

New records of the eumenine wasps (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae) from Azerbaijan, with description of hitherto unknown male of *Ancistrocerus terekensis* Kostylev, 1940 and female of *Eustenancistrocerus iranicus* Gusenleitner, 2013

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Abstract

New records of 14 species of the subfamily Eumeninae from the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan are reported, nine of them are new to Azerbaijan: *Ancistrocerus nigricornis* (Curtis, 1826), *A. tenellus* (Kostylev, 1935), *A. terekensis* Kostylev, 1940, *Euodynerus fastidiosus* de Saussure, 1853, *Eustenancistrocerus iranicus* Gusenleitner, 2013, *Ichnogasteroides picteti tenuis* (Morawitz, 1888), *Leptochilus neutralis* (Giordani Soika, 1943), *Microdynerus exilis* Herrich-Schäffer, 1839, and *Xanthodynerus caucasicus* Giordani Soika, 1960. Hitherto unknown male of *Ancistrocerus terekensis* and female of *Eustenancistrocerus iranicus* are described. *Ancistrocerus scoticus* (Curtis, 1826) is excluded from the fauna of Azerbaijan. The number of species of the eumenine wasps in the broad sense known from Azerbaijan is increased to 113.

Key words: vespid wasps, fauna, taxonomy, Caucasus, Palearctic region

Introduction

The subfamily Eumeninae s. l. is the most diverse group of the family Vespidae, with more than 3900 described species worldwide (Luo *et al.* 2022). According to the modern taxonomic treatments, it should be subdivided into three subfamilies: Eumeninae s. str., Raphiglossinae, and Zethinae (Bank *et al.* 2017; Piekarski *et al.* 2018; Mauss *et al.* 2019). Females of the eumenine wasps (in the broad sense) either nest in pre-existing cavities, excavate their own nest burrows in the ground (or rarely in wood), or construct aerial nests of mud or plant material (rarely combining them). These wasps provision their nest cells with paralyzed larvae of phytophagous insects: moths and butterflies, beetles, or rarely sawflies; adult wasps principally feed at flowers, where they consume nectar as the main source of carbohydrates (Spradbery 1973; Iwata 1976; Cowan 1991; Mauss *et al.* 2019).

The first preliminary list of the eumenine wasps of Azerbaijan was published by Fateryga *et al.* (2021). It contained 97 species and one additional subspecies of Eumeninae s. str., three species of Raphiglossinae, and two species of Zethinae. Two species of the subfamily Eumeninae s. str. were added later: *Pseudepipona aldrichi* (Fox, 1892) (Fateryga 2022) and *Ancistrocerus trifasciatus* (Müller, 1776) (Fateryga & Proshchalykin 2024b). The additional subspecies, *Odynerus melanocephalus armeniacus* (Morawitz, 1885), was raised by Selis *et al.* (2025) to a full species (*O. armeniacus*), distinct from *O. melanocephalus* (Gmelin, 1790). By this way, the number of species of Eumeninae s. l. known from Azerbaijan was increased to 105. However, new material collected from the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in 2020–2022 by M.M. Maharramov and in 2024 by M.Yu. Proshchalykin

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