

New data on the European species of three genera Scelionidae (Hymenoptera)

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Abstract

Among the Scelionidae recently collected in several countries, mainly from Europe, the genus *Gryon* was represented by two species, the genus *Baeus* by one species and the genus *Idris* by three species. Four species are reported as new for France (two species of *Gryon*, one of *Baeus* and one of *Idris*), three as new for Portugal (Azores) (one species of each of the three studied genera) and one as new for Syria (one species of *Gryon*). Improved morphological descriptions with illustrations are provided for several of the species. A new host (eggs of the pentatomid bug *Eurygaster integriceps*) is recorded for *Gryon fasciatus* Priesner.

Key words: Baecini, egg parasitoid, France, Gryonini, Ireland, Portugal, Scelioninae, Syria, systematics

Introduction

The family Scelionidae, belonging traditionally to the Proctotrupoidea superfamily (or more recently to Scelionoidea according to Masner, 1956; or Platygastroidea according to Naumann, 1991), includes only egg parasitoids of numerous groups of insects and spiders. New material of that family was recently collected in some European countries, especially France, and in Syria. Most of the collections were carried out by means of yellow pan traps containing water and a wetting agent.

Genera were determined using Masner's keys (1976, 1980) and Kozlov's key (1988). The chosen divisions into subfamilies and tribes are those considered by Austin and Field (1997). Among the numerous genera recognized in the subfamily Scelioninae, three are studied in the present paper: *Gryon* Haliday, *Baeus* Haliday and *Idris* Foerster. The studied material allows the addition of several new species to the French, Portuguese (Azorean)

and Syrian faunas, and to improve our knowledge of the biodiversity in these countries. It also allows an improved description of some morphological characters.

Tribe Gryonini

Gryon Haliday

Masner (1976, 1983) and Mineo (1991) listed several synonyms: *Acolus* Foerster, *Austroscelio* Dodd, *Eremioscelio* Priesner, *Exon* Masner, *Hadronotellus* Kieffer, *Hadronotus* Foerster, *Hadrophanurus* Kieffer, *Heterogryon* Kieffer, *Holacolus* Kieffer, *Masneria* Szabó, *Muscidea* Motschulski, *Notilena* Brèthes, *Pannongryon* Szabó, *Plastogryon* Kieffer, *Plesiobaeus* Kieffer, *Psilacolus* Kieffer, *Sundholmia* Szabó, *Synteleia* Fouts, *Telenomoides* Dodd. However, Austin and Field (1997) maintained *Eremioscelio*, *Plesiobaeus* and *Sundholmia* as distinct genera.

Species of the *misellum* group (Masner 1983)

Gryon misellum Haliday

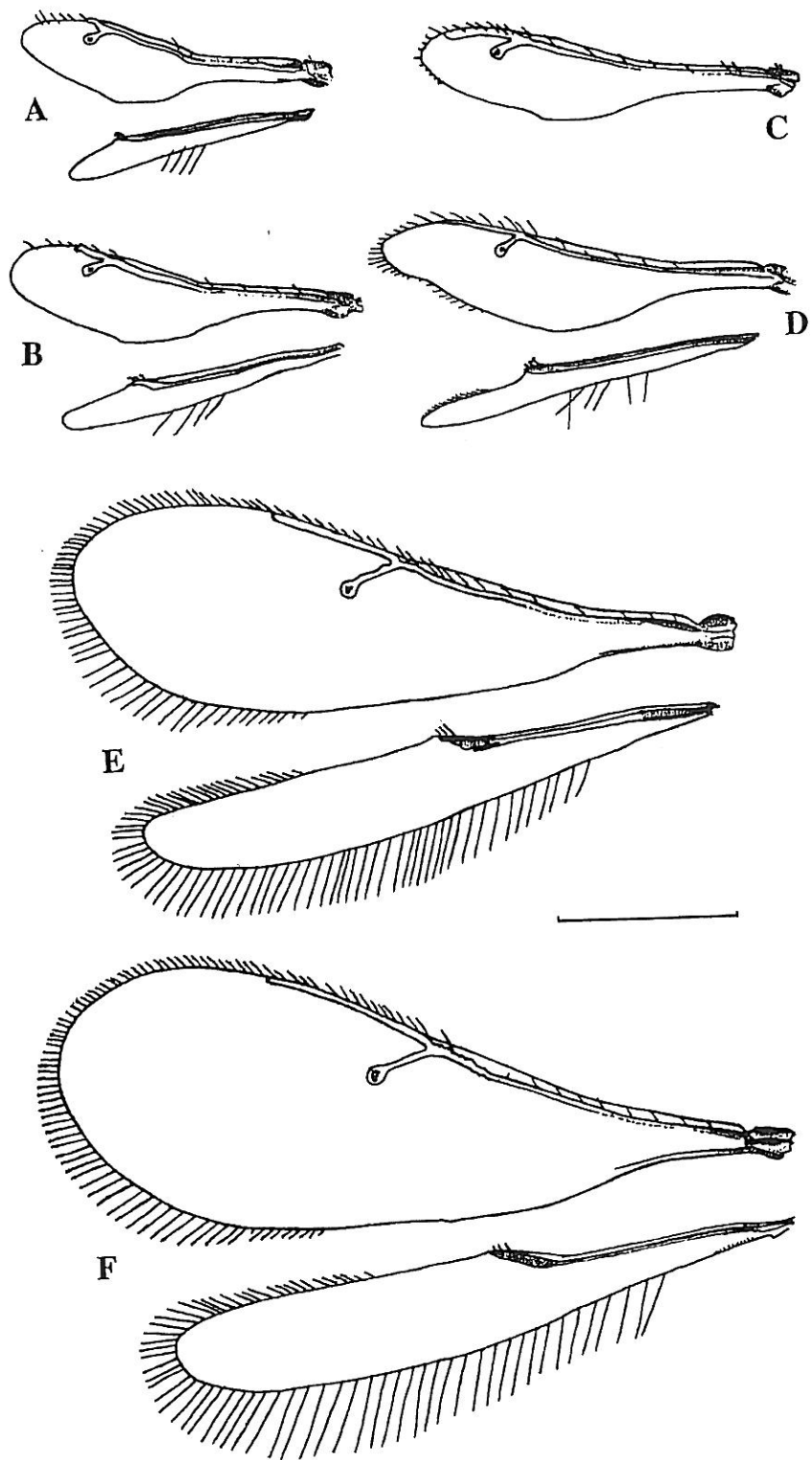
Masner (1976, 1983) listed *basalis* Thomson, *bicolor* Ashmead, *brevipennis* Kieffer, *foersteri* Kieffer, *investis* Kieffer, *opacus* Thomson, *pumilio* Nees, *sagax* Kieffer and *walkeri* Kieffer as synonyms.

Material examined. One female collected by sweeping at Furnas, Island of S. Miguel, Azores, Portugal, on 14 July 1989; four females and 3 males collected in yellow pan traps: 3 females (1 female on 7 August 1991, 1 female on 8 August 1991 and 1 female on 10 September 1991) and 3 males (1 male on 28 June 1991, 1 male on 4 July 1991 and 1 male on 6 August 1991) at Vénissieux, Rhône, France; 1 female at Hog's Head, Waterville, Kerry, Ireland, on 13 July 1994.

The species has been recorded previously from the following North American, Australasian and European countries: Albania, Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, former Czechoslovakia, Finland, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Moldavia and Russia (Szabó 1966; Hellén 1971; Kozlov 1971, 1988; Masner 1983; Mineo 1989). Therefore, it is new for Portugal (Azores) and France. Hosts are unknown.



FIGURE 1. *Gryon misellum*, different sizes of wings in French individuals from Vénissieux. A, B and D: forewings and hind wings of three females; C: forewing of a male; E and F: forewings and hind wings of two males. Bar scale: 0.1mm.



Morphology. The species was redescribed by Masner (1961). Kozlov (1988), Kozlov and Kononova (1990) and Kononova (1992) illustrated male and female antennae and hind wing. Individuals (males and females) are often brachypterous. While the two collected females from Azores and Ireland showed normal wings, the three French females were brachypterous (Fig. 1A, B, D) and two out of the three French males were brachypterous (Fig. 1C, E). The normal wings of the third French male appear in figure 1F.

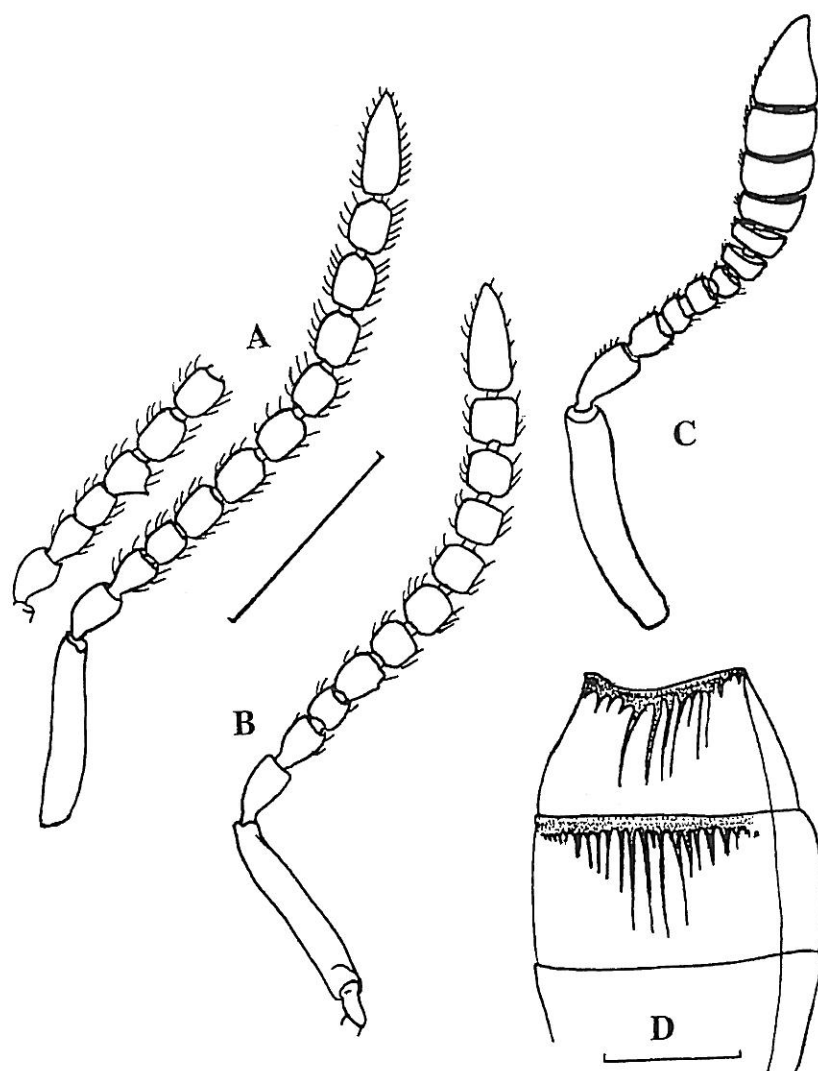


FIGURE 2. *Gryon misellum*, French individuals from Vénissieux. A and B: male antennae in two individuals showing some variation (A is represented in two positions to better illustrate the shape of the fifth segment); C: female antenna; D: anterior part of the male abdomen in dorsal view. Bar scale: 0.1mm.

Variations in male antennae were recorded in the French population (Fig. 2A, B), the funicular segments being more or less elongated as illustrated to originally distinguish between the two now synonymous species *G. misellum* and *G. investis* (Kozlov & Kononova 1990; Kononova 1992). The female antenna and male genitalia appear in figures 2C and 3A, respectively. Abdominal sculpture is variable in the species (Mineo 1980; Masner 1983) and a French male abdomen was thus also figured (Fig. 2D).

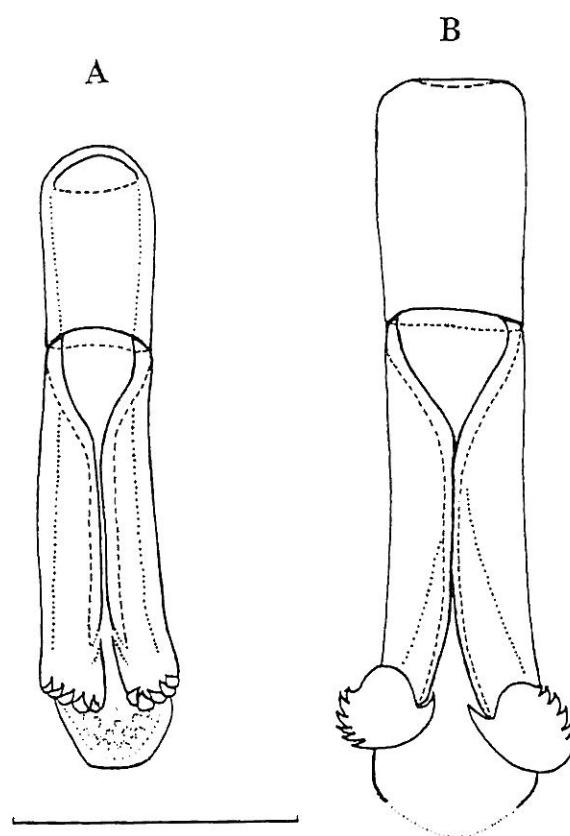


FIGURE 3. Male genitalia of *Gryon*. A: *G. misellum*; B: *G. fasciatus*. Bar scale: 0.05mm.

Species of the *myrmecophilum* group (Mineo 1991)

Gryon fasciatus Priesner

Material examined. One male collected in a yellow pan trap at Vénissieux, Rhône, France, on 25 July 1991. One male collected at Hasaké, Syria, on May 1998, in *Eurygaster integriceps* eggs (Het.: Pentatomidae) laid on wheat (material sent by A. Babi).

The species has previously been recorded from some African and eastern European countries: Egypt, Moldavia, Russia, Somalia, Ukraine, Zaire, Zimbabwe (Kozlov 1971, 1988; Kozlov & Kononova 1990; Mineo 1991; Kononova 1992, 1994). Therefore, it is new for France, and for Syria and the Middle East. Eggs of *E. integriceps* are the first known hosts.

Morphology. Kozlov and Kononova (1990), Mineo (1991) and Kononova (1992) redescribed the species and illustrated male and female antennae and wings. The male genitalia appear in figure 3B.

Tribe Baeini

Kozlov and Kononova (1990) did not include the tribe Baeini in the subfamily Scelioninae, but instead in the Baeinae.

Baeus Haliday

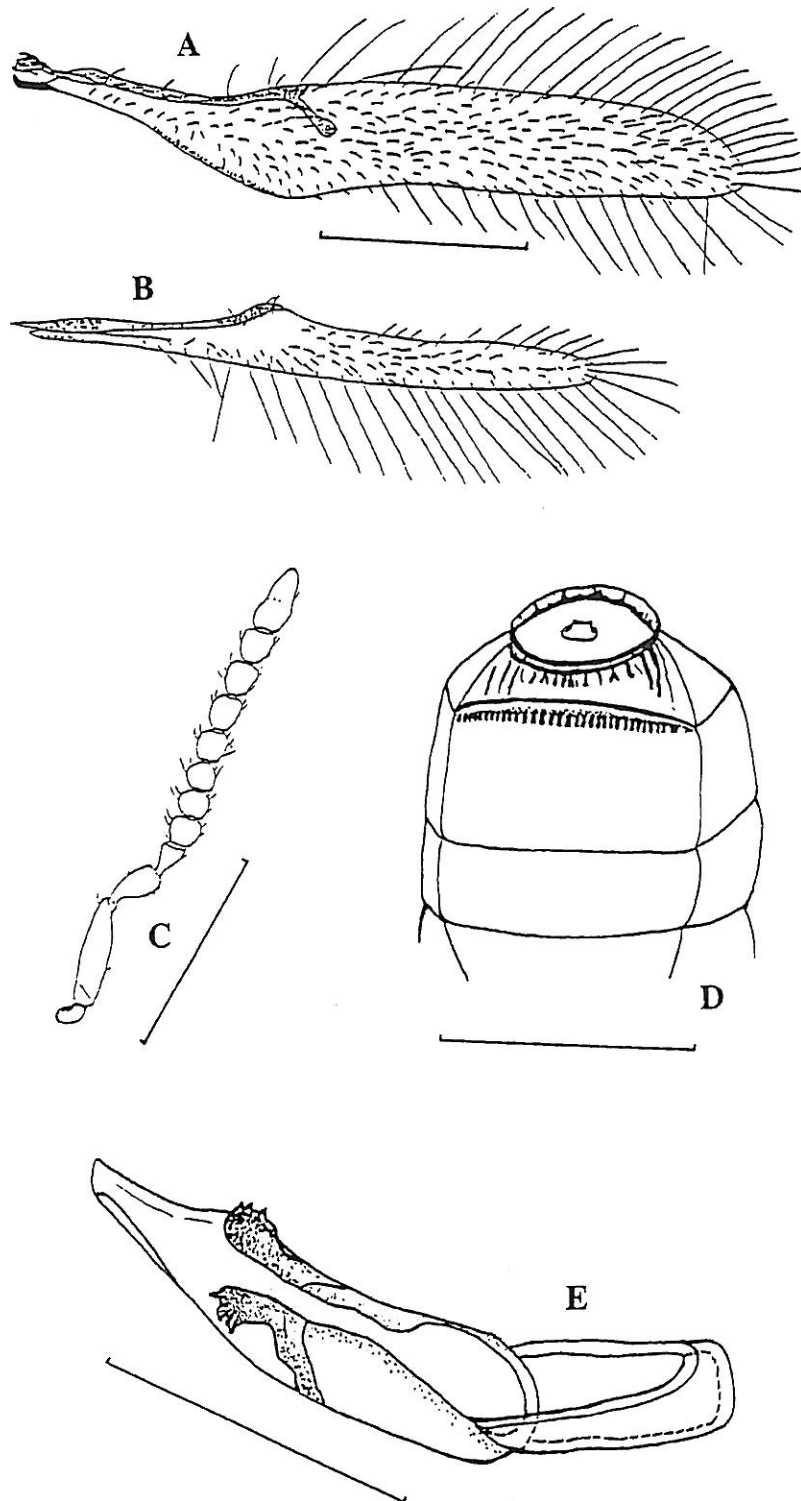
Kozlov (1971, 1988) noted *Hyperbaeus* Foerster as a synonym.

Baeus seminulum Haliday

Material examined. Eighteen females and 3 males collected in yellow pan traps: 14 females (2 females on 6 August 1991, 1 female on 22 September 1991, 1 female on 26 September 1991, 1 female on 1 October 1991, 1 female on 16 October 1991, 2 females on 29 October 1991, 2 females on 30 October 1991, 3 females on 1 November 1991 and 1 female on 9 November 1991) and 2 males (1 male on 10 August 1991 and 1 male on 22 September 1991) at Vénissieux, Rhône, France; 1 female (3 November 1991) at Monsols, Rhône, France; 3 females (1 female on 16 August 1993, 1 female on 28 August 1993 and 1 female on 1 September 1993) at Masseube, Gers, France; 1 male (27 August 1991) at Remédios, Island of S. Miguel, Azores, Portugal. The latter male was misidentified as *Idris* sp. by Pintureau and Pintureau (1996).

The species has previously been recorded from several European countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Moldavia and Russia (Debauche 1947; Hellén 1971; Kozlov 1971, 1988; Mineo 1979; Rollard 1991; Kononova & Fursov 1999). Therefore, it is new for France and Portugal (Azores). Its known hosts are spider eggs, especially of the families Argiopidae and Theridiidae, Rollard (1991) cited *Coelotus terrestris* Wid., *Dysdera erythrina* Walker, *Micryphantes* sp., *Tegenaria picta* Sim. and *Theridium* sp.

FIGURE 4. *Baeus seminulum*, male. A: forewing; B: hind wing; C: antenna; D: anterior part of the abdomen in ventral view; E: genitalia. Bar scale: 0.1mm (A, B, C and D) or 0.05mm (E).



Morphology. The female has been redescribed and well illustrated (Kozlov 1988; Kononova & Fursov 1999). On the contrary, male morphology has yet to be described and is provided here. Wings are narrow with long marginal setae (Fig. 4A, B), forewing 6.5 times as long as the maximum width with longest marginal setae almost as long as the maximum wing width, hind wing 8.5 times as long as the maximum width with longest marginal setae 1.6 times as long as the maximum wing width. Kozlov (1971, 1988) illustrated the forewing, but his drawing is erroneous: the wing is too wide (4.5 times as long as the maximum width) and has marginal setae that are too short (the longest 0.6 times as long as the maximum wing width). Antennae with 11 free segments; the 7 funicular segments are subequal and the last segment shows an indistinct suture in its middle (Fig. 4C). Abdominal T1 and T2 have numerous ridges, close to each other on T2 (Fig. 4D). Genitalia have well developed digiti (Fig. 4E). These males appear closely related to those of *B. japonicus* Kononova and Fursov; that species, however, shows slightly narrower forewing (6.6 times as long as the maximum width) with longer marginal setae (longest 1.3 times as long as the maximum wing width).

Idris Foerster

Kozlov and Kononova (1990) included the genus *Idris* in the tribe Idrini of the subfamily Baeinae. Huggert (1979) and Masner and Denis (1996) listed several synonyms: *Acoloides* Howard, *Ceratobaeus* Ashmead, *Megacolus* Priesner, *Philoplanus* Muesebeck and Walkley, *Pseudobaeus* Perkins, *Tasmanacolus* Hickman, *Tasmanibaeus* Hickman. However, Austin and Field (1997) maintained *Ceratobaeus* as a distinct genus.

Species of the *piceiventris* group (Huggert 1979)

Idris nigroclavatus (Kieffer)

Huggert (1979) listed *coxalis* Kieffer and *striativentris* Kieffer as synonyms.

Material examined. Two females collected by sifting of deadwood at Sainte-Foy-les-Lyon, Rhône, France, in December 1992 (material collected by R. Allemand).

The species has previously been recorded from several European countries: Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Moldavia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine (Kozlov 1971, 1988; Huggert 1979). In France, it was previously only known from Haute-Savoie, therefore it is new for the Rhône département. Hosts are unknown, but are probably spider eggs.

Morphology. Szabó (1965) redescribed *I. coxalis*, and Huggert (1979) more accurately redescribed and illustrated the species.

Idris piceiventris (Kieffer)

Huggert (1979) listed *aureopetiolatus* Ogloblin and *cernosvitovi* Ogloblin as synonyms.

Material examined. One female collected in a yellow pan trap at Vénissieux, Rhône, France, on 6 August 1991.

The species has been recorded from several European countries: Austria, Croatia, former Czechoslovakia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldavia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine (Kozlov 1971, 1988; Huggert 1979). Therefore, it is new for France. Hosts are spider eggs, probably such as *Meta segmentata* (Clerck) (Huggert 1979).

Morphology. Kozlov (1971) illustrated *I. aureopetiolatus*, and Huggert (1979) more accurately redescribed and illustrated the species.

Species of the *rufescens* group (Huggert 1979)*Idris rufescens* (Kieffer)

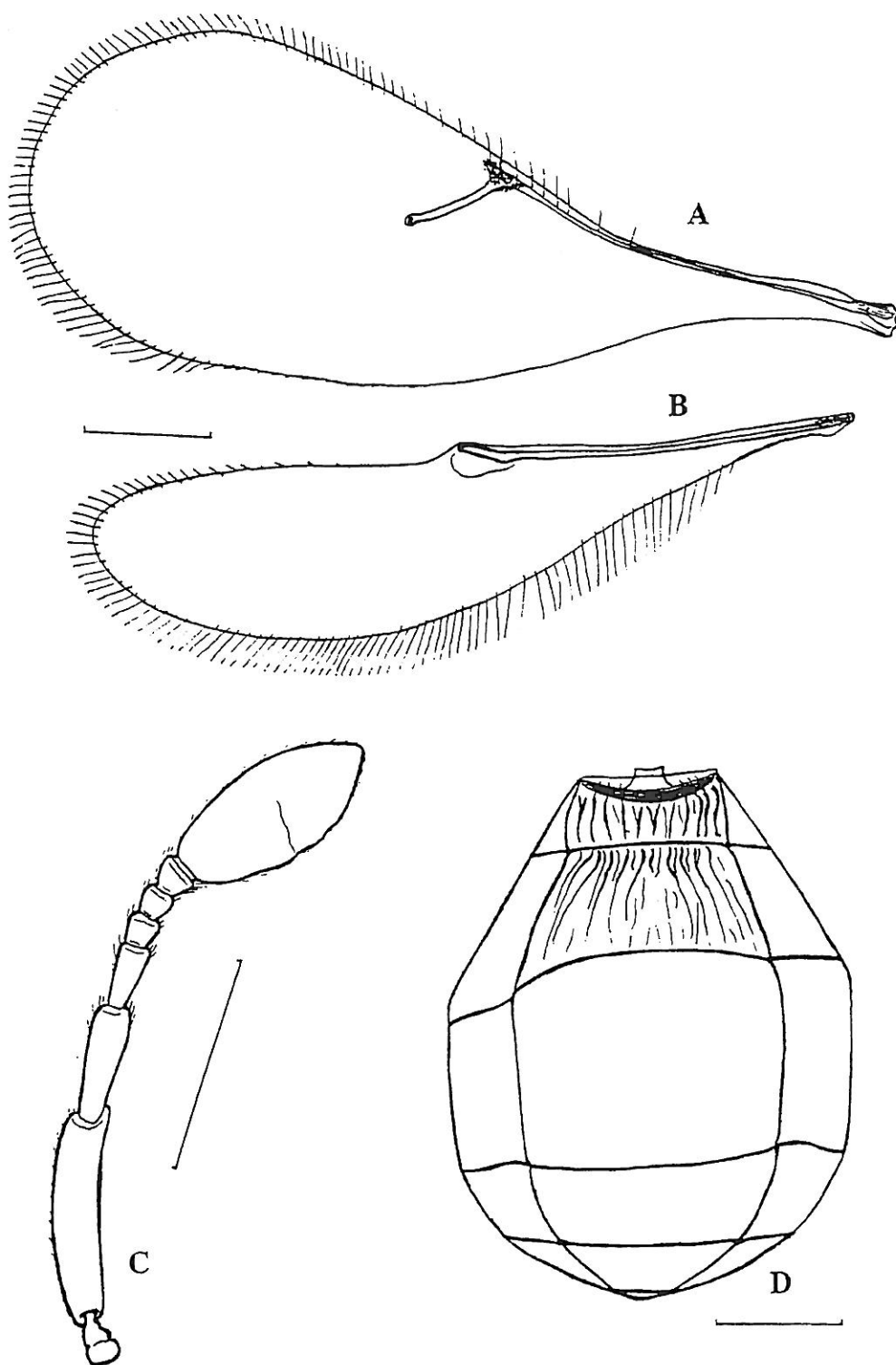
Huggert (1979) listed *adejensis* Huggert, *flavicornis* Kieffer and *kiefferi* Masner as synonyms.

Material examined. Two females collected in a yellow pan trap at Remédios, Island of S. Miguel, Azores, Portugal, on 1 September 1991.

The species has previously been recorded from several European countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Spain (including the Canary Islands) and Sweden (Huggert 1979). Therefore, it is new for Portugal (Azores). Hosts are unknown, but probably spider eggs.

Morphology. The species was redescribed and illustrated by Huggert (1979) who recognized several forms: most specimens, especially those from south Europe, are blackish with a paler abdomen, specimens from Sweden and some specimens from Hungary are brownish with a reddish abdomen, while specimens from the Canary Islands are more shiny and show broader wings with infumation. Females from Azores are brownish with paler head, antennae (except scapes) and legs, and look like the Canary Islands form. The forewing (Fig. 5A) and the hind wing (Fig. 5B) are broader (width/length or W/L=0.38 and 0.23, respectively) than in the Huggert (1979)'s specimen (W/L=0.34 and 0.18, respectively). The antenna (Fig. 5C) shows a longer pedicel and first funicular segment (L/scape length=0.54 and 0.29, respectively) than in the Huggert (1979)'s specimen (0.38 and 0.18, respectively). The abdomen (Fig. 5D) seems less broad (W/L=0.77) than in the Huggert (1979)'s specimen (W/L=0.80).

FIGURE 5. *Idris rufescens*, female. A: forewing; B: hind wing; C: antenna; D: abdomen in ventral view. Bar scale: 0.1mm.



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