

Redescription of *Echthroxplexiella irinae* from Orenburg Province, Russia (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae)

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Echthroxplexiella irinae Nikolskaya, 1952 from Orenburg Province of Russia is redescribed. The species is compared with *E. orientalis* Hoffer, 1953 from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

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In 1930's, investigations of the insect fauna of virgin steppe lands in Orenburg Province of Russia were undertaken under the guidance of Professor Grigory Ya. Bey-Bienko. One of collectors there was Mrs. Irina A. Tshetyrkina. Among her samples, Dr. Maria N. Nikolskaya found a female of a new species belonging to the encyrtid genus *Echthroxplexiella* Mercet, 1921. She described it very briefly in a key (Nikolskaya, 1952) and indicated erroneously "West Siberia" as the type locality. Since then the species has never been redescribed.

Echthroxplexiella irinae Nikolskaya, 1952 (see Figure)

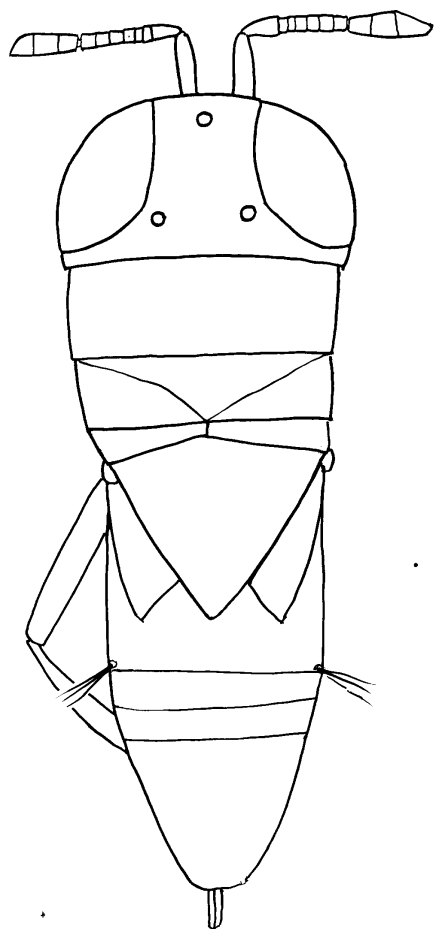
Nikolskaya, 1952: 361.

Lectotype (present designation). ♀, **Russia**, *Orenburg Prov.*: "Orsk, virgin land, Ass[ociation] 6, 21.VII.1936 (I. Tshetyrkina)"; Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg. This is the single specimen in the collection; it was mentioned as holotype in some papers, but not in the original description.

Description. Female (see Figure). Body moderately elongate. Head (in frontal view) a little wider than high. Vertex about 1/3 head width. Ocelli small, forming an angle about 20°; posterior ocelli near eye margins; distance between them somewhat less than distance from posterior to anterior ocellus; distance from posterior ocelli to occipital margin almost twice the distance to eye margins. Eyes slightly not touching margin of occiput, which is faintly and smoothly concave. Antennal toruli at the level of inferior margins of eyes; distance between toruli subequal to distance from a torulus to eye margin. Malar space less than greatest diameter of eye (2 : 3). Oral orifice about 1/4 head width; mouth margin slightly concave. Antennal scape not broadened, short, somewhat

less than 4 times as long as wide and 2.5 times as long as pedicel; pedicel as long as 1st-3rd and a half of 4th funicular segments combined; 1st and 2nd segments small, somewhat wider than long; 3rd segment quadrate, a little wider than long; clava 3-segmented, only a little shorter than funicle and somewhat wider than 6th funicular segment (4 : 3), 2.5 times as long as wide; dorsal and ventral margins of clava parallel; apex of clava with dorsal truncation, which is oblique, slightly convex, and half as long as dorsal margin of clava. Pronotum not short, 2.5 times as wide as long. Parapsidal lines of mesoscutum well developed, complete; mesoscutum shorter than pronotum (3 : 5), 3.2 times as wide as long. Scutellum flat, 2.5 times as long as mesoscutum; maximum width of scutellum equal to its length; lateral margins of scutellum almost straight, converging at an angle somewhat less than 90°; apex of scutellum pointed. Wings rudimentary; apices of rudimentary forewings reaching posterior margin of 1st gastral (III abdominal) tergite or slightly surpassing it; each rudiment 2.5 times as long as its maximum width; submarginal vein of the forewing rudiment well developed. Mesopleura reaching base of gaster. Mesotibial spur as long as 1/4 of tibia. Propodeum very short. Gaster as long as mesosoma. 1st gastral tergite twice as wide as long, occupying 2/5 of the length of gaster; 2nd tergite very short, about 7 times as wide as long, 0.25 times as long as 1st tergite in the middle and 0.42 times at sides; 3rd tergite shorter than 2nd. Pygostyles at the level of half of the gaster length. Ovipositor slightly exerted; gaster about 7.5 times as long as the exerted parts of ovipositor sheaths.

Frontovertex brown-orange-yellow. Cheeks and face orange-yellow. Antennal scape orange-yellow, with darkened apex and with dark stripe along



Echthroplexiella irinae Nikolskaya, female, holotype.

ventral margin in its apical half; pedicel brown-yellow, somewhat darkened; funicle yellowish brown; clava dark. Pronotum brownish yellow; its posterior, membranous part dark with greenish bronze-violet luster. Mesoscutum darkened inside of parapsidal lines, with similar luster, but lighter outside of these lines. Tegulae yellowish, with infusate apices. Axillae and scutellum black, with faint bronze lustre. Mesopleura green-violet. Legs, including all coxae, yellow or brownish yellow, with dark anterior tarsi and apical segment of middle and posterior tarsi. Exserted part of ovipositor sheaths darkened.

Frontovertex with very minute cellulate sculpture. Hind part of pronotum and all mesoscutum with larger cellulate sculpture. Sculpture of axillae and scutellum deep, not longitudinal, that of posterior parts of mesopleura largely cellulate.

Body length 1.1 mm.

Male unknown.

Comments. *Echthroplexiella irinae* shares with *E. orientalis* Hoffer, 1953 from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary (Hoffer, 1953, 1957; Erdős, 1964) the following characters: wings strongly abbreviate, width of vertex is about 1/3 of the width of head. It differs from *E. orientalis* mainly in the 3-segmented antennal clava and yellow legs. Previously, in keys, I erroneously treated the clava of *E. irinae* as entire (Trjapitzin, 1989, 2006). It is difficult, in fact, to see this segmentation of antennal clava.

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I am indebted to my late friend Dr. Augustin Hoffer for opportunity to study the type material of the genus *Echthroplexiella* in his private encyrtid collection in Prague. The collection of Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg, is supported by Rosnauka for UFC no. 2-2.20.

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