A new Amegilla (Hymenoptera: Anthophoridae) from Western Australia

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Abstract

Amegilla paracalva sp. nov. is described here in response to studies of Houston (1991). It belongs to the subgenus Asaropoda which is endemic to the Australian region (not Tasmania or New Zealand). Descriptive morphology follows that of Brooks (1988).

Amegilla (Asaropoda) paracalva sp. nov.

Figures 1-6

Holotype

Male: Western Australia, 16 km WSW of Lyons River Homestead, (24°38'S, 115°20'E), 30 August-1 September 1980, C.A. Howard and T.F. Houston collection numbers 344-27, reared from brood cell. Became adult 5 September 1983, Western Australian Museum Collection (WAMC) 90/879.

Paratypes

Allotype with same data but collection number 344-14/ex: nest burrow in breakaway hollow, WAMC 90/880; 2 female paratypes with same data except first specimen with collection number 344-27, ex: nest in clay flat, WAMC 91/179 and second reared from cell taken from ground nest, pupated prior to 12 October 1981, adult by 6 November 1981, WAMC 91/180. Holotype, allotype and one paratype at the Western Australian Museum, Perth and one paratype at the Snow Entomological Museum, Lawrence, Kansas.

Diagnosis

Body covered with buff to light orange hair; integumental facial marks cream-coloured (Figures 1,2); male genitalia and metasomal stema as Figures 3-6.

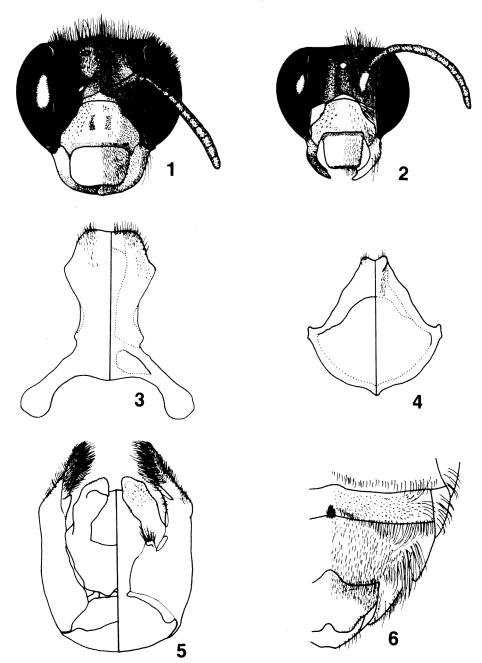
Amegilla (Asaropoda) paracalva sp. nov. can be separated from A. calva and A. preissi in that it has white to cream-coloured integumental facial marks while those of the latter two are lemon yellow. Also in male A. paracalva the apicomedian emargination of S5 is much wider than deep, the base of the emargination is rounded the sides being at a 90° angle and S6 is apicomedially emarginate. S5 of A. calva and A. preissi has an apicomedian emargination about as wide as deep, emargination basally angulate not rounded with the sides about 60° and S6 is apically simple to very slightly emarginate. A. calva and A. preissi are restricted to New South Wales and Queensland, A. paracalva to Western Australia.

Description

Male (holotype)

Body length about 15 mm; forewing length about 10 mm. Inner orbits parallel; shortest distance between eyes 0.83 frontal length of eye; head wider than long; clypeal

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Figures 1-6 Amegilla paracalva sp. nov.; 1, female face; 2, male face; 3-5, male S7, S8 and genital capsule, left side is dorsal, right is ventral; 6, male S5-7, ventral view.

protuberance in profile 0.67 eye width; mandible with weak subapical tooth; flagellomere 1 equal to combined lengths of next 1.5 flagellomeres and 0.68 as long as scape (excluding basal bulb); flagellomere 2 equal to 0.77 length of flagellomere 3; flagellomeres 3-10 gradually increasing in length; last flagellomere subequal to length of flagellomere 1; distance between posterior ocelli 1.1 ocellocular distance; distance from median ocellus to posterior ocellus equal to 0.68 ocellocular distance. Marginal cell length equal to 0.82 distance from apex of cell to wing tip; cu-v of hind wing about equal to length of second abcissa of M+Cu; jugal lobe about half as long as vannal lobe. S5 and S6 with narrow apicomedian emargination (Figure 6); S7, S8 and genital capsule as in Figures 3-5.

Pubescence. Head with pale buff hair, lighter on lower half; scutum with light orange-brown and scattered black hairs; metanotum and scutellum with light orange-brown hair, rest of thorax with pale hair; foreleg with pale hair on outer surface, dark orange-brown hair on inner surfaces of tibia and tarsus; midtibia pale with mixture of dark and pale hair on tarsus and all dark on inner tarsal surface; hindleg pale only on outer surface of femur and tibia, rest dark. Metasomal terga with appressed orange-brown hair that is lighter and longer laterally but with a few dark hairs laterally on T6 and dark dense pile apicolaterally on T7; S1-5 with pale apical fringes which are longer laterally; S4 with apicomedian patch of black apically directed bristles (Figure 6); S6 with basal band of pale hair.

Colouration. Black except integumental facial marks, mandibular base, labrum, clypeus, paraocular and supraclypeal areas and anterior portion of scape cream coloured as in Figure 2; apical half of mandible, maxilla, glossa, tegula, legs, apices of metasomal sterna and terga reddish-brown.

Punctation. Punctures on clypeus 0.5-1.0 puncture-widths apart, rather dull basally to shiny apically; rest of punctation typical of Amegilla.

Female

Body length 16 mm, forewing length 13 mm. Agrees with description of male except for sex-limited characters including facial marks (Figure 1) and as follows: flagellomere 1 equal to combined length of next 2.7 flagellomeres, about as long as scape (excluding basal bulb) and 1.7 as long as last flagellomere; distance between posterior ocelli about equal to ocellocular distance, from median to posterior ocellus 0.64 ocellocular distance. *Pubescence*. Outer posterior surface of foretarsus with long curved dark hairs; inner surface of midleg with dark hair; anterior and posterior surfaces of midfemur pale; outer surface of midtibia pale with dark band on apicoposterior surface; midtarsus with scattered white hairs on anterior surface and white posterior band; inner surfaces of hindleg black, out surfaces white except anterior edge of tarsus black; metasomal terga with scattered inclined dark hairs, T5 with apicomedian tuft of dark hair; T6 all black; metasomal sterna with long dark hairs medially, pale hairs laterally.

Remarks

Amegilla paracalva sp. nov. is most closely related to Amegilla calva (Rayment) and A. preissi (Cockerell). Among Asaropoda these three species are uniquely characterized

by hair pale to gray evenly covering thoracic and metasomal areas; midtibial spur strongly hooked apically and S6 of female simple without U-shaped carina delimiting median area.

References

Brooks, R.W. (1988). Systematics and Phylogeny of the Anthophorine Bees (Hymenoptera: Anthophoridae; Anthophorini). Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 53: 436-575.

Houston, T.F. (1991). Ecology and behaviour of the bee *Amegilla (Asaropoda) dawsoni* (Rayment) with notes on a related species (Hymenoptera: Anthophoridae). *Rec. West. Aust. Mus.* 15: 535-553.

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