

Spider wasps collected from the western region of Saudi Arabia

(Hymenoptera: Pompilidae)

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Abstract. A faunistic list of spider wasps (Pompilidae) collected from the western region of Saudi Arabia is presented. It comprises 29 species belonging to 18 genera in three subfamilies, of which 22 are newly recorded from Saudi Arabia. The previously unknown male of *Agenioideus spiniprivus* (Priesner) is discussed. This first part is followed by a list of the species names previously recorded from Saudi Arabia or which are expected to occur there.

Key words. Hymenoptera, Pompilidae, Saudi Arabia, taxonomy, new records.

Introduction

Spider wasps (Pompilidae) are a very large group of Hymenoptera, widely distributed but predominantly tropical. Members of this family vary considerably in size, general appearance and colouration. Black is the predominant colour, often marked with red, white or yellow. They are solitary wasps in which each larva develops in a single paralyzed spider; rarely, they are ectoparasites of an active spider or cleptoparasites in a cell provisioned by another pompilid (GOULET & HUBER 1993).

The family Pompilidae has received little attention in the Arabian Peninsula. Major studies are those by KOHL (1906), who recorded a number of species from Aden (Yemen); PRIESNER (1955), who reported four species from Hijaz and Yemen in his monograph of the Pompilidae of Egypt; SHALABY (1961), who listed three species from the Jeddah region (west of Saudi Arabia) in his list of Saudi Arabian insect species; WALKER & PITTAWAY (1987), who recorded three pompilids from eastern Arabia; and WAHIS (2000), who described six new species in three genera from Yemen in his study of the Pompilidae and Eumenidae of Yemen, also establishing new specific and generic synonyms.

The present work contains a faunistic list of the Pompilidae collected from the western region of Saudi Arabia which is followed by a list of species previously recorded from Saudi Arabia. Twenty nine species belonging to 18 genera were collected, of which 22 species, marked in the text by asterisk, are new to Saudi Arabia. The previously unknown male of *Agenioideus spiniprivus* (Priesner) is also discussed.

Abbreviations. Aed = aedeagus; Cs = cuspis; Dg = digitus; F = flagellar joint; Gs = gonostylus; Pv = penis valve; SGP = subgenital plate; SMC = submarginal cell of fore wing; T_{1,2-7} = tergites 1, 2-7.