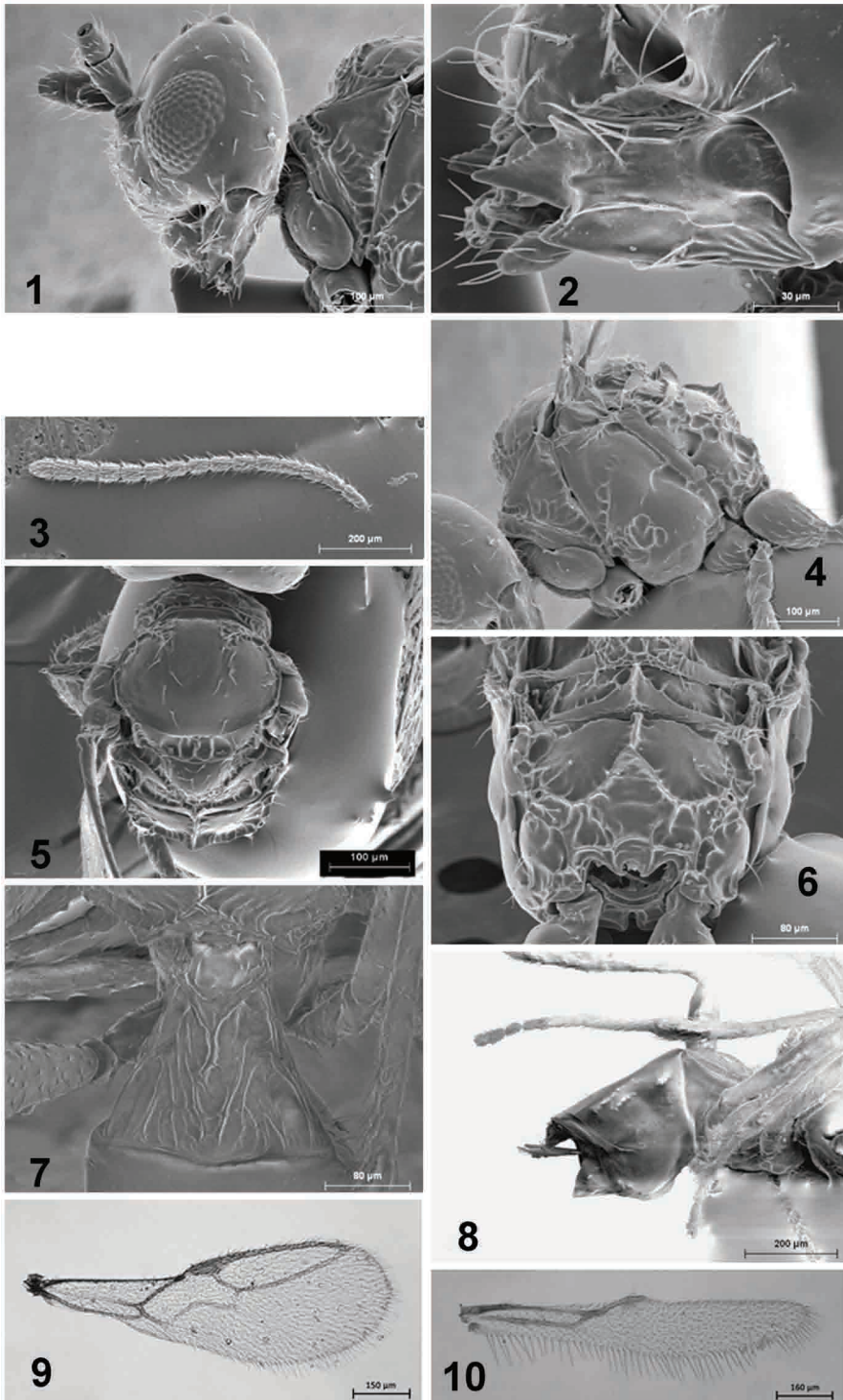
Syncrasis (*Eusyncrasis*) *talitzkii* Tobias, 1986: 153.

Syncrasis (*Eusyncrasis*) *talitzkii*: Yu et al., 2005.

Material examined. **Moldova:** female (holotype), “Chumai, plavni” 17 July 1967 (ZIN). **Spain:** 2 females, Lagunas de La Mata-Torrevieja, Torrevieja, Alicante, 11 May 2004 and 17 June 2006, leg. F.J. Peris-Felipo (ENV).

Description. Female. Body length 0.8–0.9 mm; fore wing length about 1.0 mm.

Head. In dorsal view, 2.0 times as wide as long, 1.2 times as wide as mesoscutum, smooth, with rounded temples behind eyes. Eye in lateral view (Fig. 1) 1.25–1.30 times as high as wide and as wide as temple. Distance between hind ocelli 2.3 times the diameter of hind ocellus. Distance between hind ocellus and eye 3.3 times diameter of hind ocellus. Face wider than high, inner margins of eyes subparallel. Clypeus 3.0–3.1 times as wide as high, slightly curved ventrally. Paraclypeal areas oval, distinct-



Figs 1–10. *Syncrasis (Eusyncrasis) talitzkii* Tobias. **1**, head in lateral view; **2**, mandible; **3**, antennae; **4**, mesosoma; **5**, mesonotum; **6**, propodeum; **7**, first tergite; **8**, metasoma and ovipositor; **9**, fore wing; **10**, hind wing.

ly separated from eye margin. Mandibles (Fig. 2) not widened to apex, 1.80–1.85 times as long as maximum width. Upper tooth small, distinctly shorter than middle tooth. Middle tooth the longest, wide basally, distinctly narrowed towards apex and pointed apically. On front surface of mandible near base of middle tooth an additional small tooth is present. Lower tooth short, weakly longer than upper tooth, subpointed apically.

Antennae (Fig. 3) with 17 segments, longer than body, thickened towards apex (almost claviform). Scape 1.4 times as long as pedicel. First flagellar segment 2.30–2.35 times as long as its apical width, 1.3 times as long as second segment. Second segment 1.8–1.9 times as long as its maximum width. Flagellar segments from third to eleventh 1.3–1.5 times as long as their width. Flagellar segments from 12th to 15th 1.05–1.15 times as long as width.

Mesosoma (Figs 4–6). In lateral view, 1.1–1.2 times as long as high. Mesoscutum wide. Notauli distinct in anterior half and absent in posterior half of mesoscutum. Mesoscutal pit absent. Prescutellar depression rectangular, with median and two lateral carinae. Sternaulus (precoxal sulcus) short, wide, crenulated and reaching the anterior edge of mesopleuron. Posterior mesopleural furrow slightly crenulate below. Propodeum with areas delineated by coarse carinae, weakly and sparsely rugulose-striate, areola wide and pentagonal. Propodeal spiracles small.

Wings (Figs 9, 10). Length of fore wing 3.0 times its maximum width. Veins cu-a and r1 absent. Pterostigma short and rather narrow, 3.2 times as long as its maximum width. Radial vein arising from middle of pterostigma. Radial cell distinctly shortened, 4.5 times as long as its maximum width. Metacarp 3.0–3.1 times as long as pterostigma. Brachial cell very widely open. Nervulus strongly postfurcal. Hind wing 6.0 times as long as its maximum width. Submedial cell absent. Recurrent vein indistinct.

Legs (Fig. 8). Hind femur 4.5 times as long as wide. Hind tibia weakly widened to apex, 9.2 times as long as its maximum apical width, 1.05–1.10 times as long as hind tarsus. First segment of hind tarsus 2.2 times as long as second segment.

Metasoma (Figs 7, 8). First tergum distinctly widened to apex, 1.05–1.10 times as long as its apical width, distinctly and irregularly striate with fine rugosity. Second and third terga enlarged and almost covering posterior segments of metasoma. Ovipositor short, its sheath 1.25 times as long as first tergite, 0.35–0.40 as long as hind femur.

Colour. Head, antennae, mesoscutum, legs and metasoma brown to dark brown. Wings hyaline. Pterostigma entirely brown.

Male. Unknown.

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