



Discovery of the spider wasp genus *Telostholus* Haupt, 1929 (Hymenoptera, Pompilidae) in Laos, with the description of three new species

VALERY M. LOKTIONOV

Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok-22, 690022, Russia. [✉ pompilidaefer@mail.ru](mailto:pompilidaefer@mail.ru); [ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8120-7788](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8120-7788)

Abstract

The genus *Telostholus* Haupt, 1929 is newly reported from Laos, with three species which are newly described and illustrated: *T. kubani* Loktionov, **sp. nov.**, *T. lao* Loktionov, **sp. nov.**, and *T. leleji* Loktionov, **sp. nov.** A key to the males is given.

Key words: Spider wasps, Pompilinae, taxonomy, new taxa, new record, key, Oriental Region

Introduction

Telostholus Haupt, 1929 is a small and poorly understood genus of Pompilinae spider wasps characterized by the following characters: fore wing with two submarginal cells (in female and male), dorsal and posterior faces of vertex distinctly differentiated from each other, posterior margin of vertex concave (in female and male), propodeum usually with a small hump-like or tubercle-like projection postero-laterally (in female), tarsal claws bifid, with inner tooth obliquely truncated apically (in female and male), flagellomeres serrate ventrally (in male), body mostly black (in female and male) (Loktionov & Lelej 2019, Loktionov 2020).

During the past three decades, the genus had been reviewed a few times: from China (Li *et al.* 2015), Japan (Shimizu & Terayama 2016), Indonesia (Loktionov & Lelej 2019), and Malaysia (Loktionov 2020). For detailed information on diagnosis, list of the species and distribution of the genus see: Loktionov & Lelej (2019) and Loktionov (2020). The current study is a continuation of the treatment of *Telostholus* in South-East Asia. The examination of the Pompilidae collection deposited in the Biologiezentrum des Oberösterreichischen Landesmuseums (Linz, Austria) has revealed new material on this genus from Laos, the country from where the genus has been previously unknown. Herein the genus is reported from Laos for the first time, with three newly described species based by males only.

Within 19 species of *Telostholus* discovered in total, the males are known for seven congeners only (including three new ones): *T. bifasciatus* Loktionov, 2020, ♂ (Malaysia); *T. celebes* Loktionov & Lelej, 2019, ♀ ♂ (Indonesia); *T. kubani* Loktionov, **sp. nov.**, ♂ (Laos); *T. lao* Loktionov, **sp. nov.**, ♂ (Laos); *T. leleji* Loktionov, **sp. nov.**, ♂ (Laos); *T. nontuberatus* Li & Ma, 2015, ♀ ♂ (China); *T. orientalis* (Cameron, 1891), ♀ ♂ (India, Myanmar, China). The male of *T. yasumatsui* Ishikawa, 1967 (Japan) is not described still though a picture of its imago was given by Shimizu & Terayama (2016). From Dr. Akira Shimizu' personal communication: these three species describing here based on male specimens do not belong to that of *T. yasumatsui*. Male of *T. yasumatsui* is not included in the key to the species given here.

Identification of males from many spider wasp genera based on external morphology only is not enough due to their high similarity. For correct identification extruding and further studying of genitalia and hypopygium must be done in all specimens.