



New distributional records of two species of *Orientilla* Lelej, 1979 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) from different Indian states

¹Terine, J.B.*, ²Dipanwita Das and ¹Girish Kumar, P.

¹Western Ghat Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Eranhilalam, Kozhikode, Kerala- 673006, India.

²Zoological Survey of India, M-Block, New Alipore 700053, Kolkata, India.

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Abstract

Two species of the genus *Orientilla*, namely, *O. aureorubra* (Sichel et Radoszkowski, 1870) and *O. schmideggeri* Lelej, 2005 are newly reported from different Indian states. *O. aureorubra* is newly reported from Telangana. *O. schmideggeri* is newly reported from West Bengal.

1. Introduction

Lelej (1979) erected the velvet ant genus *Orientilla* based on the type species *Orientilla vietnamica* Lelej, 1979. This genus consists of 12 species worldwide and all of it belongs to Oriental region, of which 6 species are from India (Lelej, 2005, Pagliano *et al.*, 2020, Terine *et al.*, 2020). According to the latest classification of Brothers and Lelej (2017) genus *Orientilla* belongs to the tribe Dasyabrini of the subfamily Dasyabrinae. In this paper two species, namely, *O. aureorubra* (Sichel et Radoszkowski, 1870) and *O. schmideggeri* Lelej, 2005 are studied. *O. aureorubra* is so far recorded from "Trincomali" of Sri Lanka (Sichel et Radoszkowski, 1870) and "Bombay Presidency" of India (Smith, 1879). In the present study, this species is newly reported from Telangana. *O. schmideggeri* is so far recorded from "Bajjnath, Kangra Valley" by Nurse (1904) as '*Mutilla vesta*' which is later

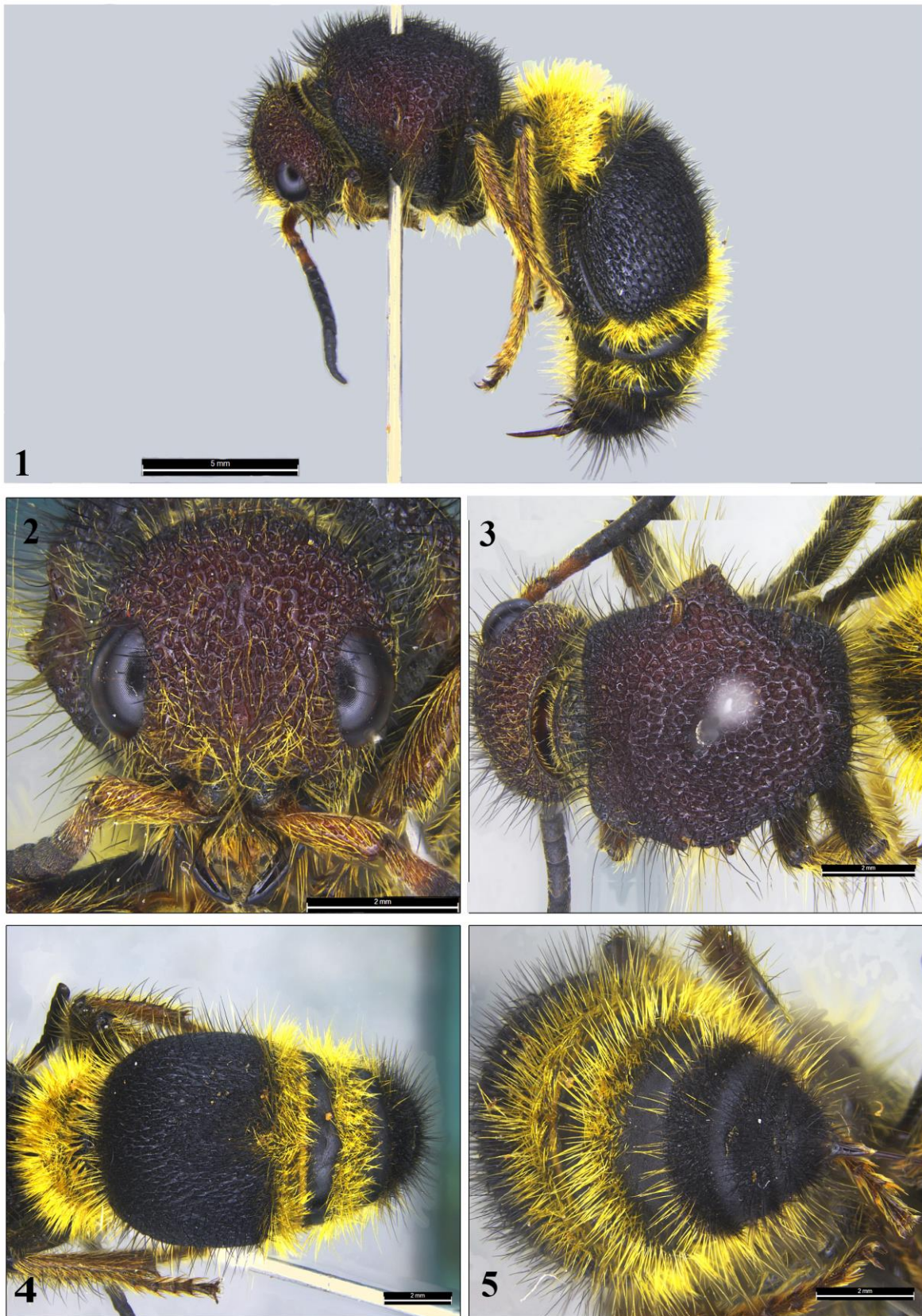
renamed as *Orientilla schmideggeri* by Lelej (2005). In the present study, this species is newly reported from West Bengal.

2. Materials and Methods

This study is based on the specimens available at Western Ghat Regional centre, Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode (ZSIK) and Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (NZC). The specimens are photographed using Leica DFC500 Camera mounted on to Leica stereo 205A microscope. The photographs were post processed for adjusting colour and brightness using Photoshop Cs6 software.

3. Results & Discussion

Orientilla aureorubra (Sichel et Radoszkowski, 1870) (Figs 1-5)
Mutilla aureorubra Sichel et Radoszkowski, 1870: 304, Syntypes female, "Trincomali" (Naturhist. Mus., Vienna).



FIGURES 1–5. *Orientilla aureorubra* (Sichel et Radoszkowski, 1870). ♀. 1. Habitus, lateral view. 2. Head, frontal view 3. Head & Mesosoma 4. Metasoma 5. Last metasomal segments.



Mutilla egregia de Saussure, 1867: 351, Syntypes female, "Trincomali" (Naturhist. Mus., Vienna). Synonymized under *aureorubra* by Cameron, 1892: 117.

Mutilla placida Smith, 1879: 198, Syntypes female, "Bombay Presidency" (Nat. Hist. Mus., London). Synonymized under *egregia* by Turner, 1911: 151.

Orientilla aureorubra; comb. n. by Lelej, 2005: 111.

Diagnosis: Head almost round, with large deep punctures throughout. Eyes bulging laterally. Mesosoma convex dorsally, sub-hexagonal, being extended laterally into a sharp tubercle, deep big punctures on mesosoma slightly greater in size than that of head. Middle portion of mesosoma slightly elevated. Mesopleuron convex, with deep punctures. Metasoma elongated, longer than mesosoma. First metasomal tergite node like, petiolate. Second tergite larger in size than all other segments. Second tergite dorsally striate to reticulate and laterally with punctures.

Colouration and Setation: Head reddish brown with scattered black and yellowish golden erect hairs. Antennae black except in scape and pedicel pale reddish brown, antennae clothed with sub erect dark yellowish golden small hairs. Mesosoma reddish brown in colour with erect black hairs. First tergite clothed with thick erect yellowish golden hairs. Second tergite and third tergite with basal yellowish golden fringe. Fourth tergite - Sixth tergite with erect black hairs.

Material Examined: INDIA: **Telangana**, Mahbubnagar district, Amrabad Tiger Reserve, 1 female,

19.ix.2018, Coll. S.S. Jadhav & Party, ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/I.R.-INV. 15152.

Distribution: India: Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana (**new record**); Sri Lanka (de Saussure, 1867; Sichel et Radoszkowski, 1870; Smith, 1879; Lelej, 2005; Das & Girish Kumar, 2016).

***Orientilla schmideggeri* Lelej, 2005 (Figs 6-10)**

Mutilla vesta Nurse, 1904: 24, Syntypes female, "Bajjnath, Kangra Valley" (Nat. Hist. Mus., London).

Orientilla schmideggeri; nom. n. by Lelej, 2005.

Diagnosis: Head slightly wider than mesosoma and round; eyes wide apart, small and round; head and metasoma coarsely punctured, metasoma longitudinally striate; metasoma sub-hexagonal, being extended laterally into a sharp tubercle, dorsally convex; metasoma with the first segment constricted.

Colouration and Setation: Head, antennae, legs, and metasoma black; mesosoma brick red; head and mesosoma sparsely clothed with sub erect black hairs, metasoma with black pubescence, a broad band of golden pubescence on the apical margin of the first, and a narrower one on the apical margin of the second segment; golden pubescence on the sides of the third and fourth segments; tibiae and tarsi with silvery pubescence.

Materials Examined: INDIA: **West Bengal**, Howrah district, Panchpara, 2 female, 29.viii.1964, Coll. K.K. Rao & Party, NZC Regd. Nos. 16201/H3 & 16202/H3; Howrah district, Chunabhathi, 1 female, 30.vii.1964, Coll. S. S. Ali & Party, NZC Regd. No. 24953/H3.



6

2 mm



7

1 mm



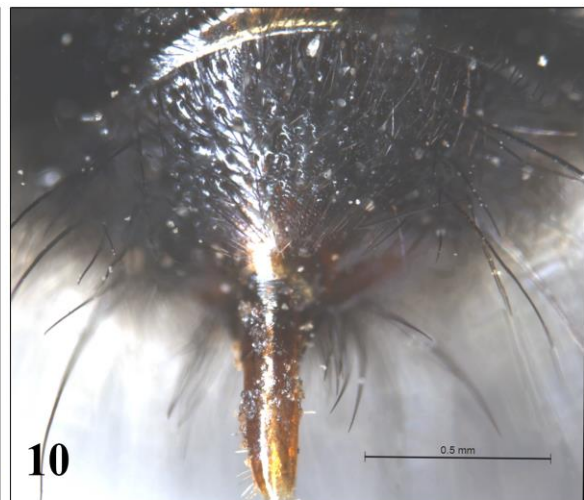
8

1 mm



9

2 mm



10

0.5 mm

FIGURES 6–10. *Orientilla schmideggeri* Lelej, 2005 . ♀. 6. Habitus, lateral view. 7. Head, frontal view. 8. Mesosoma. 9. Metasoma. 10. Last metasomal segments.



Distribution: India: West Bengal (**new record**), Himachal Pradesh (Nurse, 1904; Lelej, 2005).

4. Conclusion

The members of the genus *Orientilla* are rarely collecting velvet ants. Only 6 species are reported from India so far and the published information on the distribution of all these species are very limited (Terine *et al.*, 2020). In the present study, *O. aureorubra* is newly reported from Telangana and *O. schmideggeri* is newly reported from West Bengal.

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