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A NEW SPECIES OF *UNICLEPEA* BOUČEK, 1976 (CHALCIDOIDEA, PTEROMALIDAE) FROM THE PALEARCTIC REGION

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Summary. The widely distributed genus *Uniclepea* Bouček, 1976 is recorded for the first time from the Palearctic region. An updated diagnosis of the genus is given. A new species *Uniclepea robusta* **sp. n.** is described and illustrated from South Korea.

Key words: Chalcidoidea, Pteromalidae, Pteromalinae, parasitoids, taxonomy, distribution, Korea.

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Резюме. Впервые в Палеарктическом регионе обнаружен род *Uniclypea* Bouček, 1976. Приведен обновленный диагноз рода. Из Южной Кореи описан и проиллюстрирован новый вид *Uniclypea robusta* sp. n.

INTRODUCTION

The pteromalid genus *Uniclypea* Bouček, 1976 (type species *Uniclypea conica* Bouček, 1976) comprises five species widely distributed across the Old World. Specifically, species of this genus are recorded from the Afrotropical region (*U. conica* Bouček, 1976), the Oriental region (*U. elongata* Sureshan et Narendran, 1997, *U. kumarani* Sureshan et Narendran, 1995 and *U. similis* Gupta, 2018) and the Australian region (*U. deporai* Bouček, 1988) (UCD Community, 2025).

During our study of Pteromalidae in the Eastern Palaearctic region (Tselikh *et al.*, 2022, 2023, 2024) several specimens of a new *Uniclypea* species were collected in forested areas of South Korea. These specimens represent the first recorded occurrence of the genus in the Palaearctic region. Here, we describe this new species and provide a comparative diagnosis of this species with described species of *Uniclypea*.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Morphological terminology, including sculpture and wing venation, follows Bouček and Rasplus (1991), Gibson (1997), and Burks *et al.* (2022). The following abbreviations are used: POL – posterior ocellar line, the minimum distance between the posterior ocelli; OOL – ocello-ocular line, the minimum distance between a posterior ocellus and compound eye; C1–C4 – clavomeres; M – marginal vein; S – stigmal vein; PM – postmarginal vein; F1–F6 – funicular segments; Mt2–Mt8 – metasomal tergites (Mt1 – petiole). The scape is measured without the radicle; the pedicel is measured in lateral view. The distance between the lower margin of the clypeus and the toruli is measured from the lower margins of the toruli. Eye height is measured as the maximum diameter, eye length as the minimum diameter. The mesosoma and metasoma are measured in lateral view, the latter including the ovipositor sheaths.

Images were obtained using a Keyence VHX-5000 multiple-focus imaging system. Specimens examined in this paper are deposited in the Hymenoptera collections of the Science Museum Natural Enemy, Geochang, Republic of Korea (SMNE), the National Institute of Biological Resources, Incheon, Republic of Korea (NIBR) and the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia (ZISP).

TAXONOMY

Genus *Uniclypea* Bouček, 1976

Uniclypea Bouček, 1976: 27. Type species *Uniclypea conica* Bouček, 1976, by original designation.

DIAGNOSIS. Head large, with occipital carina (Fig. 6). Gena slightly depressed at mouth corner; with strong lamina (Fig. 1). Lower margin of clypeus with angulate median tooth (Fig. 2). The flagellum consists of two anelli, six funicular segments, and a four-segmented clava (Antennal formula 11264); anelli small; clava with large micropilosity area on C1–C4 (Fig. 3). Antennal toruli situated above level of lower edges of eyes; antennal scrobes deep (Fig. 2). Mandibles strongly sinuate.

Mesosoma robust with black colouring (Fig. 1); margin of pronotum without carina (Fig. 4), as wide as mesoscutum; notauli deep and complete (Fig. 6); mesopleuron ventral with cross carina. Scutellum arched (Fig. 1), without conspicuous sublateral grooves, distinct frenal area and frenal groove (Fig. 8). Propodeum reticulate; without costula, with distinct median carina and plicae; nucha distinct; propodeal spiracles near to front margin of sclerite (Fig. 8). Fore wing with small speculum; M slender, longer than PM; S short (Fig. 5). Hind coxa dorsally bare; hind tibia with two spurs.

Metasoma with short petiole (Fig. 1); Mt2 long (Fig. 7); metasoma laterally with setae (Fig. 1); cerci with setae subequal in length; ovipositor not much protruding (Fig. 7).

The genus *Uniclypea* is similar to *Pycnetron* Gahan, 1925 in having the large head (Figs 4, 11); gena with lamina (Figs 1, 9); mesosoma robust with black colouring (Figs 1, 9), mesopleuron ventral with cross carina (as Fig. 13); notauli complete (Figs 6, 11). However, *Uniclypea* differs from *Pycnetron* by the clavate antenna and clava with large micropilosity area on C1–C4 (Fig. 3) vs antenna not clavate, clava with small micropilosity area on C3–C4 (Fig. 10); lower margin of clypeus with angulate median tooth (Fig. 2) vs lower margin of clypeus straight (Fig. 12); last metasomal tergite short (Figs 1, 7) vs last metasomal tergite long (Fig. 9).

DISTRIBUTION. Palearctic (new record), Oriental, and Afrotropical regions (UCD Community, 2025).

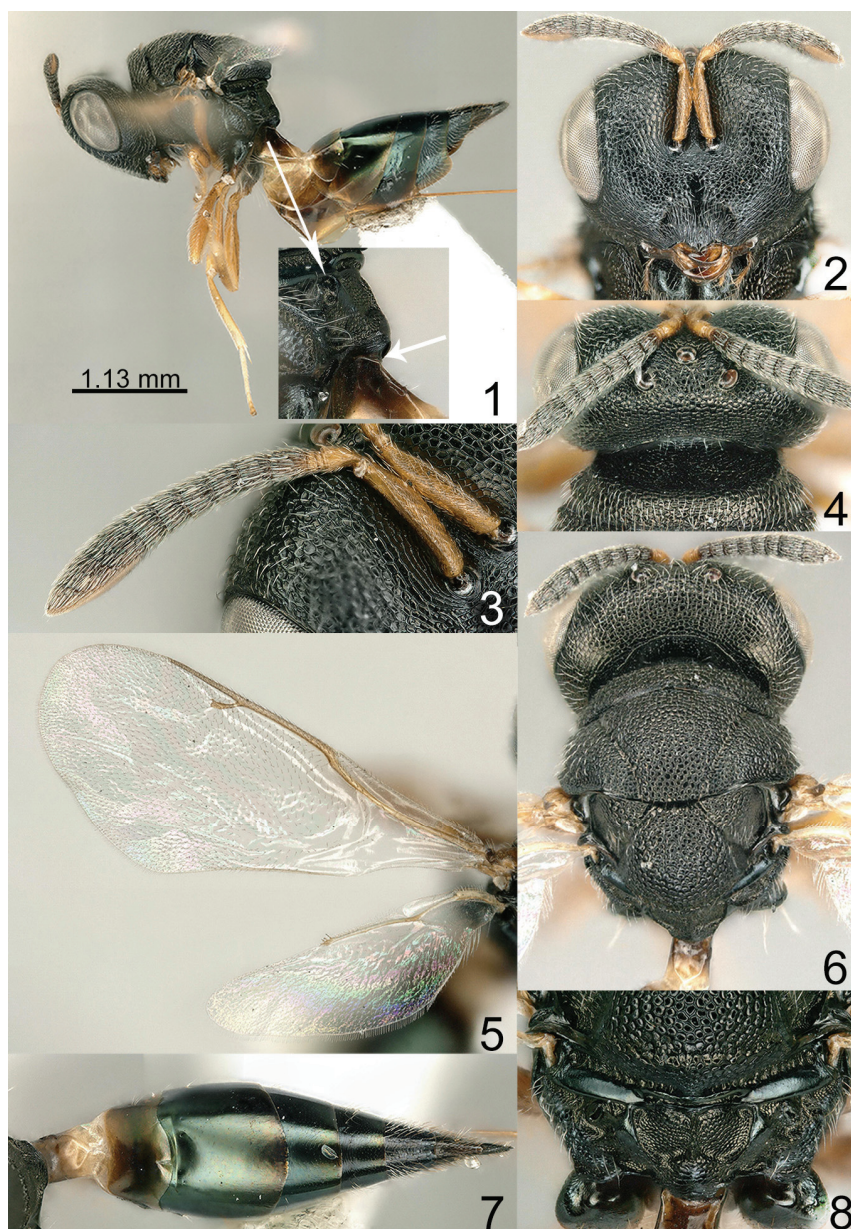
BIOLOGY. The biology of most species of *Uniclypea* remains unknown, only *Uniclypea similis* is known to be a primary parasitoid of *Apoderus tranquebaricus* (Fabricius, 1798) (Coleoptera, Attelabidae) (Gupta, 2018).

***Uniclypea robusta* sp. n.**

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/DF3F838D-8CEC-4023-B347-62AA9CB1A1C6>

Figs 1–8

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype – ♀, South Korea: Gyeongsangnam-do, Geochang-gun, Namsang-myeon, Jeoncheok-ri, 35°37'15.3"N, 127°57'51.4"E, 26.VI.2022, coll. E.V. Tselikh (NIBR). Paratypes – 1♀, same data as holotype (ZISP); 1♀, Gyeongsangnam-do, Sancheong-gun, 30 km NNW Jinju, forest, h=800 m, 10.VII.2002, coll. S.A. Belokobylskij (SMNE); 1♀, Buk-myeon, Inje-gun, (Mt) Seoraksan, 26.VIII.2022, coll. J.H. Lee (ZISP); 1♀, Wolpyeong-ri, Hoengcheon-myeon, Hadong-gun, 23.V.2023, coll. J.H. Lee (ZISP).



Figs 1–8. *Uniclypea robusta* **sp. n.**, holotype, female: 1 – body, propodeum and petiole, lateral view; 2 – head, frontal view; 3 – antenna; 4 – head and pronotum, dorsal view; 5 – wings; 6 – head and mesosoma, dorsal view; 7 – metasoma, dorsal view; 8 – propodeum, dorsal view.

DESCRIPTION. FEMALE. Body length 4.1–4.5 mm; fore wing length 2.9–3.0 mm.

Head and mesosoma black. Antenna with scape, pedicel and anelli yellowish-brown; flagellum dark brown; clava with C1–C4 dark brown, but micropilosity area yellowish-brown. All coxae black; all femora yellowish-brown; tibiae, and tarsi yellow. Fore wing hyaline, venation yellowish-brown. Metasoma with Mt2 basally brown, apically yellow, Mt2 brown, Mt3–Mt7 dark metallic green with diffuse coppery lustre, Mt8 dark brown.

Head and mesosoma reticulate; clypeus radially striate; propodeum finely reticulate; metasoma alutaceous and shiny.

Head in dorsal view 2.10–2.22 times as broad as long and 1.11–1.14 times as broad as mesoscutum; in frontal view 1.23–1.28 times as broad as high. POL 1.06–1.10 times as long as OOL. Eye height 1.47–1.52 times eye length and 2.10–2.26 times as long as malar space. Distance between antennal toruli and lower margin of clypeus 1.16 times distance between antennal toruli and median ocellus. Lower margin of clypeus with angulate median tooth. Antenna with scape 0.57–0.60 times as long as eye height and 0.88 times as long as eye length; pedicel 1.56–1.68 times as long as broad and 1.00–1.10 times as long as F1; combined length of pedicel and flagellum 0.72–0.75 times breadth of head; F1 1.15–1.20 times as long as broad and with 1 row of sensilla, F2–F6 wider than length; clava 2.33–2.44 times as long as broad and 1.30–1.41 longer than combined length of F4–F6; micropilosity area on C1–C4.

Mesosoma 1.26–1.29 times as long as broad. Scutellum 0.96–0.98 times as long as broad. Propodeum 3.0 as long as broad; with nucha, strong median carina and plicae, median area depressed; 0.55–0.56 times as long as scutellum. Fore wing 2.40–2.48 times as long as maximum width; basal cell bare, basal vein pilose; speculum partly open; M 1.30–1.35 times as long as P and 3.30–3.35 times as long as S.

Metasoma lanceolate, 73.00–3.40 times as long as broad, 1.35–1.50 times as long as mesosoma and 1.07–1.15 times as long as combined length of mesosoma and head.

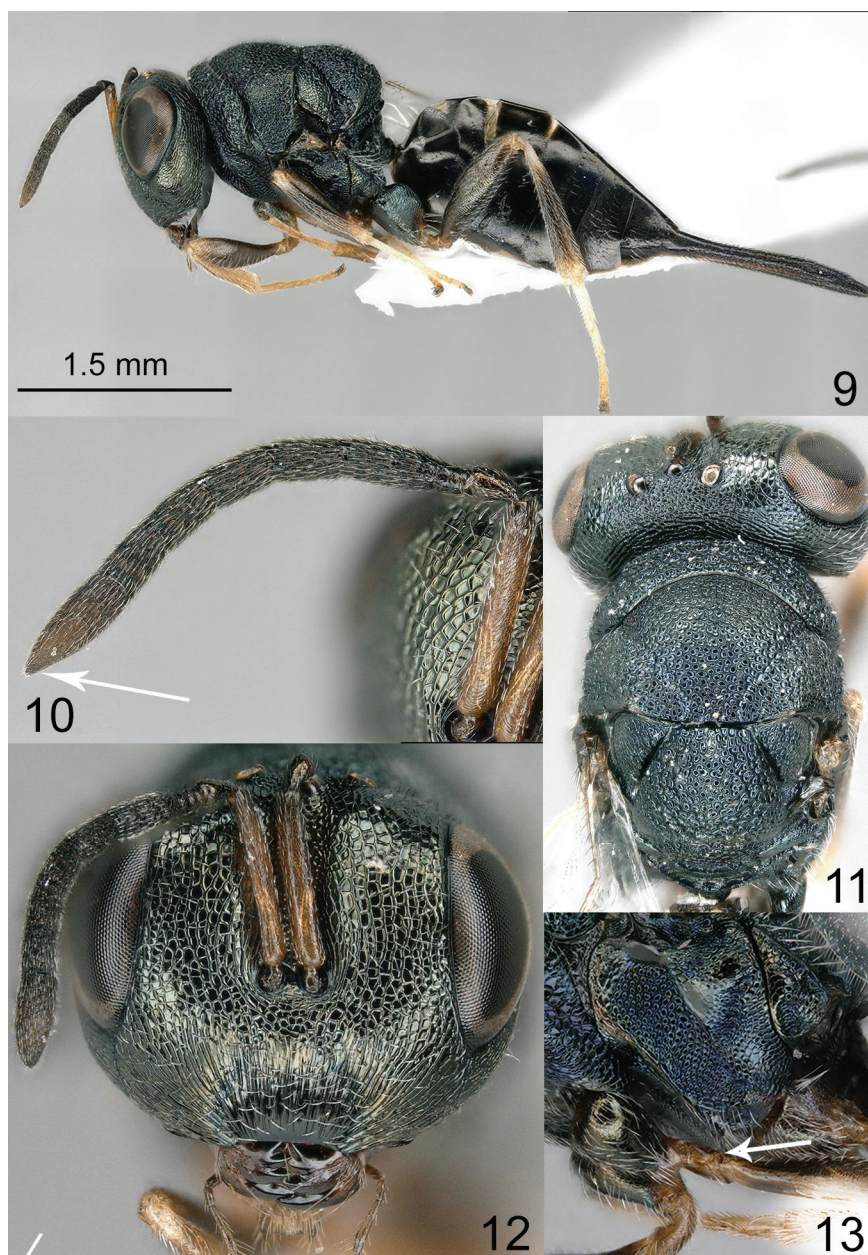
MALE. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. South Korea.

BIOLOGY. Unknown.

ETYMOLOGY. From the Latin *robusta*, referring to the robust mesosoma of the described species.

DIAGNOSIS. *Uniclypea robusta* sp. n. is similar to *U. kumarani* in having an occipital carina, a median carina on the propodeum, strong plicae and depressed median area, and a metasoma 2.8–3.4 times as long as broad, approximately equal to the combined length of the mesosoma and head. However, females of *Uniclypea robusta* sp. n. differ in having a POL 1.06–1.10 times as long as OOL (vs 1.50 x in *U. kumarani*); a propodeum with strong median carina (vs weak) and antenna with F1–F6 dark brown (vs testaceous).



Figs 9–13. *Pycnetron curculionidis* Gahan, 1925, not type, female: 9 – body, lateral view; 10 – antenna; 11 – head and mesosoma, dorsal view; 12 – head, frontal view; 13 – mesosoma, lateral view.

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