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A REDESCRIPTION OF *IDIASTA THEODORI* (VAN VOLLENHOVEN, 1878) (HYMENOPTERA, BRACONIDAE)

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With 6 text-figures

INTRODUCTION

A redescription is given of the holotype of *Alysia theodori*, which is the only known surviving type of the several palaeartic species of Braconidae described by Snellen van Vollenhoven. A brief discussion of the generic position of the species is given, resulting in a recombination with *Idiasta* Foerster, 1862.

Idiasta theodori (Van Vollenhoven, 1878)

Alysia theodori Van Vollenhoven, 1878, Tijdschr. Ent., 21: 174, pl. 11 figs. 3, 3a.

Phaenocarpa theodori; Marshall, in André, 1895, Spec. Hym. Eur., 5: 404-405. Szépliget, 1904, Gen. Ins., 22: 211. Papp, 1968, Beitr. Ent., 18: 372.

Idiasta theodori; Fischer, 1967, Ann. Naturhistor. Mus. Wien, 70: 111-114, figs. 1-3.

Redescription of holotype. — ♀, and not a ♂ as Van Vollenhoven indicated in his description; the ovipositor is clearly visible in his figures. This has been pointed out before by Marshall (1895: 405) and Fischer (1967: 111). Length of body (exclusive ovipositor) 4.8 mm. Length of fore wing (from apex of tegulae to wing apex) 3.95 mm.

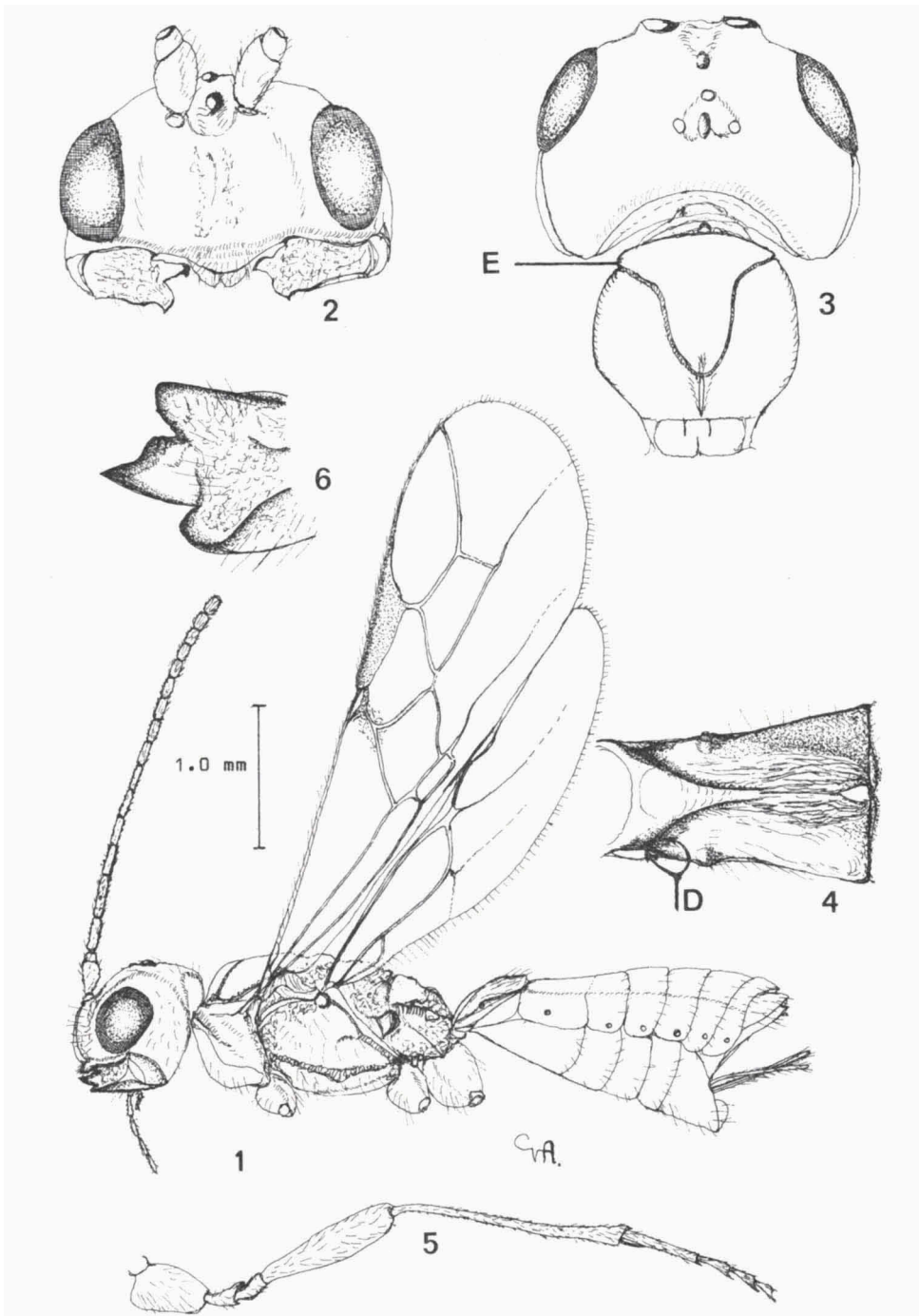
Head. — Antennae broken off, except the basal 17 segments, 4th segment 1.26 times as long as 3rd segment, 3rd segment 3.2 times and 4th segment 4.6 times as long as maximum width, 3rd segment slightly wider than 4th segment, from about the 15th segment the antennae slightly widening. Palpi short, maxillary palpi about as long as the height of the head. Face strongly convex, shiny and smooth, except for some indistinct microsculpture near the supraclypeal furrow. Clypeus moderately convex, punc-

tulate and shiny. Face and clypeus with scattered, yellowish, moderately long hairs. Mandible with a large median tooth and two large lateral lobes (fig. 6), and with a well-pronounced carina preceding the 3rd prominence; almost whole surface moderately reticulate, shiny and with moderately long, yellowish, hairs. Mandible 2.0 times as long as its maximum width. Head 1.6 times as wide as thorax between the tegulae (fig. 3), subcuboidal (1.6 times as wide as medial length). Temples parallel-sided as seen from above. Ocelli small; distance between the posterior ocelli (= POL) 2.0 times the diameter of the ocellus. The distance from a posterior ocellus to the compound eye (= OOL), OOL: POL = 17: 8. Between the posterior ocelli a deep, short furrow. Eyes bare. Frons with a deep pit (figs. 2, 3) and some microsculpture between the bases of the antennae.

Thorax. — Sides of pronotum largely smooth, shiny; only anteriorly a row of short ridges and posteriorly a strongly crenulate suture, preceding a deep depression above the fore coxa. Pronotum dorsomedially with a moderately large pit. Mesoscutum with a well-pronounced lateral carina, along the inner side crenulate. Notauli complete, relatively short, completely crenulate; posteriorly a rather long and deep medial suture, almost shiny. Mesoscutal lobes slightly convex, epaulettes small (fig. 3). Thorax (in lateral view, fig. 1) cylindric, 2.0 times as long as maximum height. Scutellar suture rather wide and deep, almost smooth, scutellum flat. Pre- and postpectal carinae wanting. Precoxal suture (= sternaulus of some authors) complete, rather narrow and medially somewhat dilated; completely and rather strongly crenulate. Pleural suture dorsally narrow, completely crenulate; ventrally rather broadly crenulate, dorsally ending in a deep pit. Small oval blade above middle coxa. Episternal scrobe small and shallow. Centrolaterally a deep pit between metapleura and propodeum. Ventral part of epicnemial suture rather finely sculptured, dorsal part with sculptural elements more scattered and distinctly sculptured. Mesopleura covered with scattered, short, yellowish hairs. Subalar callus (sensu Griffiths, 1964: 830) strong, like a carina.

Wings. — Radius strongly curved, ending far before the wing-apex, beginning close to apical 0.3 of pterostigma. Small infuscated patch below parastigma. Nervulus postfurcally at more than own length; cu_1 equal to cu_2 , n. par. sinuate. Below brachial cell a free vein, probably serving the connection by the ramuli of fore and hind wing in flight. Postnervellus obsolescent. Nervellus moderately basal; length of mediella : distance from wingbase to the nervellus about 2.5.

Legs. — Smooth, shiny; moderately short-haired. Hind basitarsus 5.7 times as long as maximum width; hind femur and hind tibia 3.9 and 11.4



Figs. 1-6. *Idiasta theodori*, holotype. 1, habitus of holotype, scale-line pertaining to fig. 1 only; 2, frontal view of head; 3, dorsal view of head and thorax; 4, 2nd abdominal tergite; 5, hind leg; 6, outer side of left mandible; e = epaulette, d = diplope.

times as long as their maximum width, respectively. Claws short, stout, simple.

Abdomen. — Posterior part of propodeal sides microsculptured; anterior half more or less smooth; spiracle small; the two propodeal semi-circular dorsobasal areas smooth, shiny, with a well-pronounced, vertical and posteriorly divided carina between them; an oval, strongly crenulate area included between the two branches; posterior part of propodeum strongly reticulate. 2nd tergite rather slender, sides in posterior half approximately parallel; diplope (fig. 4) large, dorsal carinae well-developed in the anterior half, converging caudad (fig. 4), in posterior half not discernable from the strong medial striation. The 2nd tergite 1.35 times as long as apical width; posteriorly with a smooth, small oval area. Pregenital plate moderately large, sclerotized. Ovipositor short, straight; ovipositor-sheaths 0.65 mm, the fore wing 6.1 times as long as ovipositor-sheaths.

Coloration. — Black; legs, antennae (but apically infuscated), mandibles, apical half of gaster and tegulae reddish-brown, 3rd and 4th tergites yellow, palpi yellowish-white, pterostigma brown.

Holotype in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden: round label reading "v. Hass/Loosduin" (which means: collected by Theodoor van Hasselt at Loosduinen near The Hague) in Snellen van Vollenhoven's handwriting. Further labels of M. Fischer with "*Alysia theodori* Voll.", "*Idiasta theodori* Voll." and "lectotype". Since in the original description only one specimen is mentioned, it is not a lectotype but a holotype, and I have labelled it accordingly.

DISCUSSION

This is a very distinct species by the cylindric thorax, the short palpi and the strongly curved apical part of the radius. The generic position is far from certain. In Fischer's key (1971) it runs to *Idiasta* Foerster, 1862. It is not at all identifiable with Königsmann's key (1960) of *Idiasta* and clearly does not belong to any species-group treated by Königsmann; the short ovipositor and the undivided apical sternites disagree with his definition of *Idiasta*. Snellen van Vollenhoven was wrong in placing this species in *Alysia* because of the long 4th antennal segment, but in my opinion it is both related to the *Phaenocarpa* group and the *Alysia* group.

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