

## Correspondence

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**A. S. Lelej. THE NEW SYNONYMY OF *PHYSETOPODA* SPECIES (HYMENOPTERA: MUTILLIDAE) FROM THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. – Far Eastern Entomologist. 2016. N 311: 7-8.**

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**Summary.** The new synonymy is proposed: *Physetopoda vanharteni* Lelej, 2014, male = *Physetopoda deserticola* Lelej, 2014, female, **syn. n.**

**Key words:** velvet ants, new synonymy, Arabian Peninsula.

**А. С. Лелей. Новая синонимия видов рода *Physetopoda* (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) из Объединенных Арабских Эмиратов // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2016. N 311. С. 7-8.**

**Резюме.** Установлена новая синонимия: *Physetopoda vanharteni* Lelej, 2014, самец = *Physetopoda deserticola* Lelej, 2014, самка, **syn. n.**

Five species of the genus *Physetopoda* Schuster, 1949 were recorded from the United Arab Emirates: *Ph. vanharteni* Lelej, 2014, ♂; *Ph. arabica* Lelej, 2014, ♂; *Ph. schwarzi* Lelej, 2014, ♂; *Ph. deserticola* Lelej, 2014, ♀, and *Ph. tschernovi* Lelej, 2014, ♂ (Lelej & van Harten, 2014a, b). They are nocturnal species, except diurnal *Ph. tschernovi*. Recently I received the material collected from January to September 2015 at Al Wathba Wetland Reserve (UAE, Abu Dhabi) by Malaise trap, which belongs to *Ph. vanharteni* Lelej, 2014, 108♂; *Ph. deserticola* Lelej, 2014, 1♀, and *Rasnitsynitilla* sp., 12♂. Furthermore, the single female of *Ph. deserticola* was collected by Malaise trap together with seven males of *Ph. vanharteni* in January and I think that at least one pair was caught *in copula*; therefore they are the opposite sexes of the same species.

### TAXONOMY

#### *Physetopoda vanharteni* Lelej, 2014

*Physetopoda vanharteni* Lelej in Lelej & van Harten, 2014a: 507, ♂ (holotype, United Arab Emirates: Wadi Bih dam, 4-9.VI 2008, Light trap, van Harten [RMNH], examined).

*Physetopoda deserticola* Lelej in Lelej & van Harten, 2014a: 516, ♀ (holotype, United Arab Emirates: Sharjah Desert Park, 16.VI–17.VII 2008, Light trap, van Harten [RMNH], examined); **syn. n.**

**MATERIAL EXAMINED** (Additional to the type material recorded by Lelej & Van Harten, 2014a). **United Arab Emirates:** Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, January 2015, Malaise trap, 7♂ 1♀, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten; same place, February 2015, Malaise trap, 4♂, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten; same place, March 2015, Malaise trap, 22♂, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten; same place, April 2015, Malaise trap, 2♂, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten; same place, May 2015, Malaise trap, 4♂, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten; same place, June 2015, Malaise

trap, 4♂, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten; same place, July 2015, Malaise trap, 48♂, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten; same place, 1–15.VIII 2015, Malaise trap, 11♂, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten; same place, 15.IX–31.X 2015, Malaise trap, 6♂, leg. A. Saji & A. van Harten.

DISTRIBUTION. United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

SEASONAL DYNAMIC. The males and females are active most part of the year (Fig. 1). The occurrence of females in November-February reflects their overwintering, while the males have the peak of activity in July. The females of *Ph. vanharteni* were collected mainly by pitfall traps, while the males mainly by light traps.

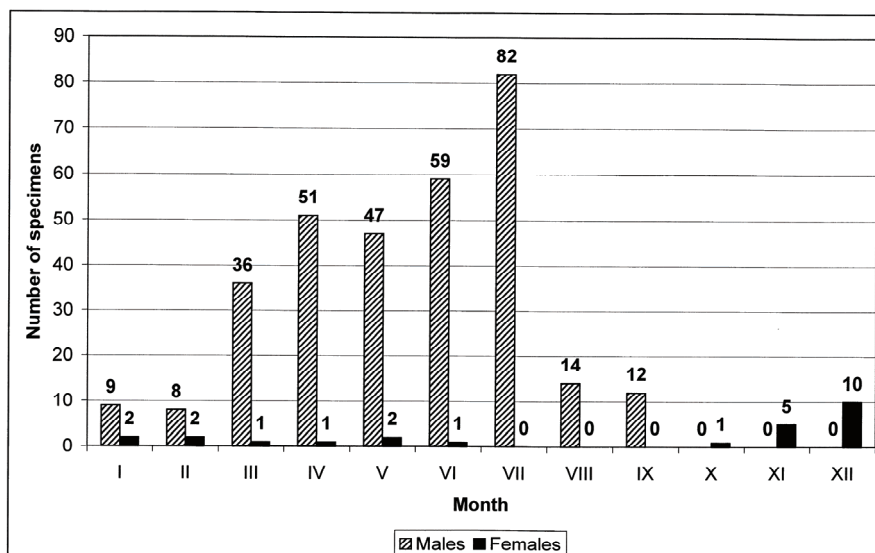


Fig. 1. Seasonal dynamic of *Physetopoda vanharteni* based on published (Lelej & van Harten, 2014a) and current data.

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