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**A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *CYRTOPTYX* DELUCCHI, 1956
(CHALCIDOIDEA: PTEROMALIDAE) – PARASITOID OF PISTACHIO
SEED PESTS**

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Summary. A new species *Cyrtoptyx nikolskaya* sp. n. is described from Armenia and Central Asia. A detailed morphological description, illustrations, and a comparative diagnosis of this species are given.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Pteromalinae, taxonomy, new species, Palaearctic.

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Резюме. Из Армении и Средней Азии описывается новый вид *Cyrtoptyx nikolskaya* sp. n. Приведены детальное морфологическое описание, иллюстрации и сравнительный диагноз этого вида.

INTRODUCTION

In the last decade, a lot of papers have been devoted to the family Pteromalidae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea) of the Palaearctic region, including descriptions of new taxa (Tselikh, 2019; Tselikh *et al.*, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025a, 2025b, 2025c, 2026).

The pteromalid genus *Cyrtoptyx* (type species *Dinarmus robustus* Masi, 1907) belongs to the subfamily Pteromalinae of family Pteromalidae (Burks *et al.*, 2022). Up to now, it comprised eleven species, and seven of them are distributed in the Palaearctic region: *Cyrtoptyx cynipidis* (Masi, 1922), *C. flavida* Xiao, Chen et Huang, 2003, *C. gallicola* Dzhankmen, 1976, *C. latipes* (Rondani, 1874), *C. lichtensteini* (Masi, 1922), *C. pistaciae* (Nikol'skaya, 1935) and *C. robustus* (Masi, 1907) (UCD Community 2026). Among the species of this genus, is there only one – *C. pistaciae*, that parasitizes of eurytomids developing in the pistachio seeds (Nikol'skaya, 1935).

During our study of Pteromalidae reared from pistachio seed pests, some specimens were found and identified as belonging to a new species, which is described and illustrated below.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens examined in this study are deposited in the collections of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia (ZISP).

Morphological terminology, including sculpture and wing venation, follows Bouček and Rasplus (1991), Gibson (1997), and Burks *et al.* (2022). The flagellum consists of two or three anelli, six or five funicular segments, and the four-segmented clava. The antennal formula includes the number of segments: scape, pedicel, anelli, funicular segments, claval segments. The mandibular formula indicates the number of teeth in the left and right mandibles. 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 – claval segments; M – marginal vein; S – stigmal vein; PM – postmarginal vein; F1–F6 – funicular segments.

TAXONOMY

Family Pteromalidae

Subfamily Pteromalinae

Genus *Cyrtoptyx* Delucchi, 1956

Cyrtoptyx nikolskaya Tyulina et Tselikh, sp. n.

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/EC38B1DC-970A-4B31-B833-ABB9D8C02367>

Figs 1–8

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype: female, **Armenia:** Geghard, *Amygdalus fenzliana* (Fritsch), 1.VI 1965, coll. A. Avetyan (ZISP). Paratypes: **Armenia:** same labels as holotype, 1 ♀; **Tajikistan:** Kulkand, reared from *Eurytoma samsonowi* Vassiliev, 12.V 1979, 2 ♀, coll. Toshmatov; **Uzbekistan:** Tashkent Region: Karamazar, *Amygdalus spinosissima* (Bunge), 19.IV 1951, 5 ♀, 2 ♂, coll. Makhnovsky.

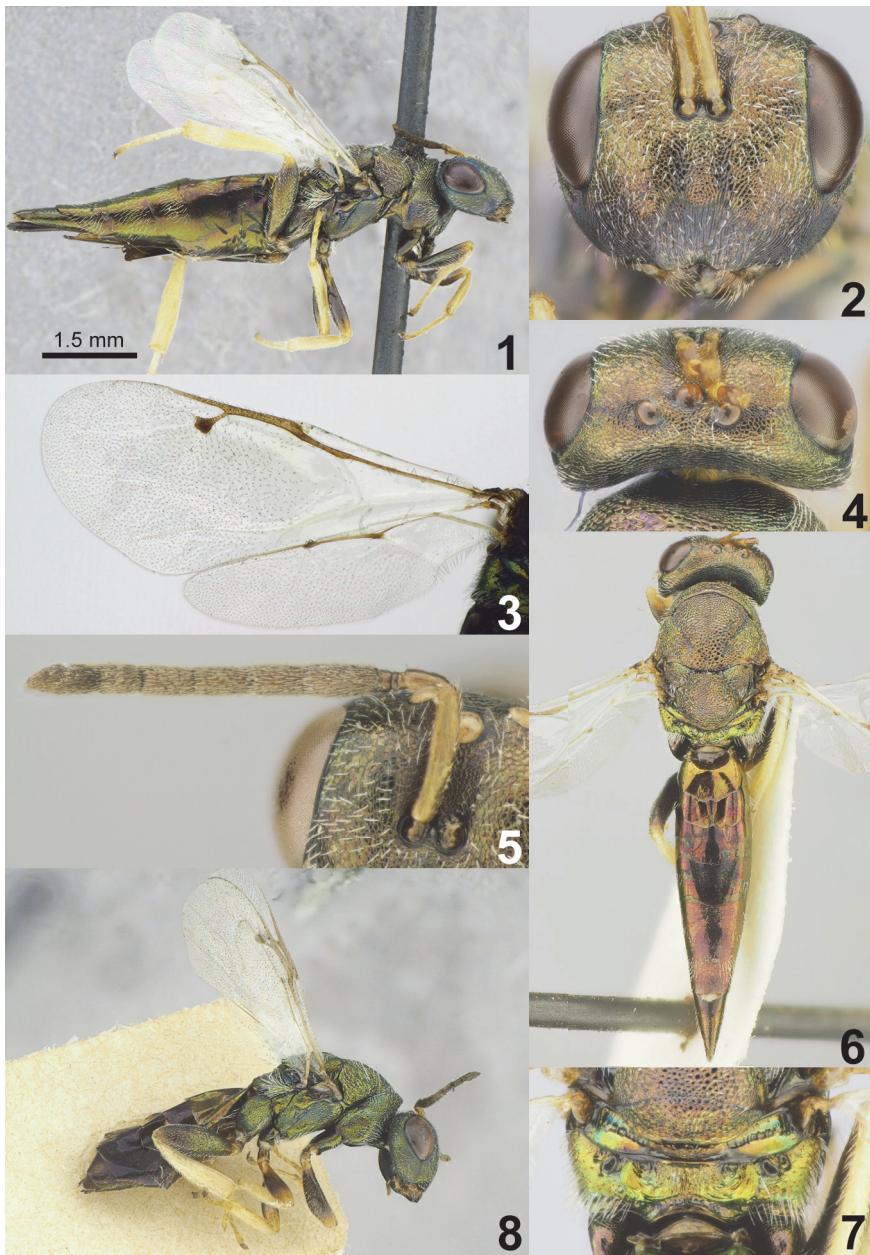
DESCRIPTION. FEMALE. Body length 4.7–8.2 mm; fore wing length 3.1–4.5 mm.

Coloration. Head and mesosoma dark green with diffuse coppery lustre; antenna with scape and pedicel yellowish brown; anelli, F1–F5 and clava brown. All coxae and femora dark green with diffuse coppery lustre, all tibiae and tarsi yellow. Fore wing hyaline, venation brown. Gaster dorsally brown with metallic red and coppery lustre, laterally green with diffuse coppery lustre; ovipositor sheaths dark brown.

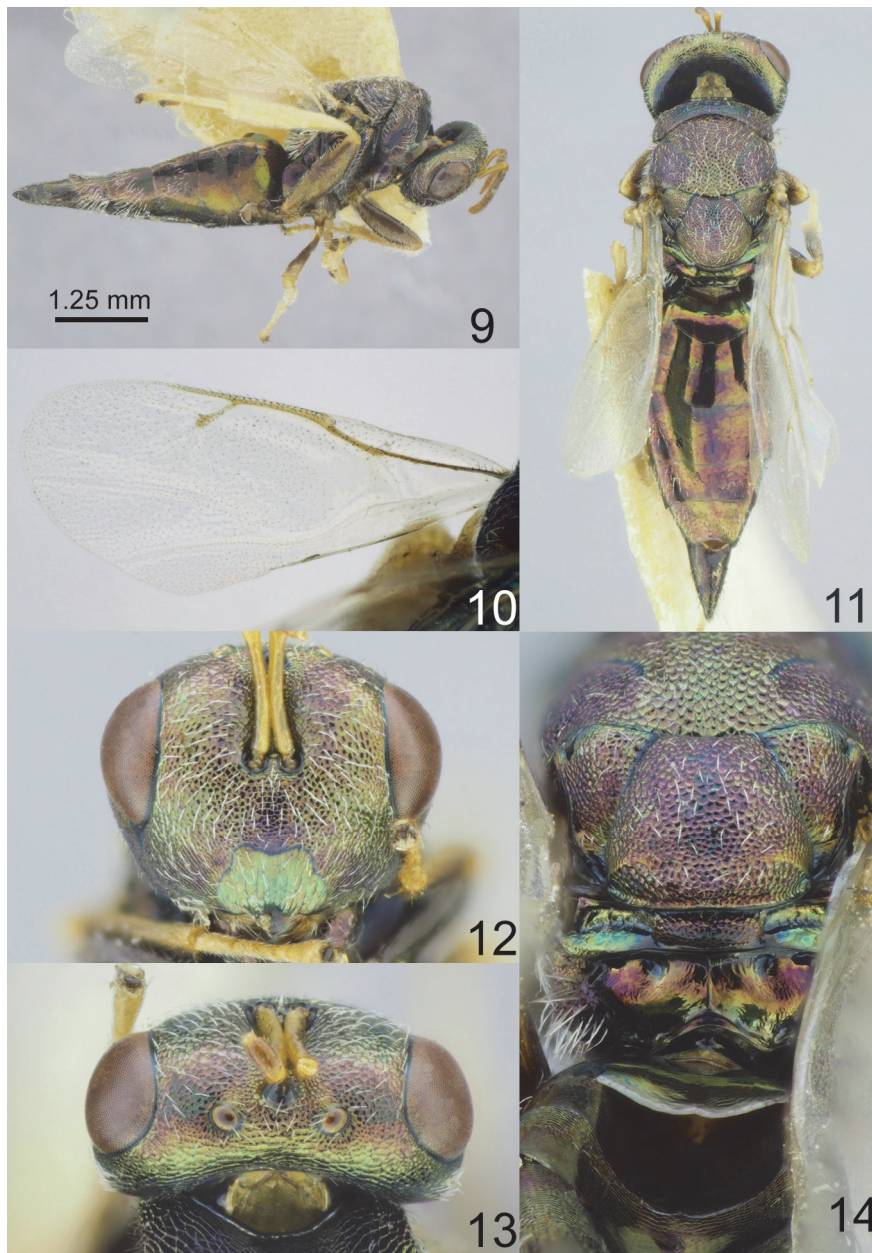
Sculpture. Head reticulate, clypeus striate; mesosoma and scutellum strongly reticulate; metanotum finely reticulate, propodeum with irregular striate sculpture, nucha alutaceous or smooth; metasoma alutaceous and shiny.

Head. Head in dorsal view 2.0–2.1 times as broad as long and 1.04–1.1 times as broad as mesoscutum; in frontal view 1.18–1.24 times as broad as high. POL 1.2–1.4 times as long as OOL. Eye height 1.35–1.4 times eye length and 1.85–1.9 times malar space. Distance between antennal toruli and lower margin of clypeus 2.0–2.2 times distance between antennal toruli and median ocellus. Antennal formula 11354; scape 0.7–0.73 times as long as eye height and 0.95–1.02 times as long as eye length; pedicel 1.8–2.2 times as long as broad and 0.53–0.7 times as long as F1; combined length of pedicel and flagellum 1.02–1.08 times breadth of head; F1 1.75–2.2 times as long as broad and with 4–5 rows of sensilla, F2–F5 longer than broad; clava 1.95–2.6 times as long as broad, with small microsetose area on C3–C4. Lower margin of clypeus in middle part emarginate. Mandibular formula 3:4.

Mesosoma. Mesosoma 1.35–1.58 times as long as broad. Pronotum narrower than mesoscutum; pronotal margin strongly abrupt. Scutellum arched, as long as broad, frenal area differentiated by a change in sculpture. Propodeum 0.26–0.35 times as long as scutellum, without costula and with median carina, plicae strong and converging, nucha as a narrow line. Fore wing 2.2–2.55 times as long as its maximum width; basal cell bare; basal vein with 0–3 setae; speculum open below; M 1.4–1.48 times as long as PM and 2.36–2.4 times as long as S, stigma large. Hind tibia 5.0–6.0 times as long as maximum width and with 2 spurs.



Figs 1–8. *Cyrtoptyx nikolskaya* sp. n., holotype, female (1); paratype, female (2–7); paratype, male (8): 1, 8 – habitus, lateral view; 2 – head, frontal view; 3 – wings; 4 – head, dorsal view; 5 – antenna; 6 – habitus, dorsal view; 7 – propodeum, dorsal view.



Figs 9–14. *Cyrtoptyx pistaciae* (Nikol'skaya, 1935), holotype, female (9); paratype, female (11–14): 9 – habitus, lateral view; 10 – fore wing; 11 – habitus, dorsal view; 12 – head, frontal view; 13 – head, dorsal view; 14 – scutellum and propodeum, dorsal view.

Metasoma. Metasoma 2.65–3.2 times as long as broad, 1.7–2.02 times as long as mesosoma, 1.22–1.4 times as long as mesosoma and head combined. Petiole transverse. Ovipositor sheaths projecting slightly beyond apex of metasoma.

MALE. Body length 4.9–5.3 mm; fore wing length 3.5–3.7 mm.

POL 1.1–1.14 times as long as OOL. Distance between antennal toruli and lower margin of clypeus 2.65–2.7 times distance between antennal toruli and median ocellus. Antennal formula 11264. Metasoma 2.2–2.25 times as long as broad, 1.2–2.6 times as long as mesosoma, 0.92–1.0 times as long as mesosoma and head. Otherwise, similar to female.

DIAGNOSIS. *Cyrtopyx nikolskaya* sp. n. is similar to *C. pistaciae* (Nikol'skaya, 1935) (Figs 9–14) in having a strongly reticulate mesosoma and scutellum (Figs 6, 14); metanotum finely reticulate (Figs 7, 14); POL 1.2–1.4 times as long as OOL; hind tibiae yellow and 5.0–6.0 times as long as maximum width (as Fig. 1). However, females of *C. nikolskaya* differ in having a pronotum narrower than mesoscutum (Fig. 6), *vs* as wide as mesoscutum in *C. pistaciae* (Fig. 11); propodeum with irregular striate sculpture (Fig. 7), *vs* alutaceous or smooth (Fig. 14); fore wing with M 1.4–1.48 times as long as PM, 2.36–2.4 times as long as S, and large stigma (Fig. 3); *vs* M 1.0–1.2 times as long as PM, 2.0–2.15 times as long as S, and small stigma (Fig. 10).

BIOLOGY. Primary parasitoid of *Eurytoma samsonowi* Vassiliev, 1915, developing in pistachio seeds.

DISTRIBUTION. Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

ETYMOLOGY. The species is named in honor of the prominent entomologist M.N. Nikol'skaya, an expert on Chalcidoidea (Hymenoptera).

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