



Description of a new species of the genus *Idiasta* Foerster (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) from India

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The genus *Idiasta* Foerster belongs to the *Phaenocarpa* complex of Alysiniinae genera (Fischer 1971; Wharton 1980, 2002) because of the long second flagellomere. The presence of well developed ventral and diagonal ridge in mandibles; 2RS longer than 3RSa; (RS+M) b present; 2CUB arising at or below middle of first subdiscal cell; hind wing with m-cu well developed and M+CU generally equal to or longer than 1M, readily distinguish *Idiasta* from all other genera in this complex.

So far, the genus is represented by 27 species from the world out of which 21 occur in Holarctic region, one in Afrotropical region and five in the Indo-Australian region of which only one *Idiasta nigriatae* (Sharma) occurs in India (described from Himachal Pradesh in 1978) and the Indian subcontinent (Shenefelt 1974; Wharton 1980, 1986 & 2002; Belokobylskij 1998). In the present work a new species, *Idiasta transiens*, is described.

The terminology for the various body parts and wing venation is that of Sharkey & Wharton (1997) while Eady (1968) has been followed for the description of surface sculpture.

The types of the new species have been deposited in the Insect collection, Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India.

Idiasta transiens Samiuddin, sp. nov.
(Images 1-5)

Material examined

Holotype: 9.v.2000, male, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India, coll. Zubair Ahmad, Reg.no. HYM/BR. 005.

Paratypes: 27.iv.2002, 7 males, 2 females, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh, India, coll. Mohammad Shamim, Reg.no. HYM/BR.041,042,043,044,045,046,047,048,049,

Distribution: India (Uttar Pradesh).

Etymology

The species name is an arbitrary combination of letters.

Female: Body length, 2.8mm.

Head: Transverse, dorsally about 1.8× as wide as long (29:16). Eyes large, clearly protruded, in lateral view, 2.2× longer than temple width (12:5.5), with about 5-6 short setae visible in dorsal view. Face pubescent, smooth and shiny throughout except at bottom with both side weakly horizontal streaks; middle carina blunt at top, faint on bottom. Frons and vertex bare smooth and shiny. Mandibles tridentate, about 1.6× longer than its apical width (12:7.5), 1.1× wider at apex than at base (7.5:6.5), tooth 1 and 3 equally protruding broad, tooth 2 more acute than 1 and 3. Antenna 34 segmented, 1.6× longer than body (182:113.5); F2 twice longer than F1 (11:5.5), 1.2 longer than F3 (11:9); setae slightly shorter than flagellomere width; maxillary palpi long, 1.6× longer than head height (33:20.5).

Mesosoma: 1.6× longer than high (41:26). Pronotum dorsally with crenulate posterior margin and pronope. Mesonotum emarginate overall, crenulate; notauli short, incomplete, weakly crenulate and deeply impressed anteriorly; mesonotal disc smooth and shiny, largely bare, with few setae on anterior margin and few along in a row of imaginary line of notauli; midpit deep and oval. Scutellum smooth and shiny. Post axillae polished on top, clearly crenulate on bottom. Metanotum smooth, with acute median spine, side field of metanotum finely crenulate. Sternaulus wide, crenulate, extends to mid coxae. Propodeum anteriorly polished with mid longitudinal carina and major part reticulate.

Wings: Stigma 4.1× longer than wide (24:5.9); 3RSa 2.7× longer than r (8:3); 2RS strongly curved, somewhat longer than 3RSa (9.5:8); m-cu antefurcal; 1 cu-a postfurcal; 2 CUB arising exactly middle of first subdiscal cell. Hind wing m-cu distinctly pigmented at least half distance to wing margin.

Metasoma: Petiole clearly striated, about 2.6× longer than apical width (15.5:6). Ovipositor 1.2× longer than mesosoma (48:41), sharply acute apically, ovipositor sheaths densely setose, weakly expanded at apex, extreme apex narrowed and sharply pointed.

Colour: Body yellowish-brown; frons, temple, occiput reddish-brown; palpi white; legs yellow; apical metasoma

Abbreviations: 2RS - first cubital cross vein; m-cu - recurrent vein; r - first abscissa of radius; 3RSa - second abscissa of radius; 2 CUB - parallel vein; 1 cu-a - nervellus; m-cu in hind wing - post nervellus; F1 - first flagellomere; F2 - second flagellomere; OOL - ocello-ocular line (distance from the outer edge of a lateral ocellus to the compound eye); POL - post-ocellar line (distance between the inner edges of the two lateral ocelli); AOL - anterior-ocellar line (distance between the inner edges of anterior and lateral ocellus); OD - diameter of an ocellus; ZDAMU - Zoology Department, Aligarh Muslim University.

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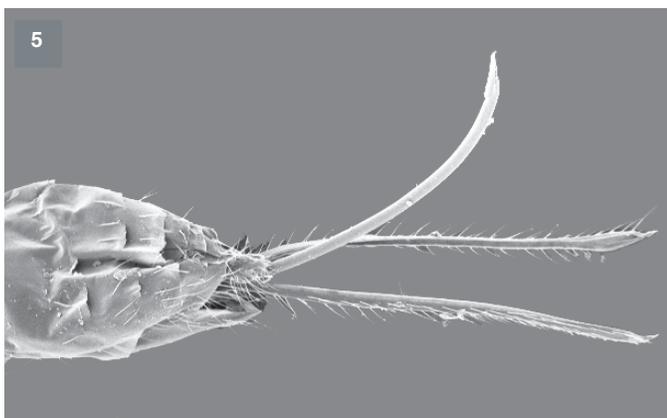
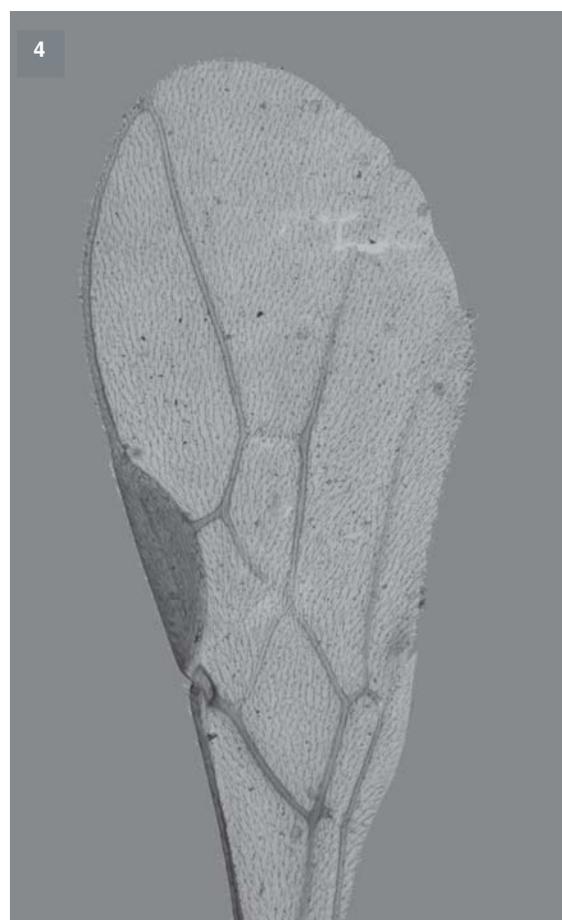
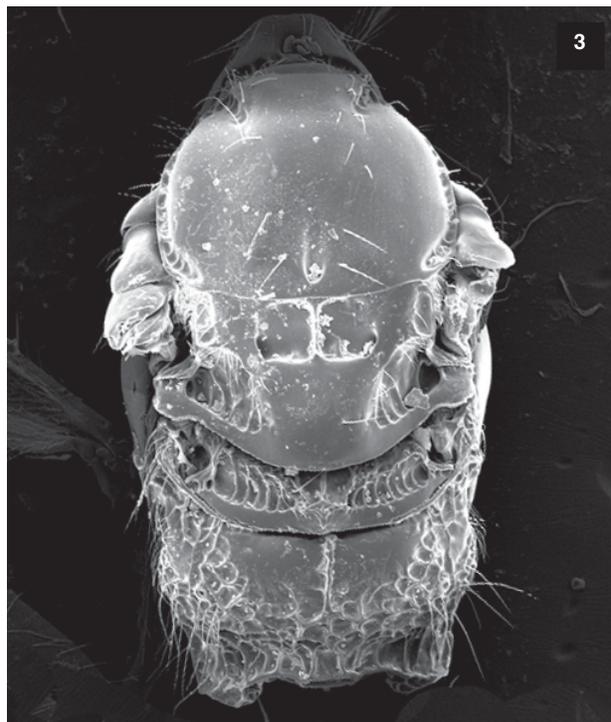
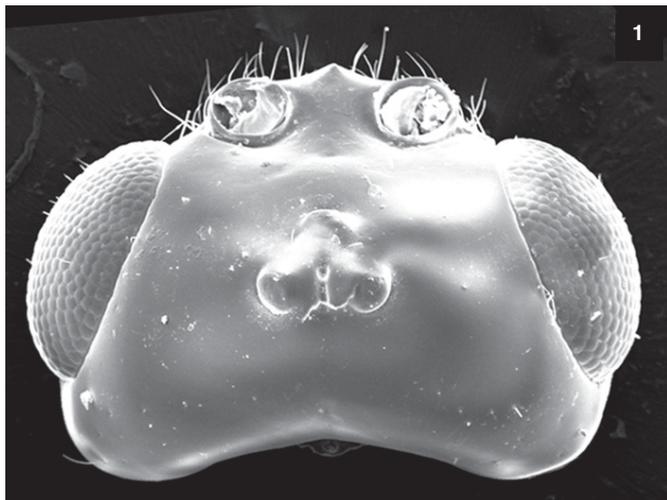
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Images. 1-5. *Idiasta transiens* Samiuddin, sp. nov.

1 - Head, dorsal view; 2 - Petiole, dorsal-lateral view; 3 - Mesosoma, dorsal view; 4 - Forewing; 5 - Ovipositor and Ovipositor sheaths

brown to dark brown; scape, pedicel and basal half of first flagellomere yellow; subapical 6-10 segment whitish and rest of the segments brown; wings slightly infuscate, veins and stigma brown.

Male: Similar to the female.

Host: Unknown.

Remarks

The new species, *Idiasta transiens* Samiuddin, sp. nov. is closely related to *Idiasta nigriæ* (Sharma) but differs in having: vertex smooth (vertex sparsely punctate in *nigriæ*), mandible tridentate (mandible bidentate in *nigriæ*), F2 twice longer than F1 (F2 shorter than F1 in *nigriæ*), metanotum smooth (metanotum punctate in *nigriæ*); propodeum anteriorly polished with mid longitudinal carina and major portion reticulate (propodeum with a prominent areola and costula, areola interspersed with many transverse carinae and joined by a longitudinal carina to the base in *nigriæ*).

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