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NOTE

FIRST REPORT OF *LIPOTRICHES (RHOPALOMELISSA) PARCA* (KOHLE, 1906) (HALICTIDAE: NOMIINAE) FROM INDIA

Bhaswati Majumder, Anandhan Rameshkumar & Sarfrazul Islam Kazmi

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First report of *Lipotriches (Rhopalomelissa) parca* (Kohl, 1906) (Halictidae: Nomiinae) from India

Bhaswati Majumder¹ , Anandhan Rameshkumar² & Sarfrazul Islam Kazmi³

¹⁻³ Zoological Survey of India, Prani Vigyan Bhawan, M-Block, New Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal 700053, India.

¹ bhaswati94rai@gmail.com, ² drrameshtrichy@gmail.com (corresponding author), ³ kazmizsi@gmail.com

Bees under the subfamily Nomiinae (Halictidae) are solitary except for a few species that build nests in large aggregations. These bees are distributed in the Afrotropical, Oriental, Australian, Palaearctic, and Nearctic regions except in the Neotropical region (Batra 1966; Michener 2007; Astafurova 2013). *Lipotriches* Gerstaecker is one of the largest genera of Nomiinae, known by roughly 350 species globally and 45 species under six subgenera from India (Ascher & Pickering 2021). Pauly (2009) studied the Oriental *Lipotriches* and provided the key to species with their distributions. Later, Pannure & Belavadi (2017) reported 11 species from southern India. The present study is based on unidentified collections present in the Hymenoptera section, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Bees belonging to the genus *Lipotriches* were sorted from the unidentified collection and processed with standard protocols. The specimen was examined and photographed under a Leica M205A stereo zoom microscope. Species identification was done with the help of Pauly (2009, 2014, 2020) and Michener (2007). The voucher specimen is deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

Family Halictidae Thomson, 1869

Subfamily Nomiinae Robertson, 1904

Genus *Lipotriches* Gerstaecker, 1857

Lipotriches (Rhopalomelissa) parca (Kohl, 1906)

(Image 1)

Nomia parca Kohl, 1906, male, female. Lectotype male: Aden, XII.1898, leg. O. Simony, NMV, désigné par Pauly, 1990: 165.

Material examined: (Reg. No. 23408/H3), 16.xi.2013, 01 female, India, Rajasthan, Ganganagar, Manjuvas (29.532N & 73.435E), Sweep net, coll. Gaurav Sharma.

Female description: Length 8mm. Body brownish to dark brown, covered by pubescence; head quadrate (length: width 2.3mm: 2.2mm); vertex, paraocular area, ocello ocular area and vertex finely punctated; lateral ocelli surrounded by punctation; vertex not carinate; scape 6× as long as wide; scape, pedicel and F1 brown; F2–9 dorsally brownish-yellow, ventrally pale yellow; apical segment of antennae pale orange; face fully covered with grayish bristles; margin of scutum covered with grayish bristles; mesoscutum densely punctuated; tegula opaque, small, ovate, brownish; scutellum not obscured by pubescence; felted metanotum; propodeum with scattered grayish bristles; hind tibia and hind basitarsus 2.5mm long, with white bristles, with little branching and tapered; fore wing length 7mm, width 2.2mm; apical lobe strongly smoky; hind wing length 5mm, width 1.6mm; hyaline; veins

Editor: Anonymity requested.

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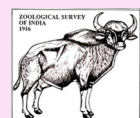




Image 1 . *Lipotriches (Rhopalomesissa) parca*: a—habitus | b—mesosoma | c—head, frontal view | d—fore wing. © Authors.

brown; metasomal tergites with dense punctation except T1 which is T1 fairly less punctated.

Distribution: India: Rajasthan (new record). Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Libya, Sahara Desert, Sudan, Pakistan, Yemen (Pauly 2014).

Comments: *Lipotriches parca* is closely related to *L. postcarinata* but differs in the following features: apical lobe of fore wing is strongly smoky; body covered by grey pubescence in *L. parca* (vs. fore wing is uniformly infuscate and without grey pubescence in *L. postcarinata*). *L. parca* is mainly recorded from arid regions from both Africa and Asia, although there is also one closer checklist record from Pakistan (Ascher & Pickering 2021). The biology and ecology of *L. parca* is unknown and requires further study.

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