

A new species of the genus *Laelius* ASHMEAD, 1893 (Hymenoptera: Bethylidae) from China

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Laelius* ASHMEAD, *Laelius sinicus* sp. nov., is described here. This is the first species of the genus *Laelius* ASHMEAD from China. This species is similar to *Laelius voracis* MUESEBECK, 1939 from North America and India, but distinguished from the latter by: antennal segment 2 distinctly shorter than 3 and radius straight. Types are deposited in Zhejiang University, Hangzhou.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Bethylidae, *Laelius*, new species, China

The genus *Laelius* ASHMEAD, 1893 was erected on the basis of the type species *Laelius trogodermatis* ASHMEAD. The members of this genus are small wasps of black coloration; head, thorax, and often femora clothed sparsely with strong, black setae, major veins of wings also clothed with prominent black setae; PF = 6,3; clypeus with a median lobe, and without lateral lobes; antennae with 13 segments; notauli not or only weakly indicated; scutellum with a transverse groove at base; propodeum with lateral and transverse carinae; pterostigma small and pterostigma not developed; radial vein curved or straight, shorter than median vein.

Seventeen species of the genus have been recorded in the world. So far as known, all attack the larvae of Dermestidae (mainly) and Scolytidae, and consequently are commonly found in or around buildings.

All known members of this genus occur in North America, Europe, North Africa, and India. In the present note, a new species of this genus is described from China.

Laelius sinicus sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Holotype: Male; fully winged; HL = 0.46 mm; HW = 0.50 mm; WF = 0.32 mm; LM = 0.80 mm; LPD = 0.34 mm; WPD = 0.29 mm; FWL = 1.46 mm; TL = 2.0 mm.

Head and mesosoma black; mandibles and antennae yellowish brown; legs yellowish brown with coxae brown; metasoma black-brownish.

Head slightly wider than long, with convex posterior margin in frontal view; posterolateral corners rounded, not forming an angle; frons and vertex microreticulate, with shallow punctures sparsely; mandible with four teeth; anterior margin of clypeus broadly rounded; antennae 1.03 mm long; antennal segments in the following proportions: 5.0 : 2.8 : 3.5 : 3.5 : 3.5 : 3.5 : 3.0 : 3.0 : 3.0 : 2.5 : 2.5 : 3.5; each segment of antennae longer

than wide; eye 0.21 mm long; ocelli small, forming an obtuse triangle; DAO = 0.05 mm; OOL 0.79 times as long as WOT; POL: AOL = 3.5: 3.0.

Pronotal disc trapezium and microreticulate, maximum width 2.38 times as long as its length; mesothorax longer than prothorax; scutum microreticulate; notauli not indicated; scutellum weakly microreticulate; propodeal disc 1.17 times as long as wide, with one median and four submedian carinae; the median carina reaching the posterior margin of propodeal disc; propodeal disc coarsely microreticulate; fore wing with a median cell and a submedian cell; subcosta, median and anal veins with erect or suberect setae; radial vein straight, as long as basal vein.

Metasoma smooth and shining, with six tergites distinctly visible, second the biggest, rest of them gradually become shorter, sixth tergite apically conically narrowed; anterior half of third, fourth, fifth and sixth segment clothed with setae.

Female: Unknown.

Host: Unknown.

Distribution: China (Jiangsu).

Holotype♂: Zhenjiang City (32.11°N, 119.27°E), Jiangsu Province, Aug., 1973, coll. HE Jun-hua, No.73065.9. Paratype: 1♂, Zhenjiang City, Jiangsu Province, Aug., 1973, coll. HE Jun-hua, No.73065.11.

Remarks: This species is similar to *Laelius voracis* MUESEBECK, 1939 from North America and India, but distinguished from the latter by: antennal segment 2 distinctly shorter than 3 and radius straight.

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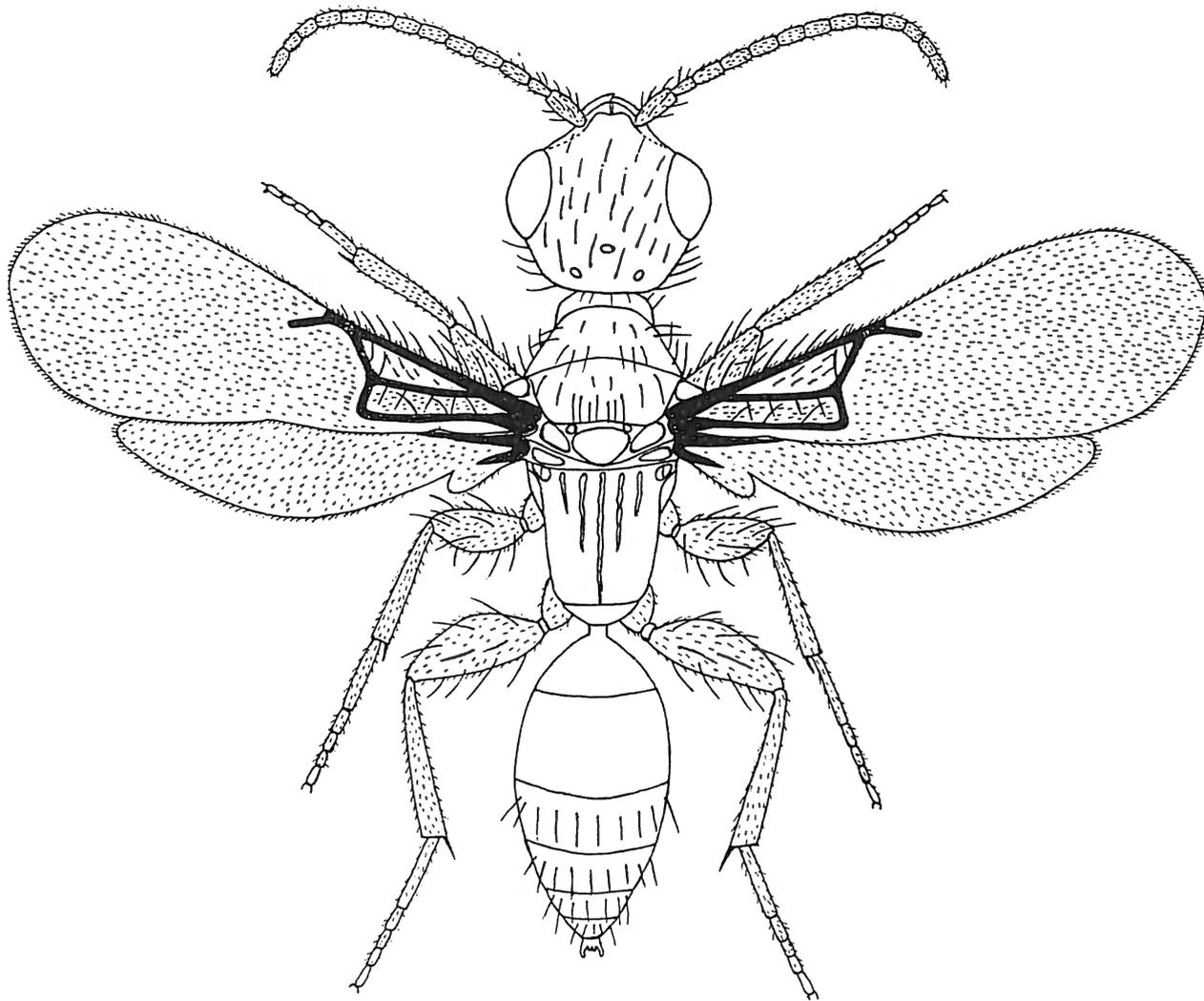


Fig. 1 — *Laelius sinicus* sp. nov. (holotype).

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