

Eumenidae from the Jeddah region of Saudi Arabia (Hymenoptera: Aculeata)

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Abstract. An illustrated key to the potter wasps (Eumenidae) collected from the Jeddah region (West of Saudi Arabia) is given. It includes 15 species and subspecies, of which four species and one subspecies are new to the fauna of Saudi Arabia. These are: *Allodynerus vinciguerrae*, *Antepipona* sp., *Delta esuriens*, *Knemodynerus excellens*, and *Rhynchium oculatum distinguendum*. This key is followed by an annotated list that provides synonyms, local and geographical distributions.

Kurzfassung. Für die Lehmwespen (Eumenidae) aus der Gegend von Jeddah im westlichen Saudi-Arabien wird ein Bestimmungsschlüssel erstellt. Er umfasst 15 Arten und Unterarten, von denen vier Arten und eine Unterart neu für Saudi-Arabien sind. Es handelt sich um: *Allodynerus vinciguerrae*, *Antepipona* sp., *Delta esuriens*, *Knemodynerus excellens* und *Rhynchium oculatum distinguendum*. Zum Schlüssel gehören eine kommentierte Liste mit Synonymen und Verbreitungsangaben.

Key words. Hymenoptera, Eumenidae, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, taxonomy.

Introduction

Potter wasps (Eumenidae) are solitary wasps that are widely distributed in all continents. The first work dealing with the Arabian Eumenidae was by GIORDANI SOIKA (1957) who recorded 24 species of which three were new to science. This work was followed by two other papers (1979, 1980), where he added about 12 undescribed species collected by GUICHARD from Oman. In 1985, GUICHARD enumerated 76 Arabian species, adding five new ones to this fauna. WAHIS (2000) listed 17 Arabian eumenid species from the subfamily Eumeninae.

In the present work, a key is presented for the 15 eumenid species and subspecies found in the Jeddah Region, Western Saudi Arabia, between 2000 and 2002. Four species and one subspecies are new to Saudi Arabia according to GUICHARD (1985): *Allodynerus vinciguerrae*, *Antepipona* sp., *Delta esuriens*, *Knemodynerus excellens*, and *Rhynchium oculatum distinguendum*.

Material and methods

Regular surveys of adult solitary eumenid wasps were undertaken from 2000 to 2002, covering various areas in the Jeddah region. Sampling was done by means of a Japanese net and a Malaise trap which was erected at Hadasham (near Jeddah). The identification of some species was confirmed by J. GUSENLEITNER (Linz Museum, Austria). Drawings were made using a camera lucida. – **Abbreviations:** AS= antennal segment; T= tergum; S= sternum.