

A new species of the genus *Blacus* Nees (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Blacinae) from the Canary Islands

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Blacus (Blacus) canariensis spec. nov. (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Blacinae) from the Canary Islands is described and illustrated.

Introduction

The subfamily Blacinae Foerster, 1862, of the family Braconidae Nees, 1812, has been revised by van Achterberg (1988), but still numerous new species are found. Among material from the Canary Islands we recognized some Blacinae with reduced notauli as belonging to a new species. The new species belongs to the subgenus *Blacus* and is similar to the rare *Blacus modestus* Haeselbarth, 1973, known from Denmark, Germany, Austria and Bulgaria. It shares the absence of the propodeal tubercles, but this species has the ovipositor sheath about 0.35 times as long as the fore wing and 1.0-1.3 times the hind tibia, the propodeum anteriorly, the precoxal sulcus, and the first metasomal tergite are distinctly sculptured, and the notauli are distinctly impressed on the mesoscutal disk. It shares with the Afrotropical *B. evilectus* van Achterberg, 1988, the reduced notauli, but this species has the discal cell of the fore wing acute anteriorly, the ovipositor sheath about 0.8 times as long as the hind tibia and 0.3 times fore wing. The biology of the new species is unknown, but other members of the genus are endoparasitoids of larvae of Coleoptera.

For the recognition of the subfamily Blacinae, see van Achterberg (1990, 1993, 1997), and for the terminology used in this paper, see van Achterberg (1988).

Blacus (Blacus) canariensis spec. nov.

(figs 1-9)

Material.— Holotype, ♀ (MICN), “[Spain, Canary Islands], Tenerife, Cabezo del Tejo, 21.ii.1997, E. Guerrero”. Paratypes (4 ♀♀): 1 ♀ (RMNH): “Tenerife, Erjos, Monte del Agua, 9.v.1999, E. Guerrero”; 1 ♀ (MICN): “El Hierro, Mencafete, 31.v.1996, E. Guerrero”; 1 ♀ (ITZ): “Islas Canarias, Gran Canaria, A.C. & W.N. Ellis & A.M.J. & R.T. Simon Thomas”, “Tenteniguada, 3 km W Valsequillo, 30.vii.1987”; 1 ♀ (RMNH): “Can[ary] Isl[ands]: Tenerife, Las Mercedes, Pico del Inglés, 23.xii.198[1], Laurisilva & Huggert”.

Holotype, ♀, length of body 2.3 mm, of fore wing 2.2 mm.

Head.— Antennal segments 17, antenna slightly widened apically (fig. 2), length of third, fourth and penultimate segments 2.7, 2.3 and 1.4 times their width, respec-

tively (figs 2, 3); length of maxillary palp 0.8 times height of head; frons smooth and convex, sparsely setose; OOL:diameter of posterior ocellus:POL = 10:3:8; length of eye in dorsal view 0.9 times temple (fig. 4); face and clypeus smooth; malar suture absent (fig. 6); occipital carina fine and dorsally arched; length of malar space 1.3 times basal width of mandible.

Mesosoma.— Length of mesosoma 1.6 times its height; side of pronotum smooth dorsally, rugose medially and ventrally, with some crenulae antero-medially (fig. 2); precoxal sulcus smooth and shallow (fig. 2); mesopleuron smooth, except for some rugae dorsally (fig. 2); notauli only anteriorly narrowly impressed and with a few crenulae, obsolescent and smooth on mesoscutal disk (fig. 8); mesoscutal lobes slender, moderately convex and rather sparsely setose, with a short medio-posterior carina (fig. 8); scutellum smooth, only antero-laterally with carina (fig. 8); propodeal tubercles absent, only carinae somewhat protruding (fig. 8), surface of propodeum largely smooth anteriorly and medially largely and comparatively weakly rugose (fig. 8), its remainder largely smooth.

Wings.— Fore wing: first discal cell widely truncate anteriorly (fig. 1); 1-CU1:2-CU1 = 3:13; parastigma large (fig. 1); 2-M present; marginal cell large (fig. 1); r slightly shorter than width of pterostigma; 2-R1 short; SR1 straight; r:3-SR+SR1:2-SR = 7:41:11. Hind wing: M+CU:1-M = 10:6.

Legs.— Hind coxa largely smooth, with some weak rugae (fig. 7); length of femur, tibia and basitarsus of hind leg 5.8, 10.2, and 7.5 times their width, respectively.

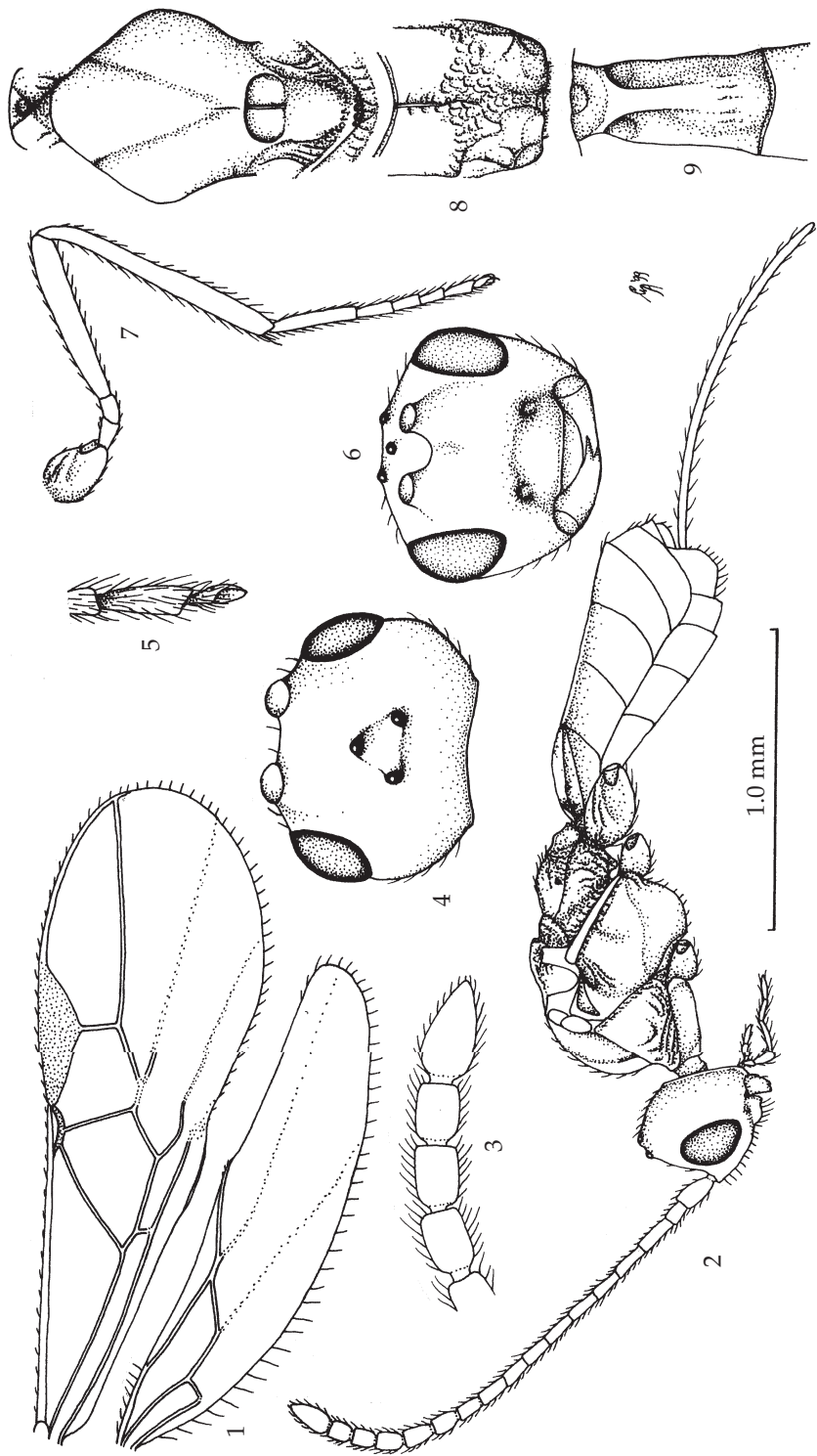
Metasoma.— Length of first tergite 1.7 times its apical width, its surface smooth, except for some superficial rugae subapically, dorsal carinae distinct in basal half of tergite (fig. 9); second and third tergites smooth; length of ovipositor sheath 0.53 times fore wing, 1.5 times hind tibia and about 3 times first tergite (fig. 2); ovipositor slightly curved downwards.

Colour.— Blackish-brown; mesosoma, pterostigma and veins of fore wing brown; middle and hind tibia apically, and middle and hind coxae basally rather infuscate; wing membrane somewhat infuscate; clypeus, tegulae, palpi, veins of hind wing and remainder of legs brownish-yellow.

Variation.— Length of fore wing 1.8-2.3 mm; length of first tergite 1.6-1.7 times its apical width; length of ovipositor sheath 0.46-0.55 times fore wing, and 1.4-1.7 times hind tibia; face and/or mesosoma (rarely also metasoma) may be brownish; notauli on mesoscutal disk absent or shallowly impressed; median carina of propodeum absent to medium-sized, and posterior half of propodeum may be completely rugose; occipital carina fine, and in one specimen reduced medio-dorsally; infuscation of hind and middle tibiae may be indistinct; precoxal sulcus smooth or with a few short and indistinct rugulae; second and third tergites may be punctate apically.

Note.— The key by van Achterberg (1988: 59) has to be changed as follows to accommodate the new species (insert this couplet 22a before couplet 22):

- 22a. Notauli distinctly impressed in mesoscutal disk, complete; propodeal tubercles distinct, if absent or nearly so, then precoxal sulcus sculptured and length of ovipositor sheath about 0.35 times fore wing and 1.0-1.3 times hind tibia; first metasomal tergite distinctly sculptured; mesoscutum usually more robust 22
- Notauli largely absent, at most shallowly indicated (fig. 8); propodeal tubercles



Figs 1-9, *Blacus canariensis* spec. nov., ♀, holotype. 1, wings; 2, habitus, lateral aspect; 3, apex of antenna; 4, head, dorsal aspect; 5, inner hind claw; 6, head, frontal aspect; 7, hind leg; 8, mesosoma, dorsal aspect; 9, first metasomal tergite, dorsal aspect. 1, 3, 7: 1 × scale-line; 2, 5: 2.5 ×; 4, 6, 8, 9: 1.8 ×.

absent or nearly so (figs 2, 8); precoxal sulcus smooth (fig. 2); length of ovipositor sheath about 0.5 times fore wing and 1.4-1.7 times hind tibia (figs 1, 2, 7); first tergite largely smooth (fig. 9); mesoscutum slender (fig. 8)
 *B. canariensis* spec. nov.

Acknowledgements and abbreviations

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