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REVIEW OF THE GENUS *RASNITSYNITILLA* LELEJ, 2006 (HYMENOPTERA: MUTILLIDAE)

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Summary. Fifteen species of the genus *Rasnitsynitilla* Lelej, 2006 are reviewed. Five new species are described, of them *R. alexandri* sp. n. is known by both males and females, *R. brachypteroides* sp. n., *R. christiani* sp. n. and *R. sinevi* sp. n. – by males only, and *R. vanharteni* sp. n. by female only. Two new combinations are proposed for *R. pallipes* (Lelej, 1985), **comb. n.** (transferred from the genus *Skorikovia* Ovtchinnikov, 2002) and *R. hierosolymitana* (Invrea, 1953), **comb. n.** (transferred from the genus *Smicromyrme* Thomson, 1870). The genus *Rasnitsynitilla* is recorded from Saudi Arabia for the first time. *R. pallipes* (Lelej, 1985) is newly recorded from United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, and *R. invreai* Lelej, 2006 from United Arab Emirates. Keys to the males and females of the genus are provided.

Key words: Mutillinae, Smicromyrmini, taxonomy, new species, new combination, key, Palaearctic, Afrotropical Region.

А. С. Лелей. Обзор рода *Rasnitsynitilla* Lelej, 2006 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2026. N 558. С. 1-24.

Резюме. Рассмотрены пятнадцать видов рода *Rasnitsynitilla* Lelej, 2006. Описаны пять новых видов, из них *R. alexandri* sp. n. известен как по самцам, так и по самкам, *R. brachypteroides* sp. n., *R. christiani* sp. n. и *R. sinevi* sp. n. –

только по самцам, а *R. vanharteni* **sp. n.** – только по самкам. Предложены две новые комбинации для *R. pallipes* (Lelej, 1985), **comb. n.** (перенесен из рода *Skorikovia* Ovtchinnikov, 2002) и *R. hierosolymitana* (Invrea, 1953), **comb. n.** (перенесен из рода *Smicromyrme* Thomson, 1870). Род *Rasnitsynitilla* впервые зарегистрирован в Саудовской Аравии; *R. pallipes* (Lelej, 1985) впервые зарегистрирован в Объединенных Арабских Эмиратах и Саудовской Аравии, а *R. invreai* Lelej, 2006 – в Объединенных Арабских Эмиратах. Приведены определительные таблицы (отдельно для самцов и самок) видов этого рода.

INTRODUCTION

Originally the genus *Rasnitsynitilla* included three male species only (Lelej & van Harten, 2006). Fourth species has been added by G. Pagliano (2015) and female was described by Lelej & Williams (2023). Recently Romano & Lo Cascio (2026) added two female species from Tunisia. Five species were known from Palaearctic (Lelej, 2026). In this paper 15 Palaearctic and Afrotropical species are reviewed. Four species are known in both sexes, five are known from males only and six are known in females only.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In total, 385 specimens (343♂ and 42 ♀) have been examined for this work, which continue the series of the papers (Lelej & van Harten, 2010, 2011, 2014). The material collected mainly by A. van Harten, head of the project “Arthropod fauna of the United Arab Emirates”. The types and comparative material from different museums were also examined. The following abbreviations are used to denote institutes housing types and specimens examined herein:

IBSS – Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity (former Institute of Biology and Soil Science), Vladivostok, Russia;

MRSN – Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Torino, Italy;

MSNG – Museo di Storia Naturale, Genoa, Italy;

MZUF – Università di Firenze, Museo Zoologico "La Specola", Florence, Italy.

OLML – Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum Linz, Austria;

RMNH – Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands;

ZISP – Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia;

ZMAN – Former Zoölogisch Museum Amsterdam now merged with Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands.

The photographs were taken with an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope and an Olympus DP74 digital camera, and then stacked using Helicon Focus software. The photographs of the type specimens in the OLML (Figs 48, 49, 52, 53) were taken in 2011 with the Canon PowerShot SX100 digital camera. The final illustrations were post-processed for contrast and brightness using Adobe® Photoshop® software.

The following abbreviations are used in the text: F = flagellomere, S = metasomal sternum; T = metasomal tergum; for the traps: LT – light trap, MT – Malaise trap, PT – pitfall trap, WT – water trap; for collector: AvH – A. van Harten, and NARC – National Avian Research Centre.

TAXONOMY

Tribe Smicromyrmini Bischoff, 1920

Genus *Rasnitsynitilla* Lelej, 2006

Rasnitsynitilla Lelej in Lelej & van Harten, 2006: 27, ♂; Lelej & Brothers, 2008: 52; Pagliano, 2015: 23, ♂; Brothers & Lelej, 2017: 96, ♂; Pagliano *et al.*, 2020: 185; Lelej & Williams, 2023: 126, ♂, ♀; Romano & Lo Cascio, 2026: 560, ♀, Lelej, 2026: 87, ♂, ♀.

Type species: *Rasnitsynitilla brachyptera* Lelej, 2006, by original designation.

DIAGNOSIS. MALE. In the tribe Smicromyrmini it is related to *Sulcotilla* Bischoff 1920, *Nemka* Lelej 1985, and *Skorikovia* Ovtchinnikov 2002 by having the mandible tridentate and by very long narrow volsellar cuspis. The male of *Rasnitsynitilla* differs from genera *Sulcotilla* and *Nemka* by having mesopleuron without precoxal tubercle or carina, and from *Skorikovia* by acuminate volsellar cuspis (clavate or rounded in *Skorikovia*). Forewing shortened (in most species). S2 with rather long lateral felt line. Basivolsella with tuft of long setae, long narrow cuspis with more or less dense long setae.

FEMALE. Head not widened posterad. Pronotum without protruding humeral part, usually narrower or at most scarcely wider than propodeum. Scutellar scale usually slightly wider than its length. T2 with one basal medial spot of pale setae and apical band or fringe of pale setae; rarely basal part with band of more or less dense pale setae. Pygidial plate basally widened, apically usually angulated, lateral carina distinctly widened apically.

REMARKS. Probably the female of *Smicromyrme gudenzi* Pagliano et Matteini Palmerini, 2014 described from Tunisia (Pagliano & Matteini Palmerini, 2014) also belongs to the genus *Rasnitsynitilla*.

DIVERSITY AND DISTRIBUTION. The genus *Rasnitsynitilla* includes 15 species in North Africa, Arabian Peninsula, Israel, Palestine, and Iran: *R. alexandri* sp. n.; *R. bartolozzii* (Lo Cascio & Grita, 2014); *R. brachyptera* Lelej, 2006; *R. brachypteroides* sp. n.; *R. christiani* sp. n.; *R. gineri* (Invrea, 1953); *R. hierosolymitana* (Invrea, 1953), comb. n.; *R. invreai* Lelej, 2006; *R. matteinii* Pagliano, 2015; *R. pallipes* (Lelej, 1985), comb. n.; *R. poneli* Romano et Lo Cascio, 2026; *R. schmideggeri* Lelej, 2006; *R. sinevi* sp. n.; *R. tetragona* (Invrea, 1960); *R. vanharteni* sp. n.

NATURAL HISTORY. Widely distributed in the Eremic zone, particularly in the sandy deserts of the Arabian Peninsula, these minute, discolored species are nocturnal and attracted to light in large numbers.

Key to the species of the genus *Rasnitsynitilla*

Males (unknown in *R. bartolozzii*, *R. gineri*, *R. hierosolymitana*, *R. poneli*, *R. tetragona*, *R. vanharteni*)

1. Mandible with inner second preapical dent curved inside and larger than first one (fig. 38). – POD:OOD ratio 1.4-2.0. Stigmatic cell with posterior chitinized side. Body length 5.6-10.4 mm. Iran (Sistan & Baluchestan, Hormozgan), United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia *R. pallipes* (Lelej, 1985), **comb. n.**
- Mandible with inner second preapical dent not larger than first one (fig. 42) 2
2. POD:OOD ratio 0.5-0.67 × 3
- POD:OOD ratio 1.1-1.5 × 6
3. Head ferruginous-red 4
- Head black. – Mesosoma dorsally ferruginous-red, mesopleuron and legs black. Body length 7.2 mm. Palestine *R. sinevi* Lelej, **sp. n.**
4. Stigmatic cell of forewing not chitinized 5
- Stigmatic cell of forewing evidently chitinized. – Mesosoma and legs ferruginous-red. T2 posteriorly and T3-6 with sparse white setae. Body length 3.6-4.0 mm. Yemen *R. brachyptera* Lelej, 2006
5. Flagellomeres black, frons without long sparse erect brown setae. Second radio-medial cell of forewing much less than first radio-medial cell. Body length 6.5-9.0 mm. Oman ... *R. matteinii* Pagliano, 2015
- Flagellomeres ferruginous-brown, lighter beneath; frons with long sparse erect brown setae. Second radio-medial cell of forewing slightly less than first radio-medial cell. Body length 5.2–8.0 mm. Yemen, United Arab Emirates *R. schmideggeri* Lelej, 2006
6. Stigmatic cell of forewing totally chitinized 7
- Stigmatic cell of forewing non chitinized, narrow with posterior side evidently chitinized 8
7. Metasomal segments 1–3 whitish and concolorous with mesosoma and head. POD:OOD ratio 1.3–1.5 ×. Body length 3.2–5.6 mm. Yemen, United Arab Emirates *R. invreai* Lelej, 2006
- Metasomal segments 1–3 brown or T2 whitish medially. POD:OOD ratio 1.1-1.2 ×. Body length 3.0–5.2 mm. United Arab Emirates *R. brachypteroides* Lelej, **sp. n.**
8. Head ferruginous-red. Mesosoma ferruginous. Body length 3.4–5.2 mm. United Arab Emirates *R. alexandri* Lelej, **sp. n.**
- Head black. Mesosoma black with ferruginous dorsum and pronotum. Body length 5.2–10.4 mm. Israel, Tunisia *R. christiani* Lelej, **sp. n.**

Females (unknown in *R. brachyptera*, *R. brachypteroides*, *R. christiani*,
R. matteinii *R. sinevi*)

1. Cuticle of whole body pale yellow to whitish. Body length 3.6 mm *R. invreai* Lelej, 2006
- Cuticle of body partly black, ferruginous-red or pale yellow 2
2. T2 pale yellow or brown, without basal medial spot of pale setae, with sparse or dense recumbent pale setae 3
- T2 black, with basal medial spot of pale setae 4
3. Basal two-third and apical band of T2 cuticle pale yellow. T2 with dense recumbent pale setae. Body length 6.4 mm *R. pallipes* (Lelej, 1985), **comb. n.**
- T2 brown, with dense recumbent pale setae. Body length 2.6–4.0 mm *R. alexandri* Lelej, **sp. n.**
4. Head and mesosoma with dense, recumbent coppery-golden setae giving overall golden appearance. Scutellar scale absent. T2 with roundish basomedial spot of coppery-golden setae and apical coppery-golden band medially expanded triangularly. Body length 6.8 mm. Tunisia *R. poneli* Romano et Lo Cascio, 2026

- Dorsal setae on head and mesosoma paler, metasomal markings silvery or whitish. Scutellar scale just prominent, flattened and slightly darker on the apex. T2 with large basal pale spot and medially expanded apical pale fringe 5
- 5. Head black 6
- Head totally or partly ferruginous or pale yellow 8
- 6. Mesosoma brownish with ferruginous dorsum 7
- Mesosoma and legs totally ferruginous. Body length 5.0–5.5 mm. Palestine, Egypt *R. hierosolymitana* (Invrea, 1953), **comb. n.**
- 7. Head behind eyes slightly elongated, eyes not protrude beyond head contours. Mesosoma longer than maximal width by 1.23 ×. Pygidial plate with striae divergent to apex. Body length 3.5–5.75 mm. Tunisia *R. gineri* (Invrea, 1953)
- Head noticeably narrow behind eyes, eyes slightly protrude beyond head contours. Mesosoma longer than maximal width by 1.14 ×. Pygidial plate with striae more or less parallel. Body length 3.0 mm. Egypt *R. tetragona* (Invrea, 1960)
- 8. Pronotum concolorous with other mesosoma, ferruginous red. Head totally ferruginous-red 9
- Pronotum black. Head ferruginous beneath and frons. Body length 2.4–4.0 mm. United Arab Emirates *R. vanharteni* Lelej, **sp. n.**
- 9. T2 with large sub-squared basal spot of silver setae extending to about half segment and narrow apical fringe slightly expanded medially. T2 wider its length in 1.2 ×. Body length 5.5 mm. Israel *R. bartolozzii* (Lo Cascio et Grita, 2014)
- T2 with long narrow pale spot almost connected with posterior fringe. T2 wider its length in 1.06 ×. Body length 4.0–6.6 mm *R. schmideggeri* Lelej, 2006

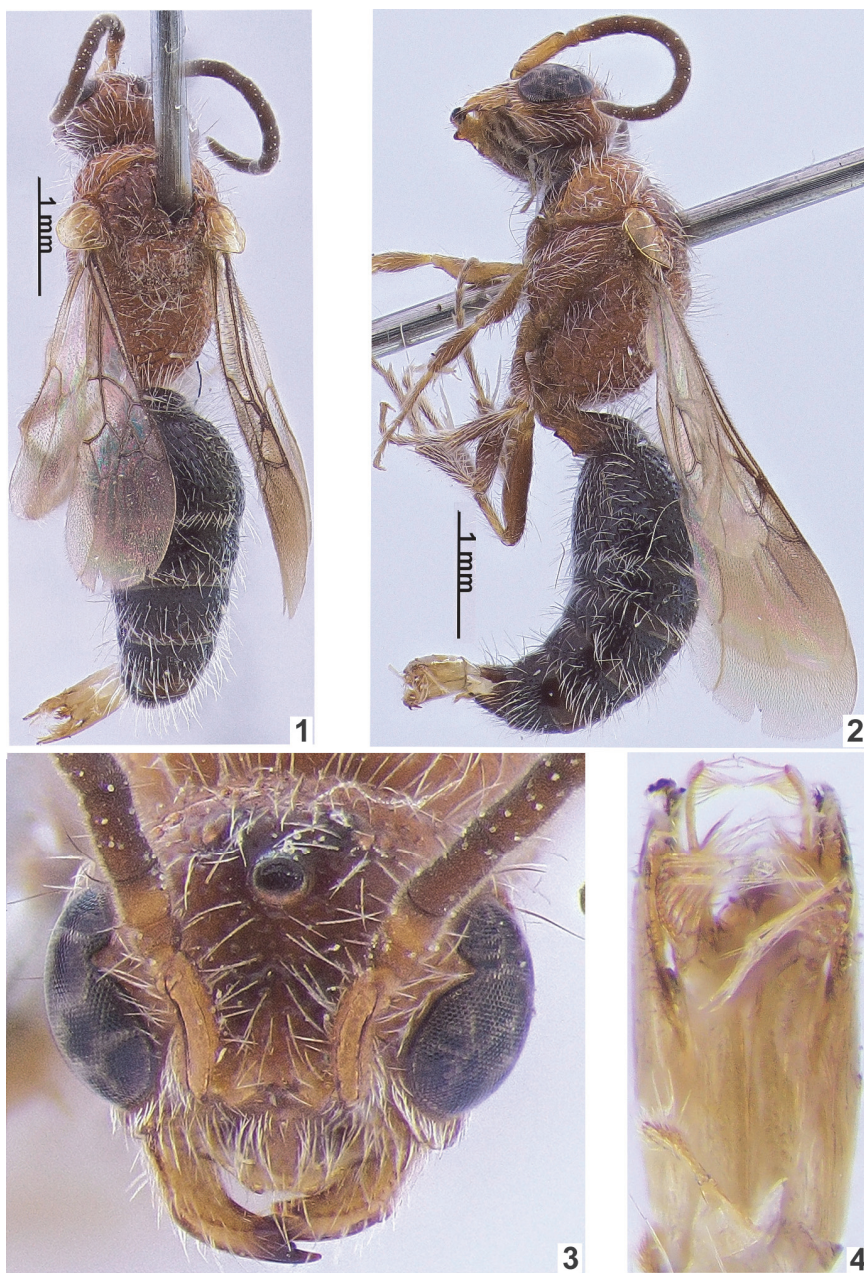
***Rasnitsynitilla alexandri* Lelej, sp. n.**

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/0D962354-7A89-4164-AD1E-15CD4964F2A8>

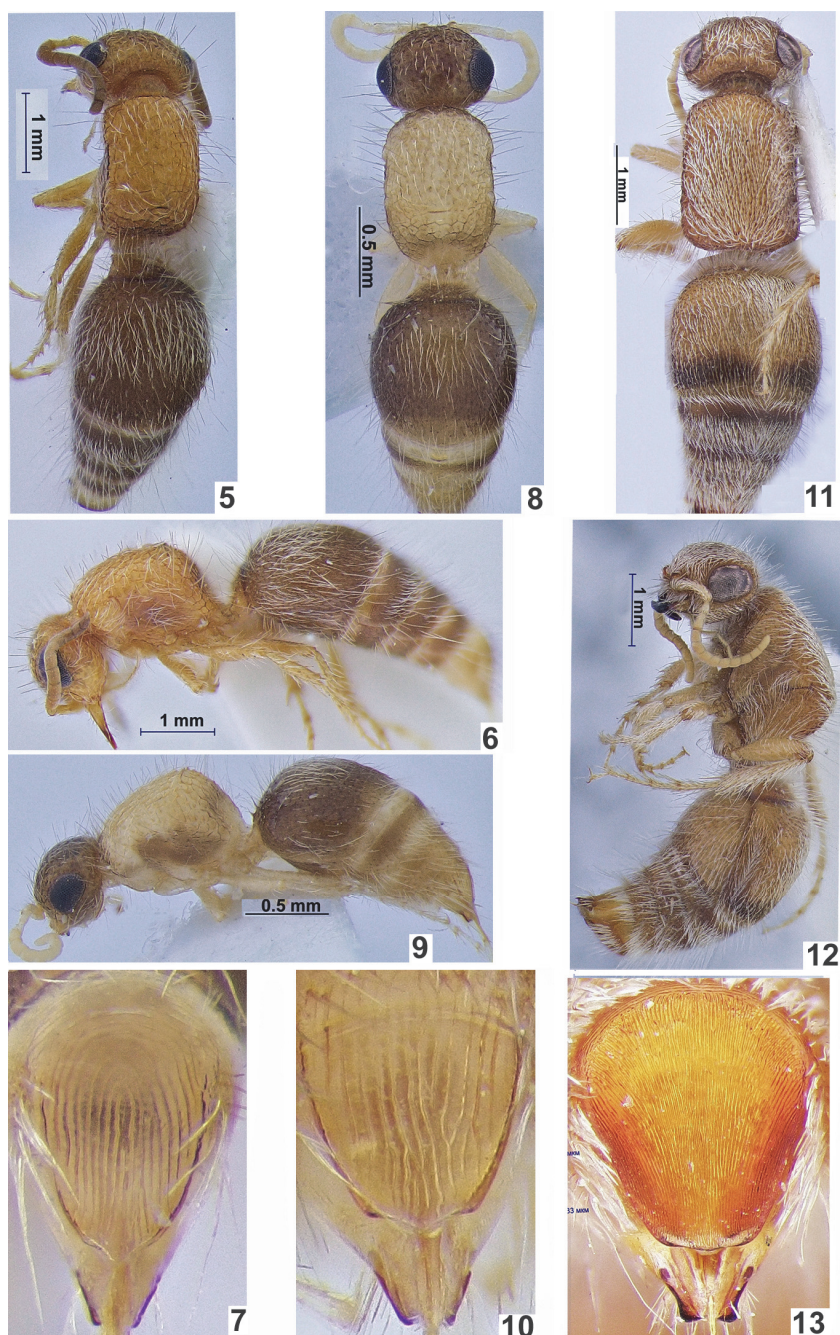
Figs 1–4, 5–10

MATERIAL EXAMINED (16♂, 19♀). Holotype – ♂, **United Arab Emirates:** Wadi Wurayah farm, 31.IV–18.V 2009, MT, leg. AvH [ZMAN]. Paratypes: 3♂ with same labels as holotype, same place, 31.V–16.VI 2009, MT, 6♂, leg. AvH; 31.V–5.VII 2009, LT, 1♂, 5♀, leg. AvH; 5–16.VII 2009, LT, 2♀, leg. AvH; 2.VI–12.VIII 2009, LT, 1♀, leg. AvH; 16.VI–12.VIII 2009, MT, 2♂, leg. AvH; Wadi Safad, 6–13.V 2006, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 14–21.V 2006, LT, 1♀, leg. AvH; 1–8.VII 2006, LT, 1♀, leg. AvH; Wadi Madaq, 460 m, 26.X–9.XI 2006, WT, 1♀, leg. AvH; Wadi Bih dam, 8–22.III 2007, LT, 1♀, leg. AvH; 7–13.V 2007, LT, 1♀, leg. AvH; North of Ajman, 26.V–30.VII 2008, WT, 1♂, leg. AvH; Al Ain, near Jebel Hafit, 21.X–16.XI 2009, PT, 2♀, leg. V. Korshunov; Sharjah Desert Park, 25.V–16.VII 2008, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH; Hatta, 14–21.VI 2008, LT, 1♀, leg. AvH. Minute female form with brown head: Ra's al-Khaimah–Dibba, 17.X 2005, LT, 2♀, leg. K. Mahmood; Ar-Rafah, 31.XII 2009, 1♀, leg. AvH [ZMAN, IBSS].

DESCRIPTION. MALE. Body length 3.4–5.2 mm. Head width equal thorax width including tegulae. POD:OOD ratio 1.2 ×. Relation of pedicel and F1–3 0.8:1.2:2.2:2.2. Pronotum anteriorly with rounded humeri. Stigmatic cell of forewing non chitinized, narrow with posterior side evidently chitinized. Tegula with sparse shallow punctures. Propodeum reticulate. Pronotum dorsally, mesoscutum, and scutellum with shallow punctures. T1 width 1.2 × T1 length. T2 and S2 densely



Figs 1–4. *Rasnitsynitilla alexandri* sp. n., ♂, holotype. 1, 2 – habitus (1 – dorsal view, 2 – lateral view); 3 – head, face view; 4 – genitalia, ventral view.



Figs 5–13. *Rasnitsynitilla*, ♀♀. 5–10 – *R. alexandri* **sp. n.**, paratype; 11–13 – *R. pallipes*, minute form. 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 – habitus (5, 8, 11 – dorsal view, 6, 9, 12 – lateral view); 7, 10, 13 – T6, pygidial plate.

punctate, punctures larger on S2. T7 glabrous apically. Basivolsella ventrally with tuft of long setae; cuspis thin long, apically with inner tuft of short setae. Head, mesosoma, metasomal segment 1, and legs yellowish-red. Mandible yellowish-red with dark teeth. Palps whitish. Scape yellowish-red; pedicel and flagellomeres brownish, reddish beneath. Forewing hyaline, weakly darkened apically. Head, mesosoma, metasoma, and legs with sparse erect and recumbent yellowish setae. T1–T6 and S2–S6 with weak apical fringes of yellowish setae. Lateral felt line of T2 and short one on S2 whitish.

FEMALE. Body length 2.6–4.0 mm. Head ferruginous-red with brown frons. Mesosoma and legs ferruginous red. Flagellomeres brown, reddish beneath. Metasoma black to brown. Head rounded behind eyes. Clypeus with transverse carina, without median basal tubercle. Minimal distance between eyes $1.25 \times$ longitudinal eye diameter. Pronotum with rounded humeral part, slightly narrower than propodeum. Scutellar scale wide, nail-like. T2 basal half with recumbent whitish setae; T2 apically and T3–5 with erect and recumbent whitish setae. Pygidial plate longitudinally striate, basally widened, apically distinctly angulated, lateral carina distinctly widened apically.

REMARKS. The female *R. alexandri* may eventually be identified as the opposite sex of this species, due to its co-occurrence (Wadi Wurayah farm, 31.V–5.VII 2009, LT). There is no direct evidence (pair collected *in copula*) to support this relationship.

DISTRIBUTION. United Arab Emirates.

ETYMOLOGY. Prof. Alexandr Pavlovich Rasnitsyn is a world-renowned expert on Hymenoptera classification and evolution. He has devoted his attention to the study of the superfamily Scolioidea, which includes the families Mutillidae and Myrmosidae and was the opponent to the author's doctoral thesis. The specific epithet is a patronym honoring Prof. A.P. Rasnitsyn on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Treat as a noun in apposition.

***Rasnitsynitilla bartolozzii* Lo Cascio et Grita, 2014**

Smicromyrme bartolozzii Lo Cascio & Grita, 2014: 125, figs 1, 2a, ♀, holotype, ♀ “Israel, Eilat, 19.V.(19)98” [MZUF].

Rasnitsynitilla bartolozzii: Lelej & Williams, 2023: 125, ♀; Romano & Lo Cascio, 2026: 560, ♀; Lelej, 2026: 87, ♀.

DISTRIBUTION. Israel.

***Rasnitsynitilla brachyptera* Lelej, 2006**

Figs 14–17

Rasnitsynitilla brachyptera Lelej in Lelej & van Harten, 2006: 28, ♂, holotype, ♂ “Yemen, Lahj, 17.V–15.VI 2000, MT, leg. A.v. Harten & A. Sallam [ZMAN], examined; Pagliano *et al.*, 2020: 185; Lelej & Williams 2023: 125, ♂; Romano & Lo Cascio, 2026: 560, ♂.

MATERIAL EXAMINED (6♂). Holotype and paratypes of *R. brachyptera*.

DISTRIBUTION. Yemen.



Figs 14–17. *Rasnitsynitilla brachyptera*, paratype, ♂. 14, 15 – habitus (14 – dorsal view, 15 – lateral view); 16 – head, face view; 17 – genitalia, ventral view.

***Rasnitsynitilla brachypteroides* Lelej, sp. n.**

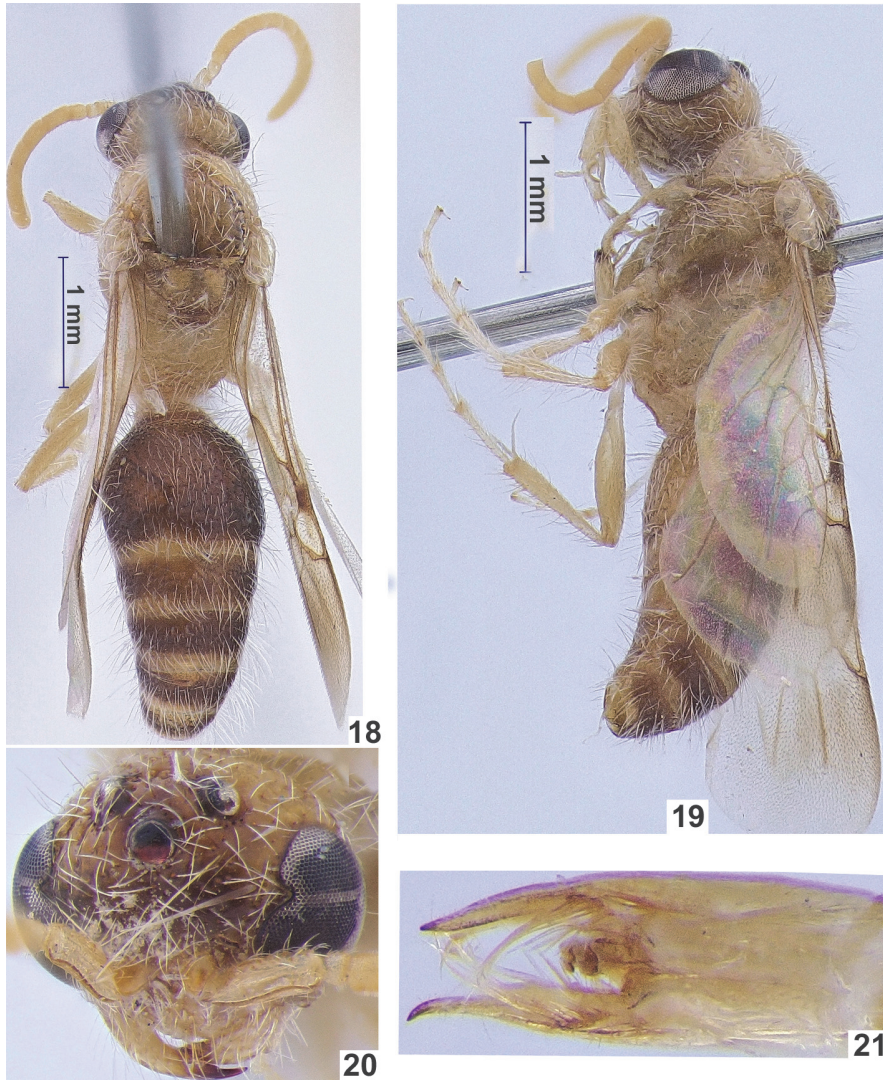
<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/2F9B97E0-2C69-4B4D-85DE-53EF4C587F54>

Figs 18–21

MATERIAL EXAMINED (60♂). Holotype – ♂, **United Arab Emirates:** Sharjah Desert Park, 30.IV–25.V 2008, LT, leg. AvH; [ZMAN]. Paratypes: 36♂ with same label as holotype; same place, 5–12.V 2007, LT, 2♂, leg. AvH; 16.VI–17.VII 2008, LT, 5♂, leg. AvH; 24.VII–14.VIII 2008, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 17–24.VII 2008, LT, 3♂, leg. AvH; 25.V–30.VII 2008, WT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 9.VIII–4.IX 2008, LT, 8♂, leg. AvH; Al-Ajban, 29.V–19.VI 2006, LT, 2♂, leg. AvH; 18.VII–15.VIII 2006, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH [ZMAN, IBSS].

DESCRIPTION. MALE. Body length 3.5–5.2 mm. Head width $0.85 \times$ maximal mesosoma width including tegulae. POD:OOD ratio $1.1\text{--}1.2 \times$. Relation of pedicel

and F1–3 0.4:0.6:1.1:1.1. Pronotum anteriorly with rounded humeri. Stigmatic cell of forewing totally chitinized. Tegula with sparse shallow punctures. Propodeum reticulate. Pronotum dorsally, mesoscutum, and scutellum with shallow punctures. T2 and S2 densely punctate, punctures larger on S2. T7 glabrous in apical half. Basivolsella ventrally with tuft of very long setae; cuspis thin long, with few setae on inner border. Head, mesosoma, metasomal segment 1, and legs yellowish-red, frons



Figs 18–21. *Rasnitsynitilla brachypteroides* **sp. n.**, ♂, holotype. 18, 19 – habitus (18 – dorsal view, 19 – lateral view); 20 – head, face view; 21 – genitalia, ventral view.

brownish. Mandible yellowish-red with dark teeth. Palps whitish. Antenna yellowish. Metasomal segments 2–7 brown; S2–7 and apical band of T2–6 with yellowish cuticula. Forewing hyaline, slightly darkened apically. Head, mesosoma, metasoma, and legs with sparse erect and recumbent yellowish setae. T1–T6 and S2–S6 with weak apical fringes of yellowish setae. Lateral felt line of T2 and short one on S2 whitish.

FEMALE. Unknown.

REMARKS. A new species is similar with *R invreai* by the shape of genitalia and chitinized stigmatic cell but differs by brown metasoma (discolored in *invreai*) and shape of penial valvae (fig. 21 vs. fig. 29).

DISTRIBUTION. United Arab Emirates.

ETYMOLOGY. *brachypteroides* is derived from the specific name *brachyptera*, and the suffix *-oides*, which refers to the similarity of this species. Treat as a noun in apposition.

***Rasnitsynitilla christiani* Lelej, sp. n.**

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/3D5DF175-B07C-4DC8-868C-00A5DF560673>

Figs 22–25

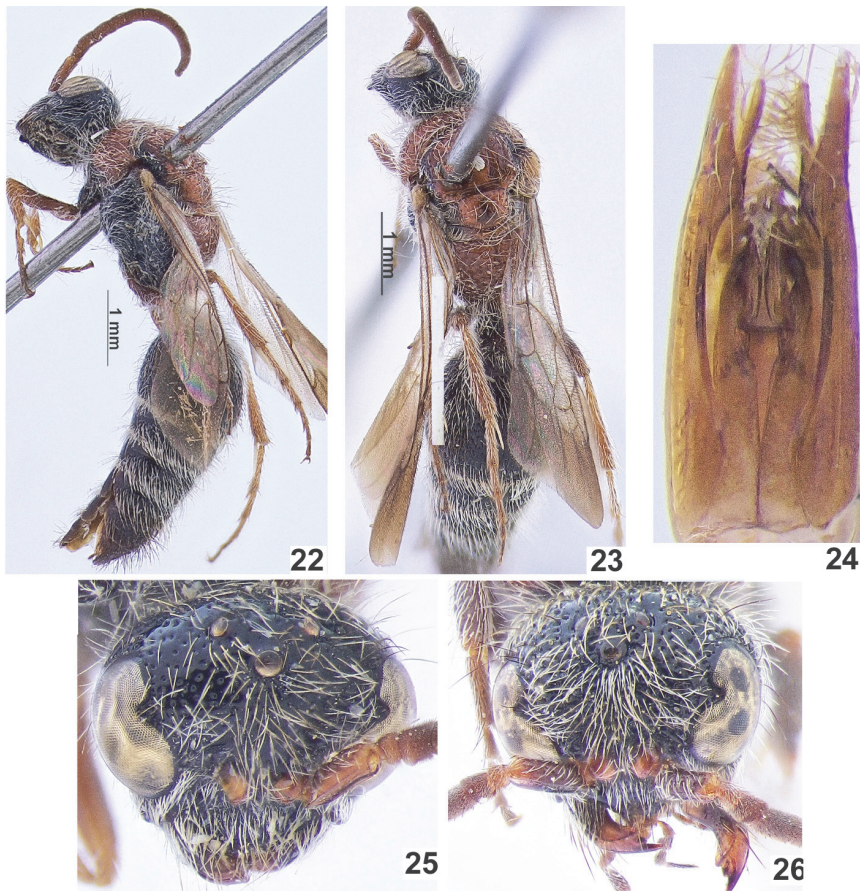
MATERIAL EXAMINED (6♂). Holotype – ♂, **Israel**: Arava valley, Hazeva, 30°46'53"N 35°14'34"E, 5.V 1996, leg. Irwin [IBSS]. Paratypes: 3 ♂ with same label as holotype; Negev En Aqev, near Sede Boker, 4.V 1996, 1♂ leg. Irwin [IBSS]. **Tunisia**: 12 km W Matmata, 33°32'N 09°50'E, 7.VI 2000, MT, 1♂, leg. Schmid-Egger [IBSS].

DESCRIPTION. MALE. Body length 5.2–10.4 mm. Head width $0.9 \times$ mesosoma maximal width. POD:OOD ratio $1.1 \times$. Relation of pedicel and F1–3 $0.4:0.9:1.7:1.7$. Pronotum anteriorly with rounded humeri. Stigmatic cell of forewing non chitinized, narrow with posterior side evidently chitinized. Tegula sparsely punctate. Propodeum reticulate, dorsally with median longitudinal cell which laterally carinated. Pronotum dorsally, mesoscutum, and scutellum densely punctate. T2 and S2 densely punctate, punctures larger on S2. Basivolsella ventrally with tuft of long setae; cuspis thin long, inner border and apex setose. Head black, pronotum, mesoscutum, mesoscutellum, dorsal and posterior propodeal sides ferruginous-red; mesopleuron, metapleuron, lateral propodeal side and metasoma black; legs brownish-red. Mandible ferruginous-red with dark teeth. Palps brown. Antenna black with reddish pedicel. Forewing hyaline, infuscated apically. Head, mesosoma, and legs with sparse erect and recumbent whitish setae. T2–4 with apical fringe of whitish setae, T3–5 with sparse erect whitish setae, T6–7 with black setae. Lateral felt line of T2 and shorter one on S2 grayish. Metasoma ventrally with sparse whitish setae, S2–5 with weak apical fringes of whitish setae.

FEMALE. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Israel, Tunisia.

ETYMOLOGY. The specific name is dedicated to the Christian Schmid-Egger (Germany), expert in Palearctic wasps. Treat as a noun in apposition.



Figs 22–26. 22–25 – *Rasnitsynitilla christiani* sp. n., ♂, paratype; 26 – *R. sinevi* sp. n., ♂, holotype. 22, 23 – habitus (22 – lateral view, 23 – dorsal view); 24 – genitalia, dorsal view; 25, 26 – head, face view.

***Rasnitsynitilla gineri* (Invrea, 1953)**

Smicromyrme gineri Invrea, 1953: 278, ♀, type locality: “Tiznit, Oued Massa, 10.VI.1947” (Morocco), syntypes in MSNG; Lelej 2002: 74; Pagliano & Matteini Palmerini 2014: 180, ♀.

Rasnitsynitilla gineri: Romano & Lo Cascio 2026: 560, figs 3B, 3D, ♀; Lelej, 2026: 87, ♀.

DISTRIBUTION. Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia.

***Rasnitsynitilla hierosolymitana* (Invrea, 1953), comb. n.**

Figs 48, 52

Smicromyrme hierosolymitana Invrea, 1953: 12, ♀, holotype, ♀ “Gerusalemme, XII, leg. Bodenheimer” (Palestine) [MSNG]; 1965: 87, ♀; Lelej 2002: 74.

Smicromyrme priesneri Invrea, 1960: 209, fig. 2, ♀, holotype, ♀ “Wadi Hoff, 6.VI.1930, leg. H. Priesner” (Egypt) [Coll. M. Schwarz, OLML], examined; Lelej 2002: 78, ♀. Junior subjective synonym of *S. hierosolymitana* Invrea, 1953 according to Lelej, 2026: 95.

MATERIAL EXAMINED (1♀). Holotype of *Smicromyrme priesneri* Invrea, 1960.

DISTRIBUTION. Palestine, Egypt.

REMARKS. Because the holotype of *Smicromyrme priesneri* Invrea, 1960, which I examined, was identified by B. Petersen in 1990 as *S. hierosolymitana* Invrea, 1953, I formally accepted this synonymy (Lelej, 2026).

***Rasnitsynitilla invreai* Lelej, 2006**

Figs 27–29, 33–35

Rasnitsynitilla invreai Lelej in Lelej & van Harten, 2006: 28, ♂, holotype, ♂ “Yemen, Mayfa’ah, 26–28.V 1998, LT, leg. A.v. Harten & A. Afif [ZMAN], examined. Pagliano *et al.*, 2020: 186; Romano & Lo Cascio, 2026: 560, ♂.

MATERIAL EXAMINED (126♂, 1♀). **United Arab Emirates:** Al-Ajban, 17.X–19.XI 2005, LT, 2♂, leg. AvH; 19–26.V 2006, MT, 2♂, leg. AvH; 27.V–26.VI 2006, MT, 3♂, leg. AvH; 29.V–19.VI 2006, LT, 34♂, leg. AvH; 26.VI–18.VII 2006, LT, 62♂, 1♀; 18.VII–15.VIII 2006, LT, 19♂, leg. AvH; Sharjah Desert Park, 30.IV–31.V 2005, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 16.VI–17.VII 2008, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH; NARC near Sweihan, 2–30.IV2005, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH; Ra’s al-Khaimah–Dibba, 17.X 2005, LT, 1♂, leg. K. Mahmood [ZMAN, IBSS].

FEMALE (hitherto unknown). Body length 3.6 mm. Cuticle of whole body concolorous, yellowish. Head rounded behind eyes. Clypeus without median basal tubercle. Minimal distance between eyes $1.55 \times$ longitudinal eye diameter. Mesosoma dorsally more or less quadrangle. Scutellar scale wide. Body with sparse recumbent and erect whitish setae, apical half of T2 with sparse brown setae. Pygidial plate longitudinally striate, basally widened, apically distinctly angulated, lateral carina distinctly widened apically.

REMARKS. The female *R. invreai* may eventually be identified as the opposite sex of this species, due to discolored body and its co-occurrence (Al-Ajban, 26.VI–18.VII 2006, LT). There is no direct evidence (pair collected *in copula*) to support this relationship.

DISTRIBUTION. Yemen, United Arab Emirates (new record).

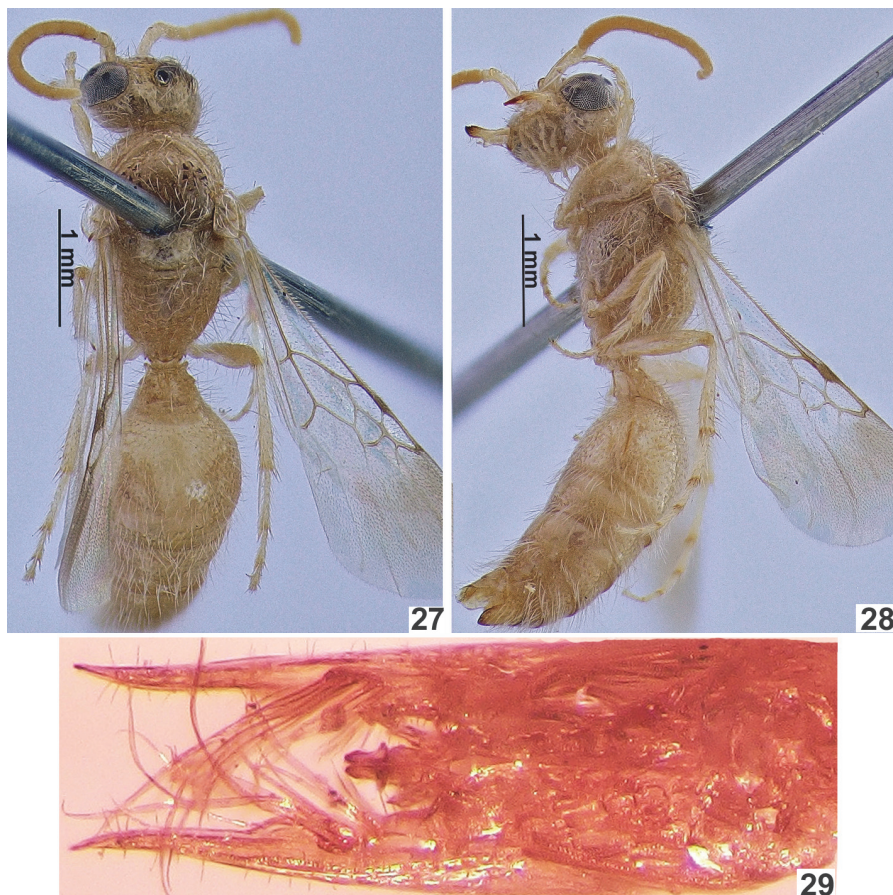
***Rasnitsynitilla matteinii* Pagliano, 2015**

Figs 44

Rasnitsynitilla matteinii Pagliano, 2015: 24, ♂, holotype, ♂, “Oman, Dhofar, Rd. NW Hajaif, 900 m, 17°14’34”N 54°1’33”E, 13.IX 2002, leg. Strumia [coll. G. Pagliano in MRSN]; Pagliano *et al.*, 2020: 186, fig. 296, ♂.

MATERIAL EXAMINED (1♂). Paratype of *Rasnitsynitilla matteinii* Pagliano. **Oman.** Dhofar, Salalah East Dahariz, 17°1’1”N 54°9’19”E, 13.IX 2002, leg. Strumia [IBSS].

DISTRIBUTION. Oman.



Figs 27–29. *Rasnitsynitilla invreai*, ♂, United Arab Emirates. 27, 28 – habitus (27 – dorsal view, 28 – lateral view); 29 – genitalia, ventral view.

***Rasnitsynitilla pallipes* (Lelej, 1985), comb. n.**

Figs 11–13, 36–39

Smicromyrme (*Nemka*) *pallipes* Lelej, 1985: 216, 243, ♂, holotype, ♂, “Iran, Khorasan, 16.VI 1901, N. Zarudny” [at this day the specimens were collected in the Iran, Prov. Sistan & Baluchestan, mouth of the River Helmand, village Margu on left side of New Helmand River (Zarudny, 1916)] [ZISP], examined.

Skorikovia pallipes: Ovtchinnikov, 2002: 95, ♂; Lelej, 2002: 64, ♂; Lelej & Osten, 2004: 257, ♂; Pagliano *et al.*, 2020: 187, ♂; Lelej, 2024: 64, ♂; 2026: 89, ♂.

MATERIAL EXAMINED (14♂, 1♀). **United Arab Emirates:** Al-Ajban, 17.X–19.XI 2005, LT, 3♂, 1♀, leg. AvH; 17–24.IV 2006, MT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 26.vi–18.vii.2006, LT, 2♂, leg. AvH; 1♂, 16.IX–12.X 2006, WT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 15.VIII–11.IX 2006, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 18.VII–15.VIII 2006, LT, 2♂, leg. AvH; 5–16.VII.2008, WT, 1♂, leg. AvH; Wadi Bih dam, 8–22.III 2007, LT, 2♂, leg. AvH. **Saudi Arabia:** Golf von Salva, Judhaim Island, 40 km S Al-Uquair, 25°17'24"N 50°15'0"E, 30.XI 1994, 1 ♂, M. Werner [IBSS].

FEMALE (hitherto unknown). Body length 6.4 mm. Head and mesosoma concolorous, yellowish. Head rounded behind eyes. Clypeus with transverse carina, without median basal tubercle. Minimal distance between eyes $1.35 \times$ longitudinal eye diameter. Pronotum without protruding humeral part, slightly narrower than propodeum. Scutellar scale weak but distinct. Basal two third and apical band of T2 cuticle pale yellow, T2 with recumbent whitish setae somewhat denser basomedially. T3–5 with band of whitish setae. Pygidial plate longitudinally striate, basally widened, apically distinctly angulated, lateral carina distinctly widened apically.

REMARKS. This species differs from other *Rasnitsynitilla* species by non-shortened wings with well-developed pterostigma and veins. Despite this, I believe that it should still be placed in *Rasnitsynitilla* based on the metasomal pale pattern of the female and the shape of the pygidial plate. The female *R. pallipes* may eventually be identified as the opposite sex of this species, due to its co-occurrence (Al-Ajban, 17.X–19.XI 2005, LT). There is no direct evidence (pair collected *in copula*) to support this relationship.

DISTRIBUTION. Asia: Iran (Sistan & Baluchestan, Hormozgan), United Arab Emirates (new record), Saudi Arabia (new record).

***Rasnitsynitilla poneli* Romano et Lo Cascio, 2026**

Rasnitsynitilla poneli Romano & Lo Cascio, 2026: 561, figs 1, 2, ♀, holotype, ♀, "Tunisia, Bou Hedma, 34°28'31"N, 9°38'56"E, 121 m a.s.l., 15.X 2010, P. Ponel leg." [MZUF-INS-114047]; Lelej, 2026: 87, ♀.

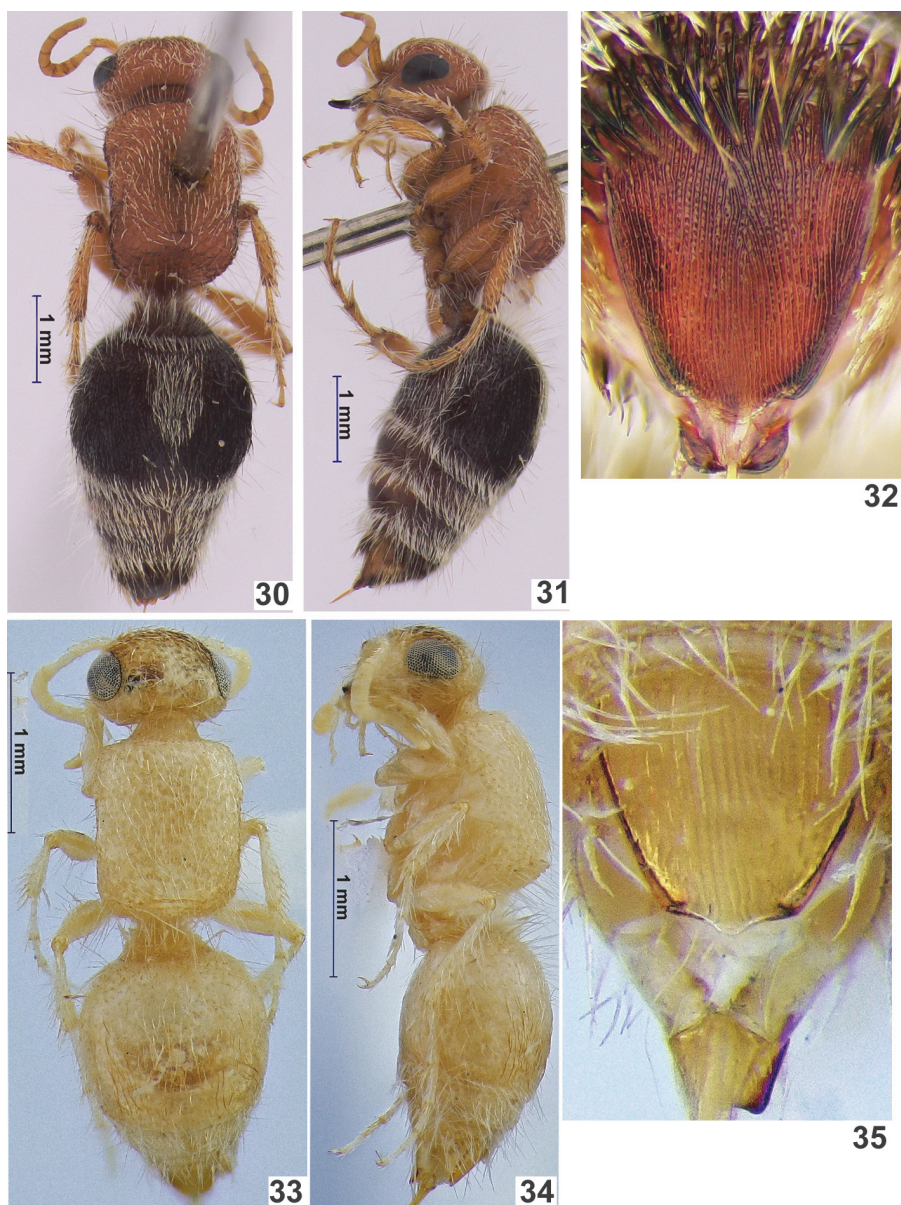
DISTRIBUTION. Tunisia.

***Rasnitsynitilla schmideggeri* Lelej, 2006**

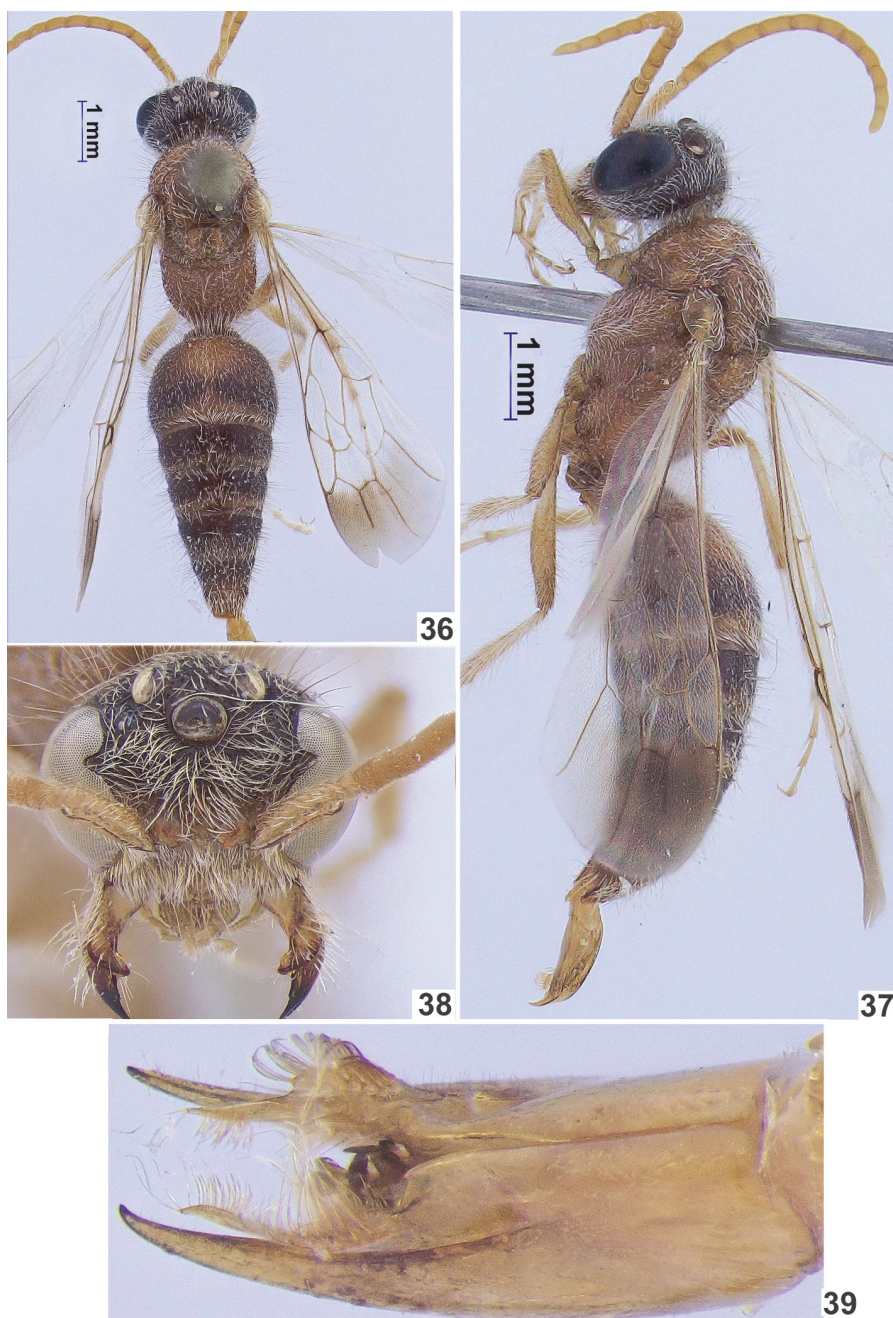
Figs 30–32, 40–43

Rasnitsynitilla schmideggeri Lelej in Lelej & van Harten, 2006: 30, ♂, holotype, ♂ "Yemen, Al Kowd, IV 1993, MT, leg. A.v. Harten [ZMAN], examined; Pagliano *et al.*, 2020: 186; Lelej & Williams 2023: 125, ♂, ♀; Romano & Lo Cascio, 2026: 560, ♂, ♀; Lelej, 2026: 87, ♂, ♀.

MATERIAL EXAMINED (113 ♂, 15♀). Holotype of *R. schmideggeri*. **United Arab Emirates:** North of Ajman, 18–22.V 2008, WT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 25.V–12.VI 2008, WT, 6♂, leg. AvH; 26.V–5.VII 2008, WT, 42♂, 3♀, leg. AvH; 5–16.VII 2008, WT, 33♂, 2♀, leg. AvH; 16–19.VII 2008, WT, 4♂, 1♀, leg. AvH; 10–14.VIII 2008, WT, 1♂, 1♀, leg. AvH. Wadi Shawkah, 9–24.VI 2007, WT, 1♀, leg.

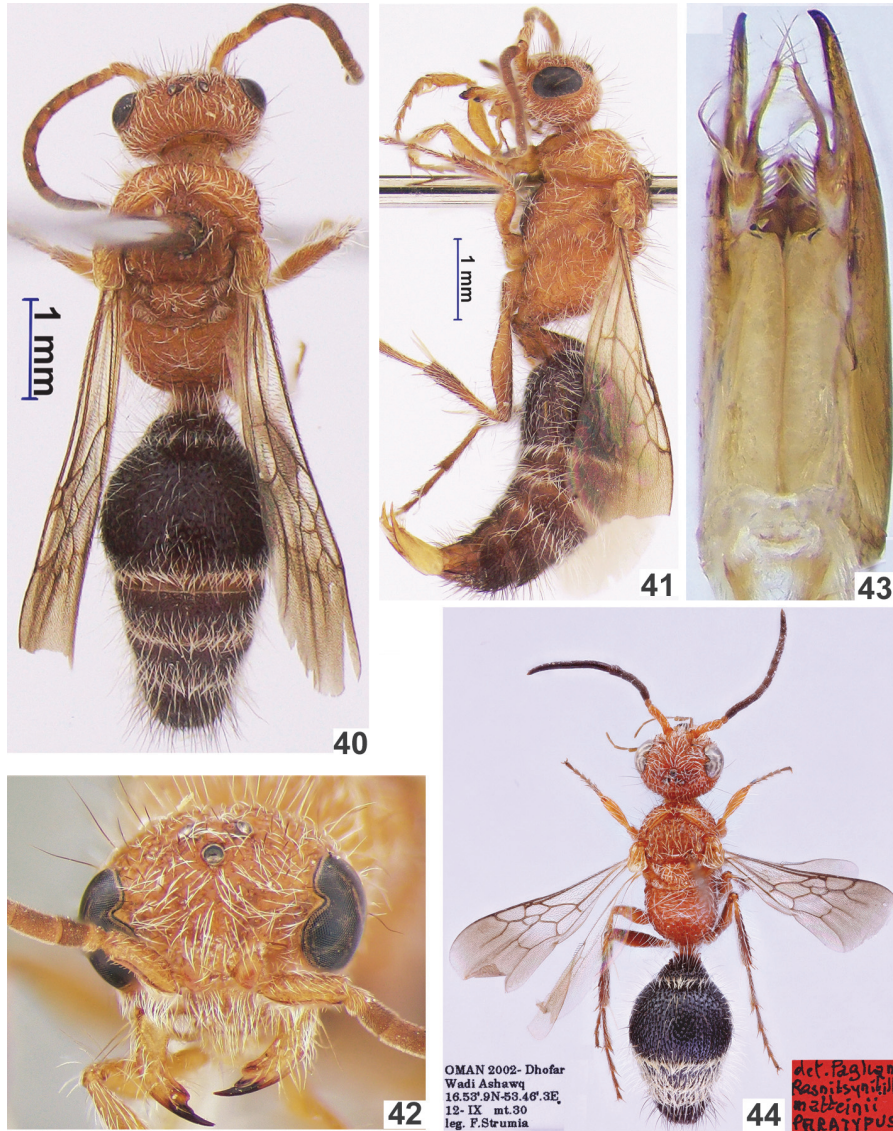


Figs 30–35. *Rasnitsynitilla*, ♀♀. 17–19 – *R. schmideggeri*; 20–22 – *R. invreai*, United Arab Emirates. 30, 31, 33, 34 – habitus (30, 33 – dorsal view, 31, 34 – lateral view); 32, 35 – T6, pygidial plate.



Figs 36–39. *Rasnitsynitilla pallipes*, ♂, United Arab Emirates. 36, 37 – habitus (36 – dorsal view, 37 – lateral view); 38 – head, face view; 39 – genitalia, ventral view.

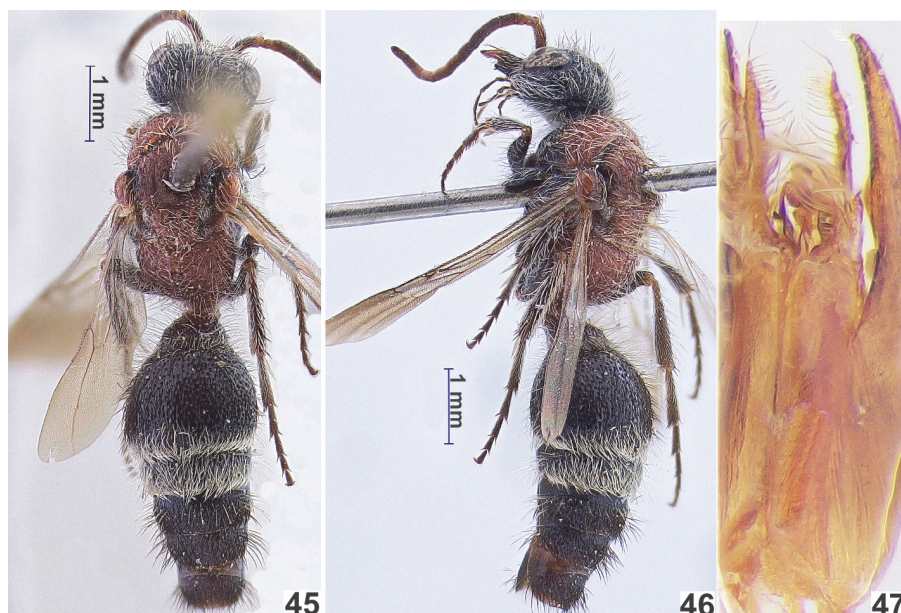
AvH; 30.VI–2.VII 2007, 1♀, leg. AvH; 25.V–12.VI 2008, WT, 7♂, leg. AvH; Wadi Bih dam, 8–22.III 2007, LT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 16–31.XII 2009, WT, 2♂, leg. AvH; Wadi Wurayah farm, 31.V–16.VI 2009, MT, 1♂, leg. AvH; 2.VI–16.VII 2009,



Figs 40–44. *Rasnitsynitilla*, ♂♂. 40–43 – *R. schmideggeri*, ♂, United Arab Emirates; 44 – *R. matteinii*, ♂, paratype. 40, 41, 44 – habitus (40, 44 – dorsal view, 41 – lateral view); 42 – head, face view; 43 – genitalia, ventral view. (Photograph 35 from Pagliano *et al.*, 2020).

LT, 12♂, leg. AvH. 12–14.IV 2005, WT, 1♀, leg. AvH. Al Ain, near Jebel Hafit, 21.X–16.XI 2009, PT, 1♂, 2♀, leg. V. Korshunov. Khor al-Khwair, 16–23.III 2007, LT, 1♀, leg. AvH. Sharjah Desert Park, 25.v–16.vi.2008, LT, 1♀, leg. AvH; Jebel Hafeet, 293 m, Wadi Nahyan dam, 4.III 2012, 1♀, H. Roberts. Ra's al-Khaimah–Dibba, 17.X 2005, LT, 2♂, leg. K. Mahmood;

DISTRIBUTION. United Arab Emirates, Yemen.



Figs 45–47. *Rasnitsynitilla sinevi* sp. n., ♂, holotype. 45, 46 – habitus (45 – dorsal view, 46 – lateral view); 47 – genitalia, ventral view.

***Rasnitsynitilla sinevi* Lelej, sp. n.**

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/68C03C3C-47A9-4B64-ABD9-D74D99804C21>

Figs 45–47

MATERIAL EXAMINED (1♂). Holotype – ♂, **Palestine**: 5 km W Jericho, Wadi Qelet St. Georg, 31°50'N 35°23'E, 6.V 1996, coll. Schmid-Egger [IBSS].

DESCRIPTION. MALE. Body length 7.2 mm. Head width 0.9 × mesosoma maximal width. POD:OOD ratio 0.67 ×. Relation of pedicel and F1–3 0.5:0.8:1.3:1.3. Pronotum anteriorly with rounded humeri. Stigmatic cell of forewing, well developed, not chitinized. Tegula sparsely punctate. Propodeum reticulate, dorsally with median longitudinal cell which laterally carinated. Pronotum dorsally, mesoscutum, and scutellum densely punctate. T2 and S2 densely punctate, punctures larger on S2. Basivolsella ventrally with tuft of setae; cuspis thin long, inner border

setose. Head black, mesosoma dorsally ferruginous-red; mesopleuron, legs and metasoma black. Mandible ferruginous-red with dark teeth. Palps brown. Antenna black with reddish pedicel. Forewing hyaline, slightly infuscated apically. Head, mesosoma, and legs with sparse erect and recumbent whitish setae. T2 with apical band of white setae, T3 with band of white setae, T4–7 with black setae. Lateral felt line of T2 and shorter one on S2 grayish. Metasoma ventrally with sparse whitish setae, S2–4 with weak apical fringes of whitish setae.

FEMALE. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Palestine.

ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet is a patronym honoring Dr. Sergey Sinev on the occasion of his 70th birthday and in recognition of his many contributions to the study of insect diversity and that of the Lepidoptera in particular.

***Rasnitsynitilla tetragona* (Invrea, 1960)**

Figs 49, 53

Smicromyrme tetragona Invrea, 1960: 212, ♀, holotype, ♀ “Wadi Digla, Egypt, 4.VI.1930, leg. H. Priesner” [OLML], examined; Lelej 2002: 79.

Rasnitsynitilla tetragona: Lelej, 2026: 87, ♀.

MATERIAL EXAMINED (1♀). Holotype of *Smicromyrme tetragona* Invrea. 1960.

DISTRIBUTION. Egypt.

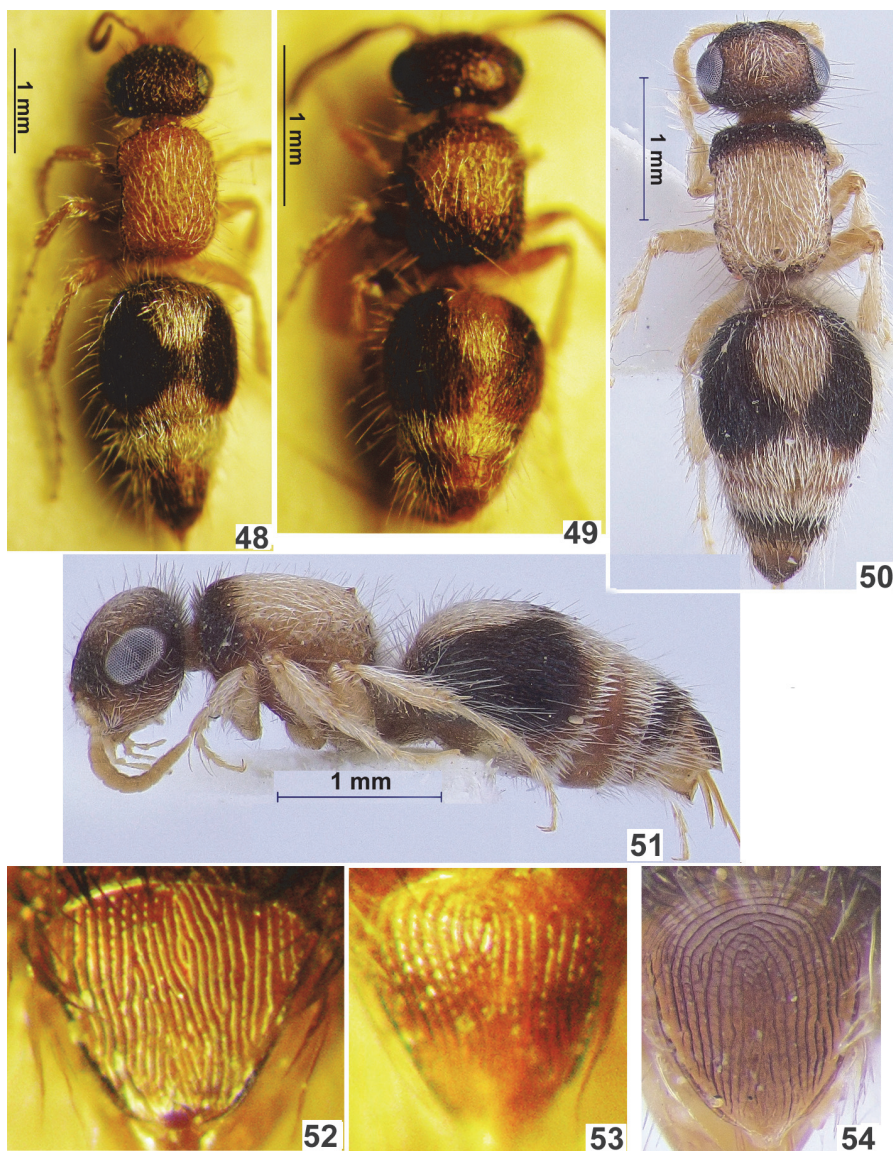
***Rasnitsynitilla vanharteni* Lelej, sp. n.**

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/8365D68D-5216-4D7D-839B-14952A8D2446>

Figs 50, 51, 54

MATERIAL EXAMINED (23♀). Holotype – ♀, **United Arab Emirates**: Ar-Rafah, 25°37'N 55°42'E, 17.XI–14.XII 2009, PT, leg. AvH [ZMAN]. Paratypes: 8♀ with same data as holotype; Ar-Rafah, 17.X 2009, PT, 4♀, leg. AvH; 1–19.I 2010, 3♀, leg. AvH; Um al-Quwain, 1–30.XII 2008, PT, 1♀, leg. AvH; 1–17.XI 2009, PT, 2♀, leg. AvH; Al Ain, near Jebel Hafit, 21.X–16.XI 2009, PT, 3♀, leg. V. Korshunov; Ra's al-Khaimah–Dibba, 17.X 2005, LT, 1♀, leg. K. Mahmood [ZMAN, IBSS].

DESCRIPTION. FEMALE. Body length 2.4–4.0 mm. Head rounded behind the eyes. Clypeus with median basal tubercle and transverse carina. Minimal distance between eyes $1.5 \times$ longitudinal eye diameter. Pronotum without protruding humeral part, slightly narrower than propodeum; pronotum with recumbent black setae, other mesosomal dorsum with sparse recumbent and erect whitish setae. Scutellar scale small scale-like. T2 with one basal medial pale cuticular spot with whitish setae and apical pale cuticular band medially widened triangularly with whitish setae. T3 with band of whitish setae, T4–5 with brown setae. Pygidial plate basally widened, longitudinally striates, carinated laterally, weakly angulated apically.



Figs 48–54. *Rasnitsynitilla*, ♀♀. 48, 52 – *R. hierosolymitana* (*priesneri*, ♀, holotype); 49, 53 – *R. tetragona*, ♀, holotype; 50, 51, 54 – *R. vanharteni* **sp. n.**, ♀, paratype. 48–51 – habitus (48–50 – dorsal view, 51– lateral view); 52–54 – T6, pygidial plate.

MALE. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. United Arab Emirates.

ETYMOLOGY. The specific name is dedicated to Antonius van Harten, excellent collector of Mutillidae and head of the project “Arthropod fauna of the United Arab Emirates”. Treat as a noun in apposition.

CONCLUSION

In the Old World, the Afrotropical Realm has more than twice as many Mutillidae species or subspecies (~1500) as each of the other three Realms (Palearctic, ~600 spp.; Oriental, ~700 spp.; Australasian, ~300 spp.) (Lelej & Williams, 2023). Within most tribes and subfamilies, such as the subfamily Dasylabrinae or mutilline tribe Trogaspidiini, this trend is consistent (Pagliano *et al.*, 2020). Of the higher Mutillidae, Smicromyrmini is the only tribal lineage with more Palearctic species than Afrotropical or Oriental species. The Smicromyrmini are typically small-bodied and this group relies on microscopic differences, especially in male genitalia, to separate the taxa. It seems likely that many more Oriental and Afrotropical species will eventually be discovered.

The genus *Rasnitsynitilla* is one of the 27 genera and five subgenera of the tribe Smicromyrmini. This genus widely distributed in the Eremic zone, particularly in the sandy deserts of the Arabian Peninsula. Very often these minute, discolored species are nocturnal and males attracted to light or water traps in large numbers in the United Arab Emirates. Similar behavior has been known for the species of the different subfamilies: Pseudophotopsidinae (*Pseudophotopsis* André, 1896), Dasylabrinae (*Tricholabiodes* Radoszkowski, 1885), Myrmosidae: Kudakrumiinae (*Pseudomyrmosa* Suárez, 1950). In the genus *Rasnitsynitilla* likes *Dentilla* Lelej, 1980 and *Skorikovia* Ovtchinnikov, 2002 from the tribe Smicromyrmini there are diurnal (body black or brown) and nocturnal (body pale color) groups of the species. Four species (*R. alexandri* sp. n., *R. invreai* Lelej, *R. pallipes* Lelej and *R. schmideggeri* Lelej) are known in both sexes, five (*R. brachyptera* Lelej, *R. brachypteroides* sp. n., *R. christiani* sp. n., *R. matteinii* Pagliano, and *R. sinevi* sp. n.) are known from males only and six (*R. bartolozzii* (Lo Cascio et Grita), *R. gineri* (Invrea), *R. hierosolymitana* (Invrea), *R. poneli* Romano et Lo Cascio, *R. tetragona* (Invrea), and *R. vanharteni* sp. n.) are known in females only. Five species are distributed in Iran and the Middle East (Israel, Palestine), four species in North Africa (Tunisia, Egypt), eight species in the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen).

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