

New species of egg parasites from the Oil Palm Stick Insect (*Eurycantha insularis*) in Papua New Guinea (Hymenoptera, Chrysididae, Phasmatodea, Phasmatidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of amisequine chrysidids, *Cladobethylus insularis* and *Exova tunana*, are described. Both species were reared from eggs of the stick insect, *Eurycantha insularis* Lucas (Phasmatidae), collected from infestations of oil palm pests in Papua New Guinea. This is the first host record for either genus.

Keywords

Cladobethylus, *Exova*

Introduction

Outbreaks of the oil palm stick insect, *Eurycantha insularis* Lucas, 1869 (Figs 1, 2), occurred in 2007 and 2008 in smallholder oil palm plantations in the Tunana smallholder blocks in Northern (Oro) Province, Papua New Guinea. Damage caused by these stick



1.



2.



3.

Figures 1–3. *Eurycantha insularis* Lucas **1** feeding damage in Tunana small holding oil palm plantation in Papua New Guinea **2** Male **3** Female with parasitized egg; egg not to scale.

insects can be seen in Fig. 3. Eggs from this stick insect were regularly collected during these infestations and two new species of chrysidid egg parasites, *Exova tunana* sp. n. and *Cladobethylus insularis* sp. n. described below were reared from the eggs. There is no information on the ecology of these parasitoids except for the rearing information.

There are seven named species of *Cladobethylus* and two species of *Exova* described prior to those described below (Kimsey and Bohart 1991, Kimsey 2011). The new species of *Cladobethylus* described below is the second one recorded from New Guinea. *Exova* is known from northern Australia and Fiji, so it is not surprising to find a species in Papua New Guinea.

Materials and methods

Specimens were all reared by the second and third authors and their staff at PNGO-PRA, Higaturu Centre, Northern Province, Papua New Guinea.

Types are deposited in the following museums and institutions: CANBERRA – Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra, ACT, Australia; DAVIS – Bohart Museum of Entomology, University of California, Davis, USA; KIMBE – Papua New Guinea, PNG Oil Palm Research Association Dami Research Station, Kimbe, West New Britain Province; LONDON – The Natural History Museum, London, England, and PORT MORESBY – the National Insect Collection, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Cladobethylus insularis Kimsey & Dewhurst, sp. n.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:B4B4A207-A0D8-43E8-87D2-1E76C0F155E0

http://species-id.net/wiki/Cladobethylus_insularis

Figs 4–10

Holotype male. Papua New Guinea, Northern (Oro) Province, Higaturu, ex *Eurycantha insularis* egg, second generation coll. 23/ii/2009, died 23/ii/2009 C. F. Dewhurst, No. 888 (LONDON).

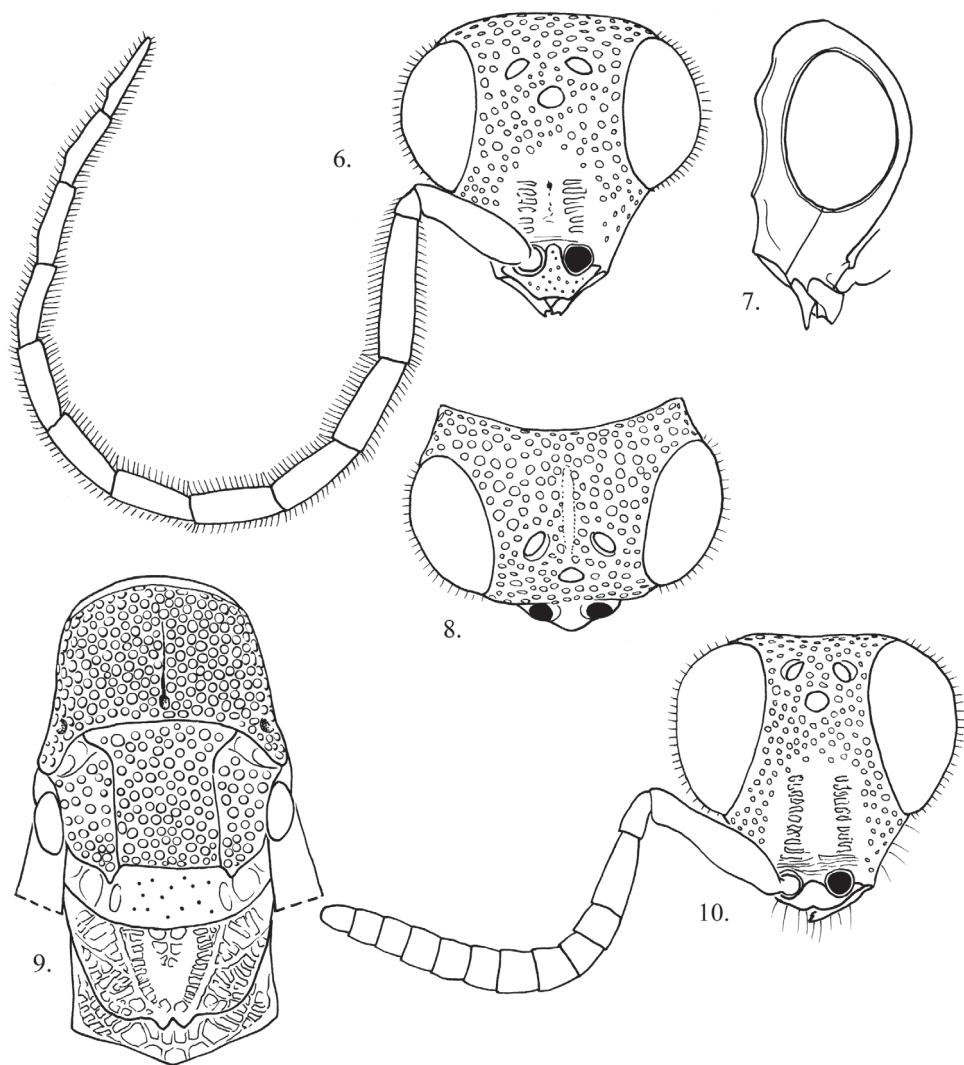
Paratypes (17 males, 3 females): same data as holotype except: 1 male, 1st generation, em. (emerged) 28/xii/2008, died 5/i/2009, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 855; 1 male, 1st generation, emerged 28/xii/2008, died 5/i/2009, S. Nyaure, No. 855; 1 female, 1st generation, emerged 8/ii/2008, died 14/ii/2008, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 833; 1 male, 1st generation, emerged 6/i/2009, died 17/i/2009, S. Nyaure, No. 869; 1 male, 1st generation, emerged 2/i/2009, died 9/i/2009, S. Nyaure, No. 862; 1 male, 1st generation, emerged & dead 22, 23, 25/i/2009, S. Nyaure, No. 875; 1 male, 2nd generation, coll. 3/ii/2009, died 16/ii/2009, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 887; 1 male, Higaturu Oil Palms, coll. 8/v/2007, H9/vi/2007, C. F. Dewhurst, Nos. 823; 3 males, 2nd generation, coll. 25/vii/2009, died 27/vii/2009, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 893, 894, 895; 1 male, 2nd generation, coll. 5/ii/2009, died 20/ii/2009, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 890; 1 male, 1 female,



Figures 4–5. *Cladobethylus insularis*, side views **4** Male **5** Female.

2nd generation, coll. 26/i/2009, died 16/ii/2009, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 881, 882; 1 male; 2nd generation, coll. 8/ii/2009, died 16/ii/2009, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 8923; 1 male, 2nd generation, coll. 2/ii/2009, died 15/ii/2009, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 886; 1 male, emerged 12/ii/2008, died 17/ii/2008, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 837; 1 female, 2nd generation, coll. 27/i/2009, died 21/ii/2009, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 883 (CANBERRA, LONDON, DAVIS, KIMBE, PORT MORESBY).

Diagnosis. This is the largest bodied species of *Cladobethylus*, with males averaging twice the length of the known other species. Male *insularis* can be distinguished from *aquilus*, the only other species known from New Guinea by the longer malar



Figures 6–10. *Cladobethylus insularis* **6–8** Male head **6** Front view **7** Lateral view **8** Dorsal view **9** Dorsal view of male mesosoma, wings removed **10** Front view of female face.

space (4 midocellus diameters versus 3.5 in *aquilus*), pronotum not blue-tinted, much broader zone of cross-ridging in the scapal basin, legs brown instead of yellow (*aquilus*) flagellomere I shorter (4.5× as long as broad versus 5× in *aquilus*) and flagellomere XI shorter (5× as long as broad versus 6× in *aquilus*). Features of female *insularis* not shared with other *Cladobethylus* include the bicolored antenna and legs, long clypeus (0.8 midocellus diameter long versus 0.3–0.6 midocellus diameters in other species), and narrow distance between the midocellus and nearest eye margin (up to 2 midocellus diameters versus 2.6–2.7 midocellus diameters in the others).

Description. Male (Fig. 4). *Body length.* 5–7 mm.

Head (Figs 6–8). Face about as long as broad across the eyes; genal area without foveae; midocellus 1.8 diameters from ocular margin; hindocelli 4 diameters from posterior margin of vertex; scapal basin with narrow, longitudinal submedial band of cross-ridges; malar space 3.5–3.8 midocellus diameters; subantennal distance 1 midocellus diameter long; flagellomere I 4× as long as broad; flagellomere II 2.8–3.0× as long as broad; flagellomere IX 5× as long as broad, flagellar setae 0.7 midocellar diameter long; ocular setulae 0.4 midocellus diameter long.

Mesosoma (Fig. 9). Pronotum about as long as scutum; punctuation on pronotum, scutum and mesopleuron large, deep and nearly contiguous punctuation, without scrobal sulcus or omaulus; scutellum polished with scattered tiny punctures; meta-pleuron polished, impunctate.

Metasoma. Tergum I polished with few tiny highly scattered punctures; tergum II with two large ovoid patches of small punctures, 1 puncture diameter apart, separated medially by impunctate band and with broad apical impunctate band; terga III–IV with tiny punctures 1 puncture diameter apart, becoming sparser toward apical margin.

Color. Head, meso- and metasoma black with metallic bluish green highlights dorsally on head, pronotum and scutellum, sometimes faint on metasomal terga; mandible and antenna dark brown; legs light reddish brown, except coxae dark brown to black basally; wing membrane brown-tinted, darkest in vicinity of stigma; wing veins dark brown.

Female (Fig. 5). *Body length*. 4.5–5.5 mm. As in the male, except face (Fig. 10) about as long as broad across the eyes; malar space 3.6–3.8 midocellus diameters; subantennal distance 0.8 midocellus diameter; flagellomere I 2.4× as long as broad; flagellomere II long as broad; flagellomere IX 1.3× as long as broad; scape, pedicel black, flagellomeres I–III white, remaining flagellomeres black; coxae, femora, mid and hindtibiae black basally, whitish apically; foretibia and tarsi brown; wing membrane brown-tinted with dark brown veins.

Etymology. The species is named after the host species.

***Exova tunana* Kimsey & Dewhurst, sp. n.**

[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:74C249EB-0312-4710-A9E1-178BEA990A75](http://zoobank.org/act:74C249EB-0312-4710-A9E1-178BEA990A75)

http://species-id.net/wiki/Exova_tunana

Figs 11–18

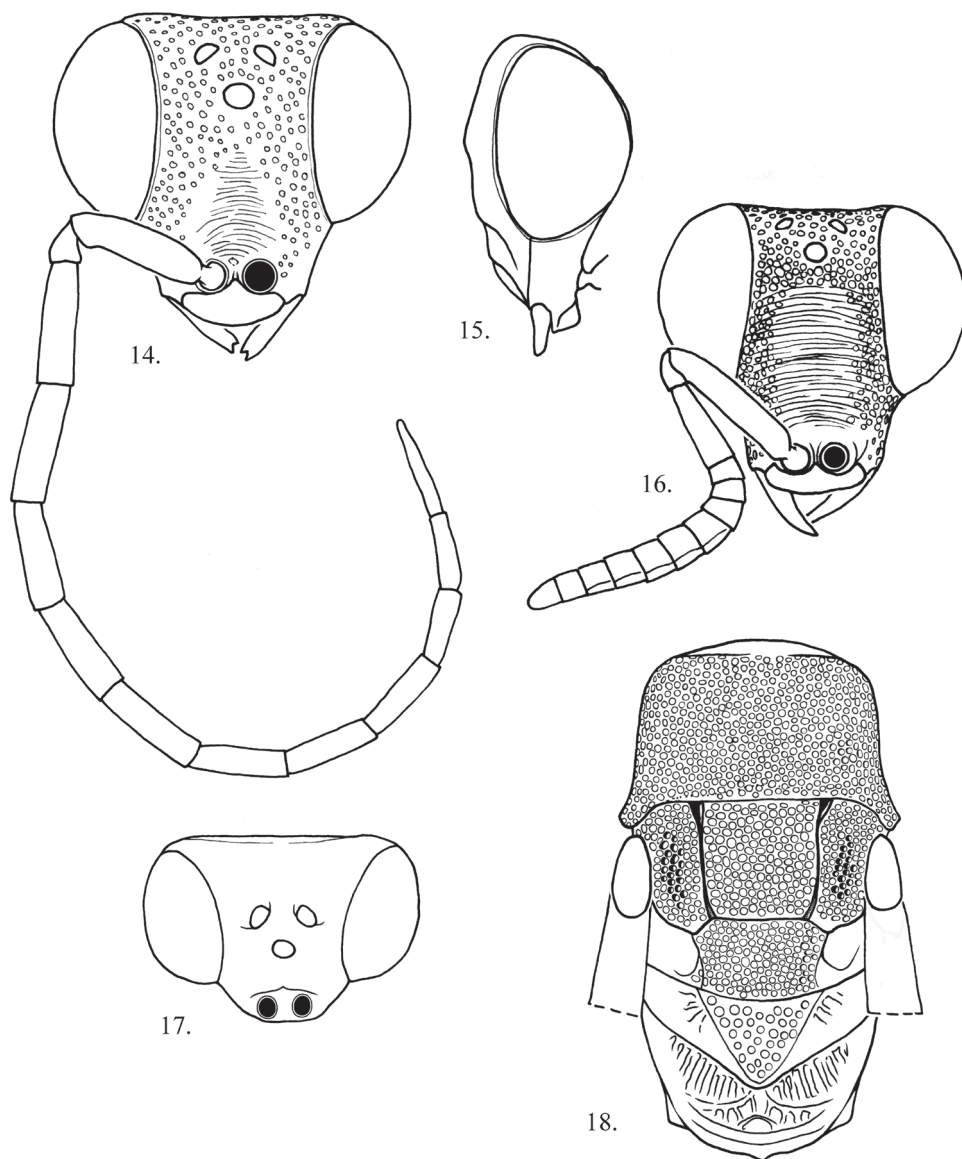
Holotype male. Papua New Guinea, Northern (Oro) Province, Saiho Division (Tunana), ex *Eurycantha insularis* egg, emerged 27/vii/2007, died 30/vii/2007, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 828 (LONDON).

Paratypes: 1 male, emerged 5/ii/2008, died 13/ii/2008, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 831; 1 female, emerged 10/ii/2008, died 15/ii/2008, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 835; 1 female, Higaturu, 1st generation, coll. 2/vi/2008, died 12/vi/2008, C. F. Dewhurst, No. 841 (CANBERRA, DAVIS, KIMBE, PORT MORESBY).

Diagnosis. This is the largest bodied species of *Exova*. Female *tunana* can be distinguished from *fijiensis* Kimsey by the long spine-like propodeal angle (a feature shared



Figures 11–13. *Exova tunana*, side views 11 Male 12 Female 13 Dorsal view of female Mesosoma.



Figures 14–18. *Exova tunana* **14, 15, 18** Male head **14** Front view **15** Lateral view **18** Dorsal view **16** Female head front view. **17** Dorsal view of male mesosoma, wings removed.

with *tetraspina*), which is conical in *fijiensis*. Female *fijiensis* can be distinguished from *tetraspina* by the more weakly produced medial propodeal projections and the highly polished and smooth metapleuron and propodeum. Male *tunana* can be distinguished from *fijiensis* by the shorter distance from the midocellus to ocular margin (2 midocellus diameters or less in *tunana* versus 2.5 midocellus diameters in *fijiensis*), flagel-

lomeres I and II equivalent versus I much longer than broad than II in *fijiensis* and the body with bluish green tints versus brassy in *fijiensis*.

Description. Male (Fig. 11). *Body length*. 5.0–5.5 mm.

Head (Figs 14, 15, 17). Face 1.0–1.2 × as long as broad across the eyes; face between scapal basin and vertex with punctures separated by about 1 puncture diameter; scapal basin with cross-ridged medial zone occupying one-third of area between inner eye margins; midocellus 1.9 diameter from ocular margin; malar space 2.5 midocellus diameters; subantennal distance 1 midocellus diameter long; flagellomeres I–II 3.5–3.6 × as long as broad; flagellomere IX 6 × as long as broad; flagellar setae short, 0.1 midocellus diameter long; ocular setulae minute or absent; postocular distance 0.4 midocellus diameter wide.

Mesosoma (Fig. 18). Pronotum about as long as scutum; mesopleural punctures nearly contiguous, without scrobal sulcus or omaulus; metapleuron horizontally cross-ridged.

Metasoma. Tergum I polished, nearly impunctate with scattered tiny punctures; terga II–IV with small punctures separated by 2–3 puncture diameters.

Color. Head, meso- and metasoma black with metallic bluish green tints dorsally; antenna black, legs pale yellow; wing membrane brown-tinted, veins dark brown.

Female (Fig. 12). *Body length*. 6–7 mm.

Head (Fig. 16). Face 0.9 × as long as broad across the eyes in front view; scapal basin with medial one-half to one-third coarsely transversely striate, laterally with dense contiguous punctures; malar space 4.3 midocellus diameters; subantennal distance 1 midocellus diameter; flagellum fusiform, broadest medially, flattened ventrally; flagellomere I 2.8 × as long as broad; flagellomere II 0.7 × as long as broad; flagellomere IX 1.2 × as long as broad.

Mesosoma (Fig. 13). Apterous; pronotum and scutum densely longitudinally striate, pronotum 0.7 × as broad as long, 1.4 × as long as length of scutum plus scutellum; scutellum transversely striate.

Metasoma. Polished; tergum I with fine dense scratches in two touching postero-medial patches, scratches parallel and curving laterally; tergum II with two anteromedial patches of dense curved scratches subtended by large medial patch of dense posteriorly curved fine scratches; terga III and IV smooth with scattered tiny punctures.

Color. Body dark reddish brown, paler on side of scapal basin, mesopleuron medially, propodeal spines, legs and metasomal apex; apical flagellar segments yellowish beneath; coxae whitish.

Etymology. The species is named after the collection site in Northern Province, PNG.

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