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NEW RECORD OF *METHOCHA (DRYINOPSIS) TAPROBANE* KROMBEIN, 1982 (HYMENOPTERA: TIPHIIDAE, METHOCHINAE) FROM INDIA

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Summary. The wasp species *Methocha (Dryinopsis) taprobane* Krombein, 1982 is newly recorded for the fauna of India (Kerala).

Key words: Tiphid wasp, Vespoidea, new record, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala, Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.

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Резюме. Впервые для фауны Индии из штата Керала указана оса-тифида *Methocha (Dryinopsis) taprobane* Krombein, 1982.

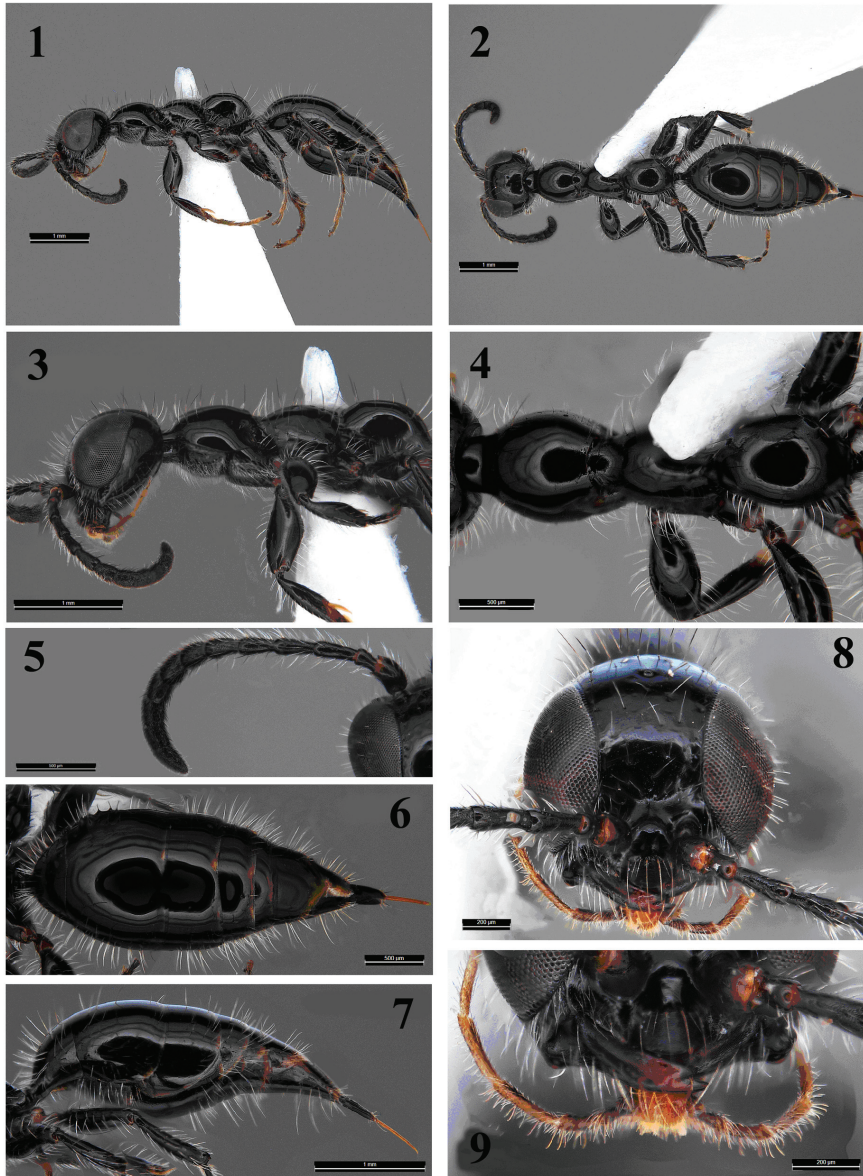
INTRODUCTION

Methocha (Dryinopsis) taprobane Krombein, 1982 is a tiphid wasp belongs to subfamily Methochinae of the family Tiphidae. The genus *Methocha* Latreille, 1804 presently includes 94 species worldwide except for the Australian region (Agnoli, 2022).

Presently, nine species of *Methocha* were known from India, *Methocha (Methocha) bicolor* (Cameron, 1897), *M. (Dryinopsis) keralaensis* Hanima et Girish Kumar, 2019, *M. (D.) krombeini* Hanima, Girish Kumar et Binoy, 2021, *M. (M.) litoralis* Krombein, 1982, *M. (D.) paraceylonica* Hanima, Girish Kumar et Binoy, 2021, *M. (M.) shyamagatra* Hanima, Girish Kumar et Sureshan, 2021, *M. (M.) smithii* (Magretti, 1892), *M. (M.) violaceipennis* (Cameron, 1899), and *M. (D.) ubiquita* Krombein, 1982 (Hanima *et al.*, 2021, 2022). In this paper, *M. (D.) taprobane* Krombein is reported for the first time from India.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimen was collected using yellow pan traps from Peppara dam site area of Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary of Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala. The specimen was examined under LEICA M205A stereozoom microscope and imaged using LEICA DFC 500 digital camera attached. Measurements were obtained using Leica LAS (Leica Application Suite V3.80) microsystems and the final illustrations were post-processed for contrast and brightness using Adobe® Photoshop CS5 (Version 12.0)



Figs 1–9. *Methocha (Dryinopsis) taprobane* Krombein, female. 1 – habitus, lateral view; 2 – same, dorsal view; 3 – head and mesosoma, lateral view; 4 – mesosoma, dorsal view; 5 – antennae; 6 – metasoma, dorsal view; 7 same, lateral view; 8 – head, frontal view; 9 – clypeus.

software. The following abbreviations have been used for depositories: NMNH = National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA (formerly USNM); ZSIK = Western Ghat Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode, India. The studied specimen is deposited at Zoological Survey of India, Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode, Kerala, India (ZSIK).

NEW RECORD

Methocha (Dryinopsis) taprobane Krombein, 1982

Figs 1–9

Methocha (Dryinopsis) taprobane Krombein, 1982: 87, 89, 95, ♂ ♀ [holotype – ♂, Sri Lanka: North Western Province, Puttalam district, Pannika Villu, Wilpattu National Park (NMNH)].

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **India:** Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram District, Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, Peppara dam site, 8°37'19.3008" N, 77°8'14.1432" E, altitude 98 m, 4.XII 2021, 1 ♀, leg. P. Girish Kumar & Party, ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/I.R.-INV.19646.

DIAGNOSIS. FEMALE. Vestiture silvery to cinereous; basal flagellar segments black, legs black with tarsal joints light brown and two last metasomal segments black with apical margins light brown; head 2.2–2.4 times as wide as least interocular distance; postocellar line 1.3 times lateral ocellar line and 0.7 times ocellocular distance.

DISTRIBUTION. India (new record): Kerala, Sri Lanka.

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