

<https://doi.org/10.25221/fee.397.3>

<http://zoobank.org/References/0D0EBEB5-8B5E-47B7-AE31-3D49C67AACF8>

**FIRST RECORD OF *PSEUDEPIPONA KAZENASI* KURZENKO, 1974
(HYMENOPTERA: VESPIDAE) FROM MONGOLIA**

R. Yu. Abashev

Dorji Banzarov Buryat State University, Ulan-Ude, 670000, Russia.

E-mail: abashrom@yandex.ru

Summary. Solitary wasp *Pseudepipona kazenasi* Kurzenko, 1974 is recorded from Mongolia (South Gobi) for the first time. Some features of the ecology of this species are noted.

Key words: solitary wasps, fauna, Gobi, Palaearctic.

Р. Ю. Абашеев. Первое указание *Pseudepipona kazenasi* Kurzenko, 1974 (Hymenoptera, Vespidae) из Монголии // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2019. N 397. С. 13-15.

Резюме. Впервые для Монголии (Южная Гоби) приводится одиночная оса *Pseudepipona kazenasi* Kurzenko, 1974. Отмечены некоторые особенности экологии данного вида.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Pseudepipona* Saussure, 1856 is distributed predominantly in the Palaearctic region; two species occur in the Afrotropical region and just one species, *Pseudepipona herrichii* de Saussure, 1856, is distributed in North America. The genus includes two subgenera: *Deuterepipona* Blüthgen, 1951 and *Pseudepipona* s. str. Currently, 34 species of the genus are known in the World and 32 of them are present in the Palaearctic (Kurzenko, 2012; Antropov & Fateryga, 2017). Five species have been recorded in Mongolia: *Pseudepipona (Deuterepipona) herzi kozlovi* (Kostylev, 1937), *P. (Pseudepipona) augusta* (Morawitz, 1867), *P. (P.) herrichii mongolica* Giordani Soika, 1970, *P. (P.) kozhevnikovi* (Kostylev, 1927), and *P. (P.) przewalskyi* (Morawitz, 1885) (Kurzenko, 1977; Buyanjargal *et al.*, 2017). One new for the fauna of Mongolia species is recorded below.

The ecology of the genus is poorly known. Nesting biology and trophic links have been studied only for the Holarctic species *P. herrichii* (Spooner, 1934; Evans, 1978). Females of this species nest in sandy soil and hunt for caterpillars of Microlepidoptera (Gelechiidae and Tortricidae).

NEW RECORD

***Pseudepipona (Pseudepipona) kazenasi* Kurzenko, 1974**

Figs 1–2

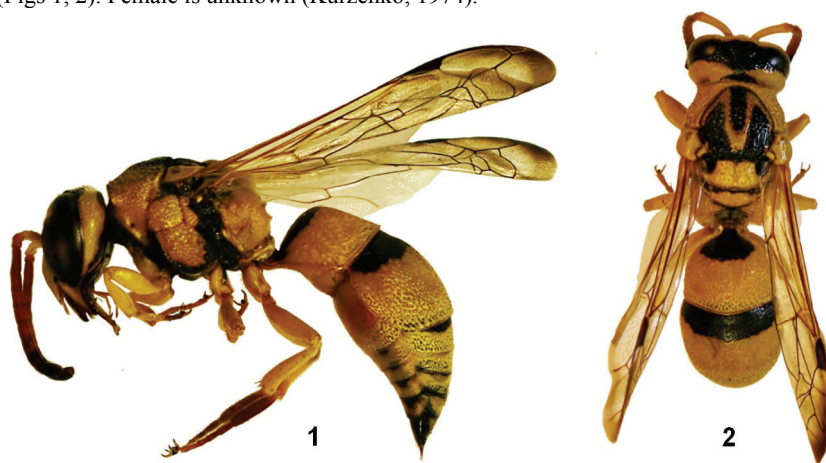
MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype, ♂ **Kazakhstan:** vicinity of Ayak-Kalkana, Ili River, 30.V 1971, leg. V.L. Kazenas. Paratype, ♂: *ibid.*, 21.VI 1971, leg. V.L. Kazenas [Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity of the Far East Branch of

the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia]. **Mongolia:** South Gobi, 44°03'20"N 101°50'13"E, 21.VI 2018, 1 ♂, leg. R.Yu. Abasheev [Dorji Banzarov Buryat State University].

DISTRIBUTION. Kazakhstan (southeastern part), Mongolia (South Gobi).

ECOLOGY. The specimen was collected on a saxaul branch [*Haloxylon ammodendron* (C. A. Mey.) Bunge ex Fenzl] with galls. It seemed that the wasp used these galls as a source of liquid which was probably used for nutrition. In the type locality of the species in the vicinity of Ayak-Kalkan (Kazakhstan), saxaul thickets are also widespread. It can be assumed that this species has some interactions with this plant.

REMARKS. The species is known only by 3 specimens. Unlike similar species *Pseud-epipona sellata* (Morawitz, 1885), *P. kazenasi* has yellow but not orange coloration and weaker sculpture and punctuation of the body. Hind tarsi are brown and first tarsal joint is slightly swollen. Wing apex is less fuscous. Scutum has a typical W-shaped yellow pattern (Figs 1, 2). Female is unknown (Kurzenko, 1974).



Figs 1, 2. Habitus of *Pseudepipona kazenasi* Kurzenko, male (Mongolia: South Gobi). 1 – lateral view; 2 – dorsal view.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to N. Tsevenmyadag (Ulaanbaatar) and S. Weigl (Linz) for organizing a trip to Gobi. A.V. Fateryga (T.I. Vyazemsky Karadag Scientific Station – Nature Reserve of RAS – Branch of A.O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of RAS, Feodosiya, Russia) provided valuable comments improved the first version of the paper. The work was supported by the Buryat State University grant (No. 19-01-0502).

REFERENCES

- Antropov, A.V. & Fateryga, A.V. 2017. Family Vespidae. P. 175–196. In: Lelej, A.S., Proshchalykin, M.Yu. & Loktionov, V.M. (Eds.). *Annotated catalogue of the Hymenoptera of Russia. Volume 1. Symphyta and Apocrita: Aculeata*. Russkaya kollektzia, St Petersburg. (*Proceedings of the Zoological Institute RAS, Supplement 6*), 475 p.
- Buyanjargal, B., Abasheev, R.Yu. & Dorzhiev, Ts.Z. 2017. *Solitary and social wasps (Hymenoptera, Vespidae) of Northern Mongolia*. Buryat State University Publishing Department, Ulan-Ude & Ulaanbaatar. 120 p. [In Russian] DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18101/978-5-9793-1001-5>

- Evans, H.E. 1978. Observations on the nests and prey of eumenid wasps (Hymenoptera, Eumenidae). *Psyche*, 84(3–4): 255–259. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1155/1977/49726>
- Kurzenko, N.V. 1974. New species of Eumenidae (Hymenoptera) from the south-east Kazakhstan. *Zoologicheskii Zhurnal*, 53(8): 1265–1267. [In Russian]
- Kurzenko, N.V. 1977. Eumenid wasps (Hymenoptera, Eumenidae) of the Mongolian People's Republic and adjacent regions of China and Southern Siberia. P. 537–582. In: Kerzhner, I.M. (Ed.). *Insects of Mongolia. Vol. 5*. Nauka, Leningrad. [In Russian]
- Kurzenko, N.V. 2012. Family Vespidae – vespids wasps. P. 415–423. In: Lelej, A.S. (Ed.). *Annotated Catalogue of the Insects of Russian Far East. Vol. 1. Hymenoptera*. Dalnauka, Vladivostok. 635 p. [In Russian]
- Spooner, G.M. 1934. Observations on *Odynerus (Lionotus) herrichi* Sauss. in Dorset. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, 70: 46–54.