

A new species of the genus *conarete* Pitchard from (M.S.) India

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ABSTRACT

This contribution reports the description of a new species of the genus *conarete* Pitchard (Lestremiinae: Cecidomyiidae: Diptera), *Conarete triangularis* sp.nov. ♀ collected from Bhokar, Dist. Nanded, Maharashtra, India. This new species can be distinguished from the known species in the characters of its palpus, claw, empodium, and ovipositor. Genus *Conarete* was created by Pritchard in 1951 with *C. crebra* as genotype. The antennal segments with distinct stems, each segment with a crenulate whorl of long bristles. Pedicel normal. Female with a sole of short dense erect bristles on the terminal segments of the fore-legs.

KEY WORDS: *New species, Conarete triangularis* sp.nov. ♀, Diptera, Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION

Family (Itonididae) is one of the largest but youngest family of Nematoceros Diptera having worldwide distribution. Insects commonly known as gall midges are included in this family. Members of subfamilies Lestremiinae & Porricondyliinae do not produce galls. Gall midges have phytophagous, saprophagous, xylophagous and predaceous feeding habits.

The collection of gall midge fauna made during 2003-2008 in Nanded district of Maharashtra State revealed a new species of Genus *Conarete* Pritchard viz. *Conarete triangularis* sp.nov. Presently seven species under Genus *Conarete* Pritchard are reported from India. A total of 394 species belonging to 125 genera under 3 subfamilies are so far enlisted in India (Sharma 2009).

MATERIALS & METHODS

HOLOTYPE: ♀, dissected and mounted on slide, labelled as, "at light" SRTMU Campus Dist. Nanded, Maharashtra, India, T.H.Shaikh. Coll., dated 22-08-2007. slide Con. 1.

PARATYPE: Two males dissected and mounted on slide, data as of Holotype. slides Con. 2, 3.

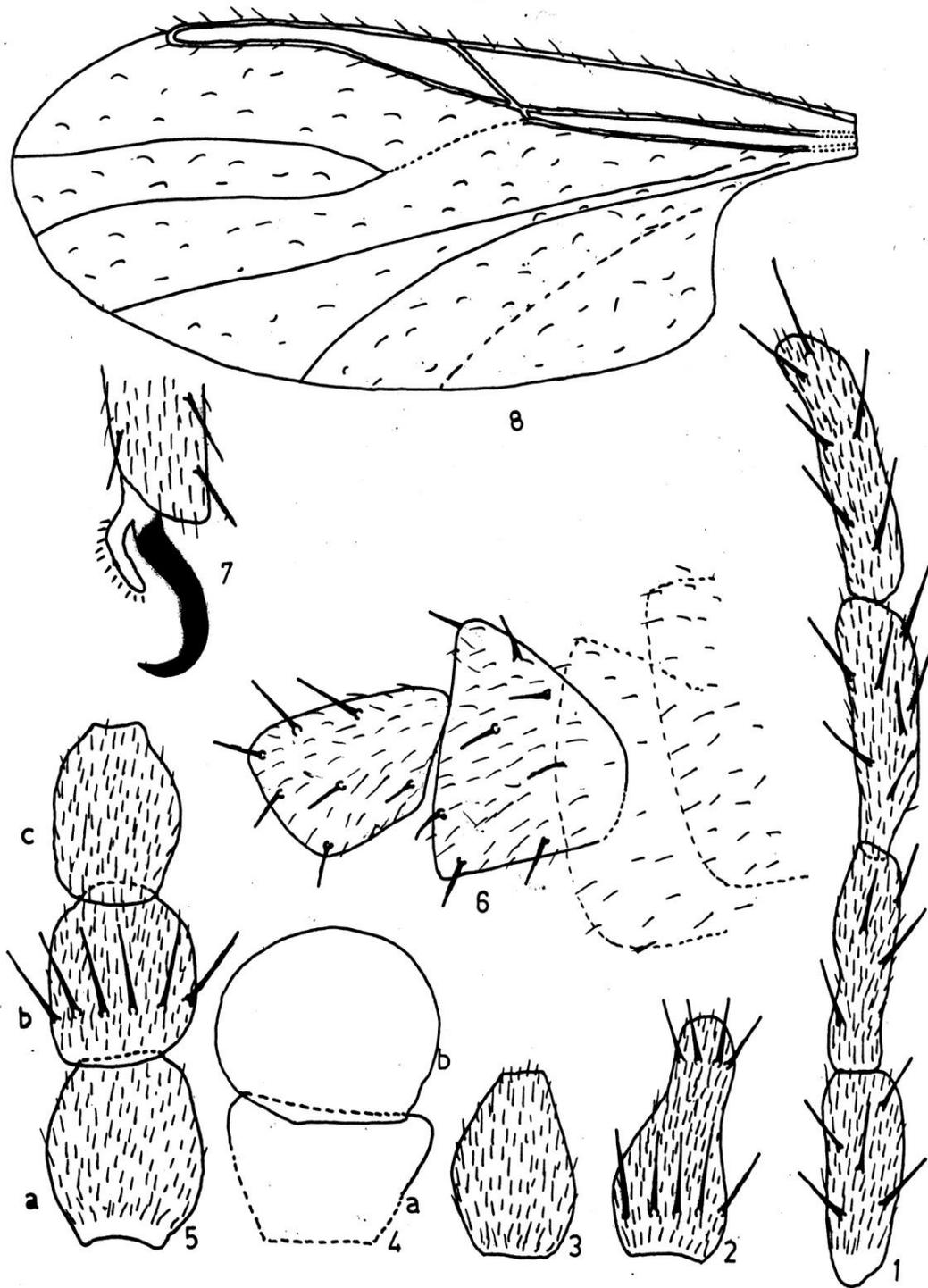
ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet *triangularis* refers to the triangular shaped terminal lamella of ovipositor.

STUDY AREA: Nanded, Dist.Nanded, Maharashtra, India. Type slides are deposited in the collection of P.G. Dept. of Zoology, Science College, Nanded for time being.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Conarete triangularis ♀ sp.nov. (Figs.1-8)

FEMALE : BODY 0.75 mm long, pale brown in preserved condition. **HEAD:** EYES confluent above, ocelli two. **TROPHI** normal. **PALPUS** (Fig.1), quadriarticulate, long, sparsely setose; first segment subcylindrical, narrow at base, broad medially, length 2.40 X its maximum thickness; second segment (11:3), subcylindrical, as long as the first and 3.66 as long as its maximum thickness; third segment (15:5), subcylindrical, narrow at the base, broad apically, 1.36 X as long as the second and 3.00 X as long as its maximum thickness; fourth segment (16:4), cylindrical, longest of all, narrower than the third, 4.00 X as long as its maximum thickness. **ANTENNA** 0.25 mm long, short, one third the length of the body, pale brown, with 2+9 ovate and moderately setose (segments, with a whorl of bristles basally, segments without marked stems; scape (Fig.4a) (6s11), cup shaped, length 0.55 X its maximum thickness; pedicel (Fig. 4b) (10:13), subglobose, 0.76 X as long as thick, longer and wider than the scape; third segment (Fig.5a) (11:10), not confluent with the fourth, enlargement without basal prolongation, 1.1 X as long as thick, without marked stem; fourth segment (Fig. 5b) (9:10), shorter than the third, length 0.90 X as long as thick, wider than long; fifth segment (Fig.5c) (10:7), shorter and thinner than the fourth, 1.42 X as long as thick; sixth segment (9:8), shorter than the fifth, 1.12 X as long as thick; seventh segment (10:8), as long as the fifth and 1.25 X as long as its maximum thickness; eighth segment (9:8), as long as the seventh; penultimate segment (Fig.3) (10:7), as long as the fifth, length 1.40 X its maximum thickness; terminal segment (Fig.2) (14:7), longest of all, broad basally, with subapical constriction, 2.00 X as long as thick. **THORAX:** mesonotum dark brown, scutellum and postscutellum light, brown.



Conarete triangularis ♂ sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-8)

Fig.1: Palpus, 2, Terminal antennal segments, 3, Penultimate antennal segments, 4(a,b), Scape and pedicel, 5, Third, fourth & Fifth antennal segments, 6, Ovipositor, 7, Claw, 8, Wing.

WING (Fig. 8) (55:22), hyaline, nearly rectangular, 2.50 X as long as broad, microtrichae scattered uniformly all over the wing, wing margin, not interrupted at union of R5 with costa, vein R5 unites costa at three fourth of the wing, vein M1 and M2 longer than the vein M1+2, the later obsolete, vein r—m short, M3+4 complete, vein Cu simple, vein Cu2 obsolete. **Legs** long, brown, sparsely setose, metatarsus (100) shorter than the terminal tarsal segments combined together (125), second tarsal segment. (45) 0.45 the length of metatarsus, third tarsal segment (40) 0.88 the second, terminal tarsal segment (20) as long as the fourth; **CLAW** (Fig.7) (8), stout, dark brown, simple, evenly curved, empodium (4), half the length of the claw. **OVIPOSITOR** (Fig.6), not exerted, lamellate, basal lobe cup shaped (3.7 X its maximum thickness; terminal lobe (11:8), as long as the basal, nearly triangular, narrow at base, broad apically, 1.36 X as long as broad.

LITERATURE CITED

- Grover P. 1963.** Studies on Indian gall midges-X five notable genera of the subfamily Lestremiinea. Marcellia. 31(2):137 –143.
- Sharma RM. 2009.** Checklist of Indian Gall midges (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae). <http://www.zsi.gov.in/zoological> survey of india /zsidata/checklist (Accessed on 15.07.2009)

Male: Unknown.

CONCLUSION

Conarete triangularis ♀ sp. nov., resembles with *C. mihijamensis* (Grover 1963) but can be distinguished from it with following differences:

- i) Third palpal segment 3.90 X as long as thick (not more than five times);
- ii) fourth palpal segment 4.00 X as long as thick (not more than ten times) ;
- iii) wing 2.50 X as long as broad (not a little more than twice);
- iv) Terminal lamella triangular (Not oval).

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