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A. Cheraghi¹⁾, M. Esfandiari²⁾. THE FIRST REARING OF *COELICHNEUMON SINGULARIS* (BERTHOUMIEU, 1892) (HYMENOPTERA: ICHNEUMONIDAE) FROM THE SUGARCANE BORER *SESAMIA CRETICA* LEDERER, 1857 (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE). – *Far Eastern Entomologist*. 2016. N 323: 14-15.

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Summary. *Coelichneumon singularis* Berthoumieu, 1892 is reared from the sugarcane stem borer *Sesamia cretica* Led. for the first time and newly recorded from south-western Iran.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, sugarcane borer, parasite, wasp, Hymenoptera, Ichneumoninae, Heresiarchini, new record, Iran.

А. Шераги, М. Есфандиари. Первый случай выведения *Coelichneumon singularis* (Berthoumieu, 1892) (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) из совки *Sesamia cretica* Lederer, 1857 (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2016. N 323. С. 14-15.

Резюме. *Coelichneumon singularis* Berthoumieu, 1892 выведен впервые из совки *Sesamia cretica* Led. и указывается впервые из юго-западного Ирана.

INTRODUCTION

Recently *Coelichneumon singularis* Berthoumieu, 1892 (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae, Ichneumoninae, Heresiarchini) was recorded from Iran (Masnadi-Yazdinejad & Sadeghi, 2006; Masnadi-Yazdinejad & Jussila, 2008; Barahoei *et al.*, 2012). This species was known as the parasite of *Catocala nymphaea* (Esper, 1787) and *C. nymphagoga* (Esper, 1787) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) (Yu *et al.*, 2012). We reared this parasite from sugarcane stem borer *Sesamia cretica* Led. for the first time from south-western Iran.

RESULTS

Coelichneumon singularis Berthoumieu, 1892

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Iran: Khuzestan Prov., Amir-Kabir Sugarcane Co., 7 m, 31°06'N 48°18'E, VIII-IX 2015, 25♀, 55♂; Debal-Khozaii Sugarcane Co., 8 m, 31°08'N 48°35'E, VIII-IX 2015, 52♀, 46♂.

DIAGNOSIS. Body length 10-14 mm, face width 1/1-1/2 × longer than its height, legs and metasomal segments brownish-red except dark red segment 1, lateral margin of scutellum white. Male. Reddish triangular clasper at tip of metasoma, metacoxa without scopa, pro- and mesocoxae more or less ivory, flagellum without ivory ring. Female. Ovipositor black, metacoxa ventrally with scopa, all coxae red, flagellum with an ivory ring.

BIOLOGY. After collecting pupa of *Sesamia cretica* in the field, the wasps emerged from it in the laboratory a few days later. *Sesamia cretica* is most important pest of sugarcane in south-western Iran and identification of the new parasite *Coelichneumon singularis* would be significant in biological control of this sugarcane borer. Further studies are needed to investigate the efficiency of this wasp in the field. Currently the most important method for the control of *Sesamia cretica* in Khuzestan is releasing the egg parasitoid *Telenomus busseolae* Gahan, 1922 (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae).

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