Short Communication

NEW RECORD OF VESPA SOROR DU BUYSSON (HYMENOPTERA : VESPIDAE) FROM INDIA

INTRODUCTION

The species Vespa soror du Buysson is so far reported from China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam (Das & Gupta, 1989 and Carpenter & Kojima, 1997). Kundu et al. (2006) listed the vespid fauna of Arunachal Pradesh state. Thus this short communication is intended to report the extended distribution of this species in India.

Vespa soror du Buysson

(Plate-I)


Diagnosis: Female. Size 23-26 mm. Fore wing 22-24 mm. Head, anterior border of pronotum, scutellum, postscutellum and two marks on propodeum yellow. Area around ocelli black; gastral segment 1 and 2 yellow with reddish brown stripes in the middle; 3rd to 6th tergites wholly black. Head strongly widened, produced behind the eyes; temple in profile 2x as wide as eye; posterior ocelli 3x farther from occiput than from eye; clypeus coarsely punctate, strongly emarginated apically, lateral lobes large and broadly rounded.

Variations: In some specimens colour of head, scutellum, postscutellum and first two gastral segments brownish yellow.

Discussion: This species comes close to Vespa mandarinia Smith in having head strongly widened and produced behind the eyes; temple in profile more than 1.8x as wide as eye and posterior ocelli 3x or more than 3x farther from occiput than from eye. But it distinctly differs from V. mandarinia in having: (1). Area around ocelli with black markings. (in V. mandarinia area around ocelli without black markings); (2). Scutellum, postscutellum, two marks on propodeum
and often with anterior border of pronotum yellow or orange red. (in *V. mandarinia* thorax usually black, reddish); (3). 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} gastral tergites yellow and usually with reddish brown or black stripes in the middle, 3\textsuperscript{rd} to 6\textsuperscript{th} tergites wholly black. (in *V. mandarinia* abdomen reddish brown with narrow yellow apical bands on 1\textsuperscript{st} to 5\textsuperscript{th} tergites, last tergite yellowish brown); (4). Gena proportionately thinner (in *V. mandarinia* gena proportionately wider).


All specimens are deposited at the ‘National Zoological Collections’ of the Hymenoptera Section, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (NZSI).

*Distribution*: India: Arunachal Pradesh.


*Remarks*: This is the first report of the species from India.

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**REFERENCES**


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