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CHRYSIS SHANGHAIENSIS

(HYMENOPTERA : CHRYSIDIDAE)

A SPECIES NEW TO CEYLON

By M. B. WICKRAMASINGHE

Department of Zoology, University of Ceylon, Colombo

Parasa lepida Cramer (Lepidoptera : Limacodidae) is a pest of coconut in Ceylon and is prevalent in the Chilaw District. The parasite-predator complex of the pest is being studied in order to find a possible method of biological control. During these investigations mature larvae of *Parasa* collected from Ambakelle Estate, Rajakadaluwa were reared in the laboratory. Sometime after the larvae pupated two specimens of Hymenopterans emerged from the pupae. These parasites were later identified to be *Chrysis shanghaiensis* (Hymenoptera : Chrysididae).

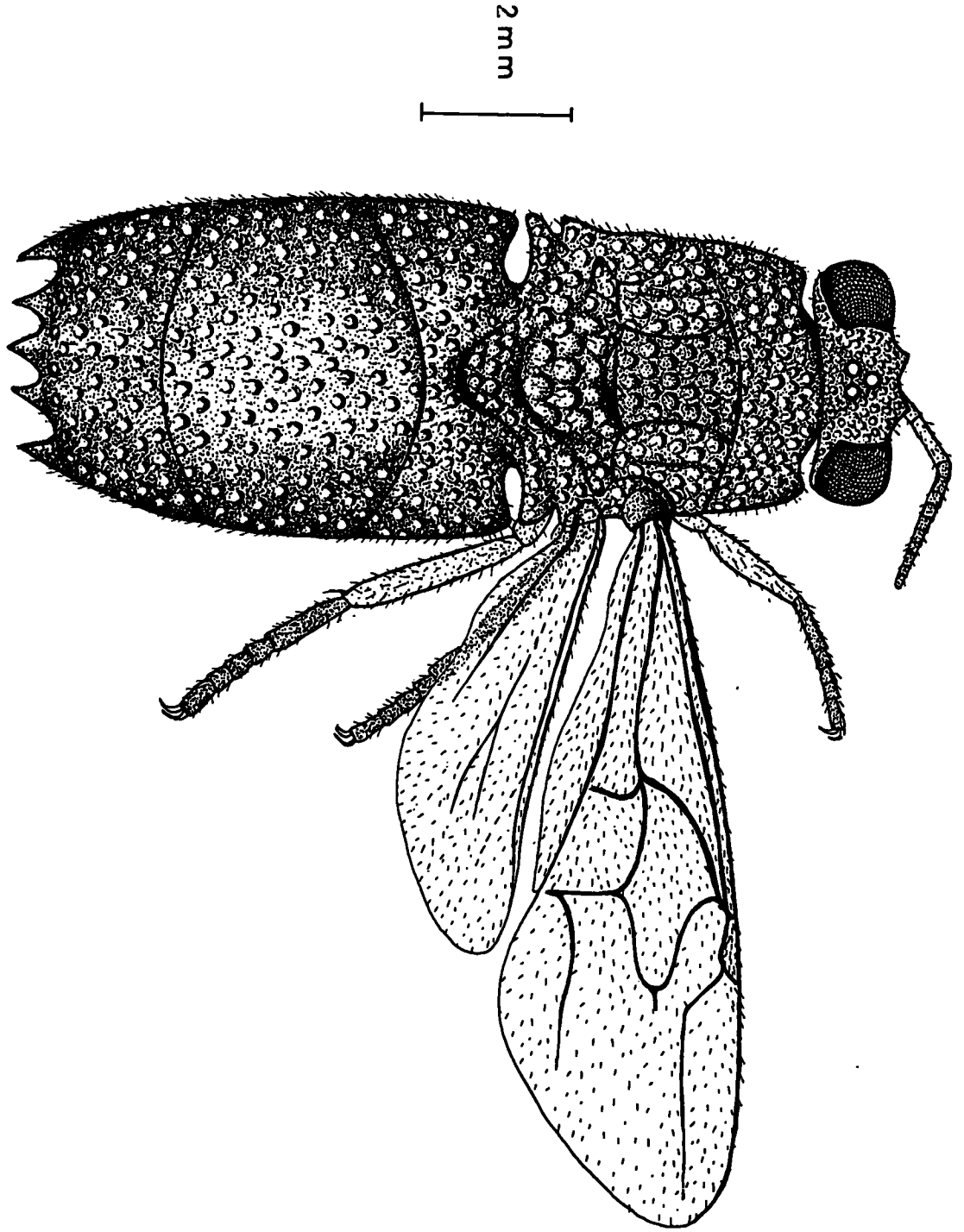
Description

Male—Facial cavity, pronotum, the first abdominal segment and the base and sides of the second metallic green ; the vertex, the dorsal region of the second and third abdominal segments blue ; mesonotum bluish green ; a triangular area round the ocelli and the medial area of the mesonotum deep purple ; collar brilliant purple ; the scape and the basal two joints of the flagellum of the antennae green, the remainder of the flagellum dusky black ; coxae, trochanters, femora and the tibiae of legs green, tarsi dusky black ; inner side reddish brown. Head, thorax and abdomen punctured, the punctures of the head and thorax very coarse, closely placed and reticulate, those of the abdomen are smaller, a little more distantly spaced with smooth and polished interspaces ; punctures of the scutellum large and shallower. Head as broad as the pronotum, front and vertex convex, facial hollow somewhat deep, margined by a carina which is joined by a slight short longitudinal carina from each side of the anterior ocellus ; second joint of the flagellum of the antennae very long. From above pronotum appears rectangular in outline, anteriorly it is somewhat grooved in the middle ; mesonotum and scutellum convex lateral areas of mesonotum with a distinct longitudinal ridge, scutellum from above semicircular, mesopleurae rguose, postscutellum with a prominent medial broad triangular mucro at the base ; wings pale brown with a purplish iridescence in certain lights, nervures purplish brown, tegulae purplish blue. Abdomen broad, the base transverse, no medial impression, third segment slightly longitudinally carinate medially and bears about seven foveae antapically, apical margin armed with five acute teeth, ventral side of abdomen bright golden green with two purplish brown spots on the anterior medial region of the second segment, apical region of the first segment purplish, that of the third segment purplish brown.

Length—12 mm.

Distribution—China (described first) ; the Himalayas ; Tenasserim ; Thaungyin valley ; Bengal ; Siam ; now from Rajakadaluwa (Ceylon).

Remarks—This is the first time that this species has been recorded from Ceylon. *Chrysis shanghaiensis* was first described by Smith (1874) and later by Bingham (1903). The specimen described by the present writer resembles very closely those of the original descriptions except for the differences in colour in certain regions of the body, the absence of any impression on the abdomen above and the lack of a medial slight longitudinal carina on the second abdominal segment.


2 mm

The following other species have been recorded from Ceylon (Bingham—1903)

(*a*)	Apical margin of third abdominal segment with three teeth	*Chrysis lanka* *Chrysis triacantha* *Chrysis singalensis*
(*b*)	Apical margin of third abdominal segment with four teeth	*Chrysis greeni* *Chrysis disparalis* *Chrysis thalia*
(*c*)	Apical margin of third abdominal segment with five teeth	*Chrysis imperiosa* *Chrysis lusca* (*Chrysis shanghaiensis* differs from these in the presence of a broad triangular mucro at the base of the postscutellum)
(*d*)	Apical margin of third abdominal segment with six teeth	*Chrysis oculata* *Chrysis principalis*

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