

A new genus and species of the subfamily Laphyragoginae (Hymenoptera, Apoidea, Crabronidae) with analysis of the relationship of Eremiasphecinae and Laphyragoginae, stat. resurr.

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Abstract

Based on remarkable morphological differences between the two species groups of *Laphyragogus* Kohl, 1889, the genus is split into *Laphyragogus* and a new genus, *Asphaleia* Mokrousov, **gen. nov.** (type species *A. gussakovskii* Mokrousov, **sp. nov.**). Three species are transferred from *Laphyragogus* to the new genus: *Asphaleia ajjer* (de Beaumont, 1958), **comb. nov.**, *A. gessae* (Schmid-Egger, 2022), **comb. nov.** and *A. orientalis* (de Beaumont, 1970), **comb. nov.** Based on morphological analysis, it is shown that Eremiasphecini and Laphyragogini are not closely related and the status of Laphyragoginae as its own subfamily is resurrected.

Key words: taxonomy, Spheciformes, *Laphyragogus*, *Eremiasphecium*, *Odontospheg*, digger wasps

Introduction

The genus *Laphyragogus* Kohl, 1889 is a rarely collected genus of Spheciformes with eight species described. It occurs in the arid zones of North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula to Central Asia and India (Schmid-Egger 2022). *Laphyragogus* was originally described as a taxon of uncertain taxonomic position, related to *Astata* Latreille, 1796, *Philanthus* Fabricius, 1790, *Tachyspex* Kohl, 1883, *Tachytes* Panzer, 1806, *Larropsis* Patton, 1892 and *Dinetus* Panzer, 1806. Later, R. Bohart and A. Menke (1976: 217) placed the genus in the subfamily Laphyragoginae. Prentice 1998, Roche 2007, and Pulawski 2025, however combined *Laphyragogus* and *Eremiasphecium* Kohl, 1897 into a subfamily Eremiasphecinae consisting of the monogeneric tribes Laphyragogini and Eremiasphecini, respectively.

The subfamily Laphyragoginae (or tribe Laphyragogini) until now was considered as monogeneric with two species groups and eight species (Schmid-Egger 2022).

On the basis of remarkable morphological differences between the two species groups of *Laphyragogus* Kohl, 1889, the genus is here split into *Laphyragogus* and a new genus, *Asphaleia* Mokrousov, **gen. nov.** with type species *A. gussakovskii* Mokrousov, **sp. nov.** Three species are transferred from *Laphyragogus* to the new genus: *Asphaleia ajjer* (de Beaumont, 1958), **comb. nov.**, *A. gessae* (Schmid-Egger, 2022), **comb. nov.** and *A. orientalis* (de Beaumont, 1970), **comb. nov.**

Material and methods

This paper is based on the materials, preserved in the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg, Russia) [ZISP] and M.V. Mokrousov personal collection (Nizhny Novgorod, Russia) [MMPC].

***Laphyragogus pectinatus* de Beaumont, 1959**

Laphyragogus pectinatus de Beaumont, 1959: 728, ♀, ♂. Holotype, ♂: Israel, Revivim [Lausanne].

Distribution. Algeria, Israel, Egypt, Libya.

***Laphyragogus pictus* Kohl, 1889**

Laphyragogus pictus Kohl, 1889: 190, ♀. Holotype, ♀: Egypt, no specific locality [Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt Universität, currently Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany].

Distribution. Morocco, Egypt, Israel.

***Laphyragogus strakai* Schmid-Egger, 2011**

Laphyragogus strakai Schmid-Egger, 2011: 543, ♂. Holotype, ♂: United Arab Emirates, Um al-Quwain at 25°32'N 55°32'E [Ch. Schmid-Egger personal collection, Berlin, Germany].

Distribution. United Arab Emirates, Iran.

***Laphyragogus visnagae* de Beaumont, 1959**

Laphyragogus visnagae de Beaumont, 1959: 730, ♀, ♂. Holotype, ♂: Algeria, Biskra [Lausanne].

Distribution. Morocco, Algeria.

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