

A NEW CHALCID ATTACKING BAMBOO IN INDIA (HYMENOPTERA).

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Eurytoma chrysothrix, sp.n.

♀. Black, except as follows: funicle piceous, base of 6th (8th) tergite dark brownish; scape, pedicel and ring-joint, trochanters, femora and tibiae ferruginous; tarsi much paler; pubescence pale brown to nearly golden (on head) and on funicle paler. The head and thorax somewhat dull; abdomen shining, except on the ventral overlap of tergite 4 (6) and on tergite 6 (8).

Head, from above (across the eyes), over twice as broad as long, vertex about three-fifths the breadth; from in front, wider than deep (8:7). Toruli midway between posterior ocelli and mouth-edge. Eyes bare, as long as one-half the depth. The width across the eyes distinctly exceeds that of the prothorax and, slightly, the greatest thoracic breadth (between the tegulae). Ocelli in an obtuse-angled triangle; lateral pair at about one and a half diameters from the orbit; the anterior ocellus outside the scapal hollow. Vertex and upper face (at sides) down to nearly the level of the toruli with large umbilicate punctures.

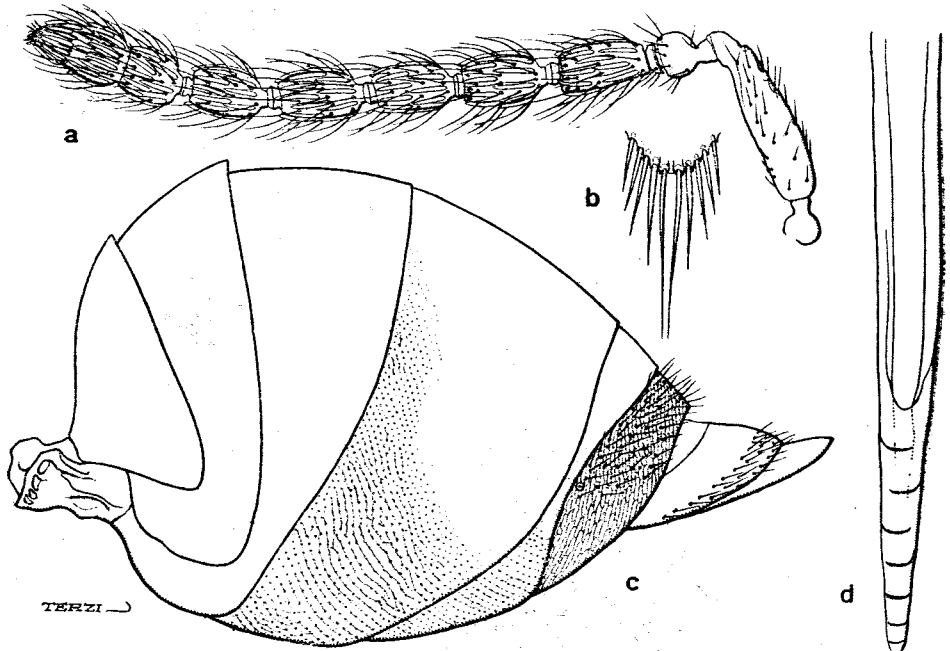


Fig. 1. *Eurytoma chrysothrix*, sp.n., ♀: a, antenna; b, labrum; c, abdomen, in profile; d, tip of ovipositor, dorsal view.

A strong keel runs downward from each lateral ocellus parallel with the orbit, from which it is separated by a shallow sulcus; beyond the lower edge of the eye this keel ceases to run parallel, and descending to about twice its previous distance from the orbit turns angularly towards the gena, where it becomes indistinct. On the lower face a number (7-9 on each side) of fine ridges converge on the mouth-edge, the strongest being (a) from the lower angle of the orbital keel and (b) from each torulus. Scapal hollows forming a single shining moderately deep excavation limited by a definite low carina passing beneath the anterior ocellus. At the upper end this hollow shows 1-2 incipient umbilicate punctures. Mouth contracted and its edge medianly inflected. Subtorular space nearly smooth, scantily pubescent, the lateral striate areas with numerous fine punctures and somewhat dense pubescence.

Antenna (fig. 1, *a*) about 1.5 mm. long. The bulla proximally expanded and bulb-like. Scape (about 4 : 1) as long as the first two funicular joints together or slightly longer than pedicel, ring-joint and first funicular, contracted at extreme apex to form a deep socket joint for pedicel, very roughly sculptured along dorsal edge on distal half. Pedicel (6 : 5) goblet-shaped and basally greatly constricted. Funicle, proportions of joints 11 : 10 : 10 : 10 : 9.5, and club 7.5 : 6 : 4.5; width about $5\frac{1}{2}$ on funicle rising to nearly 8 on first joint of club. Funicular joints with short necks at each end, the proximal neck being cylindrical and the other expanding distally to receive the proximal neck of the succeeding joint; 2nd club suture not distinct. Sensoria: 2 rows on each funicular and club joint, the free distal portion of the sensorium as long as the base. Labrum (fig. 1, *b*) subtriangular, broader than long (4 : 3), with 10 bristles of which 4 on each side are shorter and flatter and the apical pair more slender, at least one and a half times as long as the sclerite itself.

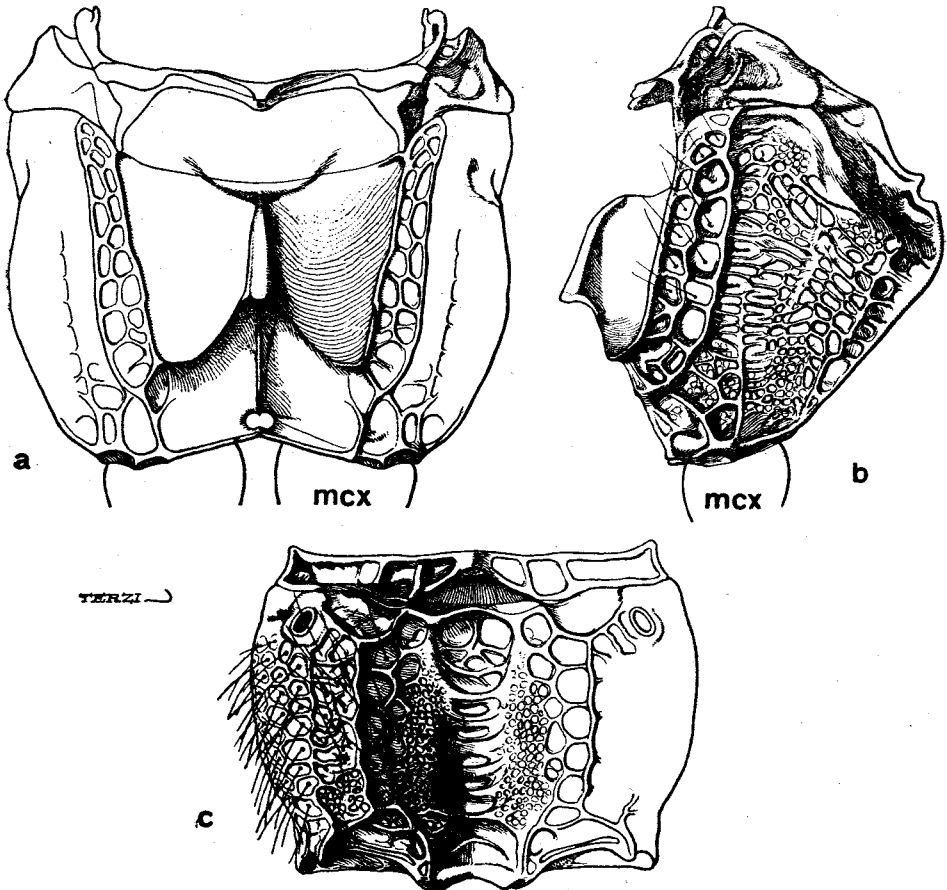


Fig. 2. *Eurytoma chrysothrix*, sp.n., ♀: *a*, mesothorax, ventral view; *b*, mesothorax, in profile; *mcx*, middle coxa; *c*, propodeon.

Mandibles (10 : 7) with 3 teeth and a thick rounded cutting edge above; 2 lower teeth short, acute, subequal; the third tooth (uppermost) shorter and rounded, the thickened cutting edge not reaching the base of the mandible superiorly but distinctly constricted. Stipes with about 20 bristles; maxillary palpi, 6, 5, 7, 16, last joint with about 12 bristles; labial palpi, 9, 4, 9, last joint with 8-9 bristles.

Thorax with head and propodeon distinctly longer than abdomen ; with propodeon alone, very slightly exceeded by the abdomen. Prothorax twice as broad as long, its length compared with those of scutum and scutellum in ratio 3 : 3 : 4. Antero-lateral prothoracic angles distinct. From any point above, the scutellum appears longer than the propodeon, but when dissected the two are practically equal ; whole notal surface of thorax with strong umbilicate punctures. Tegulae transversely rugose. Mesopleurae (fig. 2, *b*). Mesosternopleurae (fig. 2, *a*). On the sternum the impression of the anterior coxae reaches back (laterally) to about three-fourths from the prepectora to the insertion of the mid coxae. There is a strong high median ridge reaching to nearly one-half, and it is continued as a fine keel to the hind edge of the unmodified part of the sternum. Metathorax and propodeon (fig. 2, *c*) ; the metathorax at its longest (mid line) one-fourth the propodeon ; mid area posteriorly with a broad triangular depression which is deepest in front of the propodeon, and anteriorly with two small triangular hollows separated by a shining median elevation. Side areas on outer half undivided but with two or three short longitudinal ridges on the admedian half, forming as many small cells of which that nearest the mid line is largest. Propodeon medianly broadly depressed, the mid line crenulate, the hollows being transversely elongate. The most anterior of the hollows is the largest and subdivided ; surface on each side of the crenulate line coarsely raised reticulate. Beyond this the propodeon is covered with polygonal cells formed by irregularly intersecting ridges, which, however, form a nearly straight keel on each side of the median depression.

Forewings (2 : 1), length about 2.4 mm. Submarginal, marginal, radius, post-marginal in ratio 100 : 28 : 16 : 25. Submarginal with 16 bristles in a single row up to the three clear pustules, and 3 or 4 (double) beyond ; a dozen short bristles on radius and its knob. Hind wings (10 : 3), length about 1.7 mm.

Coxae in fore legs with large almost umbilicate punctures along anterior edge, in hind legs very coarsely punctate anteriorly (ventrally). In mid and fore legs the first tarsal joint twice the second in length.

Abdomen (fig. 1, *c*) strongly compressed, smooth, a little roughened on tergite 4 (6) as indicated in fig. Petiole very short, transverse, projecting shortly and bluntly at sides. On dorsal surface with a shining hollow and ventrally with three such hollows, longer, like short furrows. Valve of ovipositor shining, bare, at extreme apex finely channelled, with about 6 bristles ventrally on apical third and about a dozen (minute) on apex itself. Ovipositor tip (fig. 1, *d*) slender, with about 8 teeth, the apical 4 being transverse and entire.

Length about 3.75 mm. ; alar expanse 5.5 mm.

Holotype ♀ in British Museum ; one of a series of 4 ♀ (one damaged) bred from bamboo, Walayar Forest, South India (*T. V. Ramakrishna Ayyar*).

This species should be easily recognisable by (*a*) the colour of the pubescence and legs, (*b*) the sculpture of the head, (*c*) the simple anterior coxae, (*d*) the mesosternum and propodeon, and (*e*) the teeth on the ovipositor. Except in the striation of the lower face, in which it resembles *E. strigifrons*, Thoms. (1875), *E. chrysothrix*, sp.n., is unlike any Palaearctic species known to me. I have examined the types of a number of Cameron's Oriental *Eurytoma* without, however, finding any sufficiently resembling the present insect to warrant a detailed comparison.