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A survey of the genus *Chrysis* (Hyme., Chrysididae) in Fars province, with six new records for Iranian fauna

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Abstract

The Chrysididae (Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea), commonly known as cuckoo wasps or emerald wasps, are a cosmopolitan family of aculeate wasps and include about 3,000 species in the world. *Chrysis* Linnaeus, 1761 is a large, cosmopolitan and diverse genus in this family (Chrysidinae, Chrysidini), with over 1100 described species and subspecies and many more to be discovered. A list of twelve species of the genus *Chrysis* collected in the Fars Province of Iran is presented. Specimens were collected by Malaise traps during 2013-2017. The specimens were identified based on morphological characters mentioned in different taxonomic keys and their original descriptions. Six species: *Chrysis amneris* Balthasar, 1953, *Ch. dawahi* Strumia, 2011, *Ch. diacantha diacantha* Mocsáry, 1889, *Ch. laeta* Dahlbom, 1854, *Ch. santschii* Linsenmaier, 1959 and *Ch. taurica* Mocsáry, 1889 are newly added to the Iranian wasp fauna. The total number of Iranian *Chrysis* currently increased to 130 species and subspecies.

Key words: Cuckoo **w**asps, Chrysidini, Hymenoptera, new records, Iran.

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Introduction

The family Chrysididae (Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea) is an extremely large group of morphologically diverse wasps, including parasitoids or cleptoparasites of other wasps, bees, sawflies, Phasmatodea and Lepidoptera, with an inordinately wide range of behavioral and ecological plasticity (Kimsey & Bohart, 1991). In recent years, a number of authors have focused on Iranian cuckoo wasps (Pourrafei *et al*., 2011; Rosa *et al*., 2013; Rosa & Lotfalizadeh, 2013; Torabipour *et al.,* 2013a, 2013b; Strumia & Fallahzadeh, 2015; 2016; Strumia *et al*., 2016a; 2016b; Farzaneh *et al*., 2017; Iranmanesh *et al.,* 2017; Farhad *et al*., 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018), and as a result the number of known species and subspecies from the country has grown considerably around to 292 (see Falahatpisheh *et al*., 2019; Farhad *et al*., 2019; Rosa, 2020).

Chrysis Linnaeus, 1761 is the largest genus of the family Chysididae, with more than 1100 described species globally, 708 species in the Palaearctic region (Kimsey & Bohart, 1991, Rosa *et al*., 2017) and 124 species in Iran (Farhad *et al*., 2019; Rosa, 2020).

The aim of present study was to document and increase of our knowledge regarding Iranian cuckoo wasp species of the genus *Chrysis* from the Fars Province in southern Iran.

Material and methods

Surveys in 2015 and 2017 using a number of standard Malaise traps in Fars province, south of Iran resulted in finding several species of *Chrysis*. Sampling localities are briefly described below.

loc. 1): IRAN, Fars, Shiraz, 29°59′6.65 ″ N; 52°39′38.5 ″ E, 1628 m. a. s. l, leg. B. Jahromi. The Malaise trap was situated in a garden with a large number of fruit trees and ornamental plants including walnut, pomegranate (*Punica granatum* L.), pine (*Pinus* ssp.) and cypress trees (*Cupressus sempervirens* L.).

loc. 2): IRAN, Fars, Jahrom, 28°30′31″N; 53°35′21″E, 1044 m. a. s. l, leg. B. Jahromi. The Malaise trap was placed in a mixed orange tree and palm date plantation

loc. 3): IRAN, Fars, Larestan, 27°39′12.6″N; 54°16′50″E, 829 m. a. s. l, leg. A. Falahatpisheh. The Malaise trap was located in a mixed orange tree and palm date orchard.

loc. 4): IRAN, Fars, Larestan, 27°39′8.39″N; 54°16′54″E, 827 m. a. s. l, leg. A. Falahatpisheh. The Malaise trap was located in a mixed orange tree and palm date orchard.

loc. 5): IRAN, Fars, Larestan, 27°39′54″N; 54°16′39″E, 831 m. a. s. l, leg. A. Falahatpisheh.

The Malaise trap was situated in a Eucalyptus plantation.

loc. 6): IRAN, Fars, Larestan, Nime, 27°31′55.4″N; 54°26′1.36′E, 779 m. a. s. l, leg. A. Falahatpisheh. The Malaise trap was located in an alfalfa field.

Voucher specimens are deposited in Department of Entomology, Jahrom Branch, Islamic Azad University, Jahrom, Iran (JIAU) and the Franco Strumia Collection, Pisa, Italy (FSC). Nomenclature follows Bohart & Kimsey (1982) and Kimsey & Bohart (1991). The species are arranged alphabetically.

Results

Subfamily Chrysidinae

Tribe Chrysidini

Genus *Chrysis* Linnaeus, 1761

***Chrysis amneris* Balthasar, 1953**

Material Examined: 1♂: Iran, Fars, Jahrom (loc. 2), 21.v.2013, leg. B. Jahromi.

General distribution: Palestine, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Russia, (Strumia, 2008; Rosa *et al*., 2017). New for Iranian fauna.

***Chrysis dawahi* Strumia, 2011**

Material Examined: 1♂: Iran, Fars, Jahrom (loc. 2), 01.vi.2015, leg. B. Jahromi; 2♂♂: same data, 21.v.2013; 1♂: Larestan (loc. 3), 31.v.2017, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 1♂: Shiraz (loc. 1), 22.v.2016, leg. B. Jahromi.

General distribution: Saudi Arabia, UAE (Strumia, 2014). New for Iranian fauna.

Chrysis diacantha diacantha Mocsáry, 1889

Material Examined: 1♀: Iran, Fars, Jahrom (loc. 2), 10.v.2015, leg. B. Jahromi, 1♂: same data, 12.v.2015.

General distribution: Europe (SE), Caucasus, Middle East, Central Asia, Russia (Rosa *et al*., 2019). New for Iranian fauna.

***Chrysis laeta* Dahlbom, 1854**

Material examined: 1♀: Iran, Fars, Larestan, Nime (loc. 6), 10.v.2014, leg. A. Falahatpisheh.

General distribution: Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Oman, Yemen, UAE (Strumia, 2014). New for Iranian fauna.

***Chrysis leachii* Shuckard, 1837**

Material examined: 1♂: Iran, Fars, Jahrom (loc. 2), 15.vi.2015, leg. B. Jahromi.

General distribution: Russia, Azerbaijan, Caucasus, West-Palaearctic: central and southern Europe, northern Africa, Middle East, Iran (Rosa *et al*. 2013; 2019).

***Chrysis majidi* Strumia, 2015**

Material examined: 2♂♂: Iran, Fars, Jahrom (loc. 2), 15.vi.2015, leg. B. Jahromi; 1♂: Larestan (loc. 4), 10.v.2015, leg. A. Falahatpisheh.

General distribution: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Palestine, Iran (Strumia & Fallahzadeh, 2015).

***Chrysis nilensis* Linsenmaier, 1959**

Material examined: 2♂♂, 2♀♀: Iran, Fars, Jahrom (loc. 2), 15.vi.2015, leg. B. Jahromi; 1♀: Larestan (loc. 3), 31.v.2017, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 1♀: same data, 4.vi.2017; 1♂: Anbarabad-Bardeh, 28°28´04.1˝N,58°12´39.3˝E, 21.v.2017, 1501m, Malaise trap, leg. Purrezaali.

General distribution: Egypt (Linsenmaier, 1959) Saudi Arabia (Strumia & Dawah, 2012), Iran (Tavassoli & Fallahzadeh, 2015).

***Chrysis palliditarsis* Spinola, 1838**

Material examined: 2♂♂: Iran, Fars, Jahrom (loc. 2), 05.v.2015, leg. B. Jahromi; 2♂♂: same data, 08.v.2015; 3♂♂: same data, 25.v.2015; 8♂♂: same data, 21.iv.2013; 2♂: Larestan, Nime (loc. 6), 25.v.2014, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 1♂: same data, 03.iv.2014, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 3♂♂: Larestan (loc. 3), 13.iv.2014, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 3♂♂: Larestan (loc. 5), 31.v.2017, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 1♂: same data, 26.v.2017.

General distribution: Central Asia, Northern Africa, widespread in sub-Saharan Africa (Kimsey & Bohart, 1991; Linsenmaier, 1994, 1999), Oman, Saudi Arabia (Linsenmaier, 1994; Strumia & Dawah, 2019), United Arab Emirates (Linsenmaier, 1994; Strumia, 2008, 2014), Yemen (Madl, 2018).

***Chrysis santschii* Linsenmaier, 1959**
Material examined: 1♀: Iran, Fars, Larestan (loc. 3), 6.vi.2017, leg. A. Falahatpisheh.
General distribution: North Africa (Linsenmaier, 1968). New for Iranian fauna.

***Chrysis taurica* Mocsáry, 1889**
Material examined: 1♂: Iran, Fars, Larestan, Nime (loc. 6), 10.v.2014, leg. A. Falahatpisheh.
General distribution: Crimea, Cyprus, Crete, Turkey, South European Russia (Kimsey & Bohart, 1991; Özbek & Strumia, 2018). New for Iranian fauna.
Remark: Strumia & Yıldırım (2009) treated *Ch. ragusae* and *Ch. taurica* as a separate species, which were noted as synonyms by Rosa *et al.* (2015). The two taxa have different male genitalia as showed by Linsenmaier (1959, figs. 264-265) and probably the proposed synonymy is wrong. *Ch. ragusae* is known from East Anatolia and Mediterranean regions, has a sporadic distribution, and is moderately recorded from Turkey (Özbek & Strumia, 2018).

***Chrysis viridissima* Klug, 1845**
Material examined: 1♀: Iran, Fars, Larestan, Nime (loc. 6), 10.v.2014, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 1♀: same data, 10.v.2014; 1♀: Larestan (loc. 4), 31.v.2017, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 1♀: same data, 6.vi.2017; 2♀♀: Larestan (loc. 5), 26.v.2017, leg. A. Falahatpisheh; 2♀♀: same data, 31.v.2017.
General distribution: Jordon, Mauritania, North of Africa, India, Afrotropical realm (Linsenmaier,1959,1999), Middle East, UAE (Strumia, 2008), Saudi Arabia (Strumia & Dawah, 2010), Iran (Rosa *et al*., 2013). *Ch. viridissima* is one of the most frequent *Chrysis* species in Near East and Arabia.

***Chrysis zobeida* du Buysson, 1896**
Material examined: 1♀: Iran, Fars, Larestan, Nime (loc. 6), 10.v.2014, leg. A. Falahatpisheh.
General distribution: Egypt, Iran, Palestine (Linsenmaier, 1968, 1994), Turkey (Strumia & Yildirim, 2009, 2011), Saudi Arabia, UAE (Strumia, 2014; Strumia & Dawah, 2019), Yemen (du Buysson, 1896).

Discussion
In the present study, twelve species of *Chrysis* were collected and identified from Fars province. Of those, six species (*Chrysis amneris* Balthasar, 1953, *Ch. dawahi* Strumia, 2011, *Ch. diacantha diacantha* Mocsáry, 1889, *Ch. laeta* Dahlbom, 1854, *Ch. santschii* Linsenmaier, 1959 and *Ch. taurica* Mocsáry, 1889) are newly recorded for Iranian wasp fauna. According to recently published studies (Falahatpisheh *et al*. 2019; Farhad *et al*., 2019, Rosa, 2020) and the results of the present study, the number of species known from Iran is now increased to 298 species and subspecies, notable larger than the 185 species previously cited (Rosa *et al*., 2013). The Chrysididae Iranian fauna is now moderately known in some parts of the country (e.g. Fars), while in many other areas is still unknown. The richness of Iranian Chrysididae is very high, ranking second and approaching those of Turkey (Strumia & Yildirim 2011).
Currently, no data are available about biology and behavior of species of *Chrysis* in Iran. Further investigations on distribution, biology as well as behavior of species of this genus, should be encouraged.

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مطالعه زنبورهای جنس *Chrysis* (Hym., Chrysididae) در استان فارس،به همراه شش گزارش جدید برای فون ایران

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چکیده

خانواده Chrysididae (Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea) که معمولا با اسامی زنبورهای زمردی یا زنبورهای فاخته شناخته می شوند یک خانواده از گروه زنبورهای Aculeata می باشند که پراکنش جهانی داشته و تاکنون نزدیک به ۳۰۰۰ گونه از آنها شناخته شده است. در این خانواده زنبورهای جنس *Chrysis* Linnaeus, 1761 (Chrysidinae, Chrysidini) یکی از جنس های متنوع و با پراکنش جهانی می باشند که تاکنون بیش از ۱۱۰۰ گونه و زیرگونه از آنها شناسایی شده و این در حالی است که تعداد زیادی از آنها هنوز کشف نشده و ناشناخته هستند. در مطالعه حاضر، یک لیست از دوازده گونه از زنبورهای این جنس، جمع آوری شده از استان فارس در جنوب ایران ارایه می شود. نمونه ها به وسیله تله مالیز و طی سال های ۱۳۹۲ تا ۱۳۹٦جمع آوری شد. شناسایی گونه ها با استفاده از کلیدهای شناسایی معتبر و توصیف های اصلی انجام گردید. شش گونه *Chrysis amneris* Balthasar, 1953، *Ch. dawahi* Strumia, 2011، *Ch. diacantha diacantha* Mocsáry, 1889، *Ch. laeta* Dahlbom, 1854، *Ch. santschii* Linsenmaier, 1959 و *Ch. taurica* Mocsáry, 1889 برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می شوند. با در نظر گرفتن نتایج این تحقیق، مجموع تاکساهای گزارش شده این جنس از ایران به ۱۳۰ گونه و زیرگونه افزایش یافت.

واژه های کلیدی: زنبورهای فاخته، Chrysidini، بال غشاییان، ایران، گزارش جدید، ایران

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