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New record on the genus *Robertella* Mineo (Hymenoptera Scelionidae) (*)

Abstract - The paper deals with the description of *Robertella süssi* n. sp. (Scelionidae) from Sicily.

Riassunto - *Descrizione di* Robertella süssi *n. sp. (Scelionidae).*

Nel 2004 sono continuate le raccolte di Imenotteri in campo per lo studio biosistematico dei Telenomini (Scelionidae) della Sicilia. Viene descritta *Robertella süssi* n. sp.

Key words: *Robertella süssi* n. sp., Telenominae.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Robertella* Mineo 2004 (Scelionidae: Telenominae) recently proposed included 3 species. Of them the first two were described by Ashmead (1893) from U.S.A., while the third, *Robertella dessarti* Mineo, was found in Sicily (Mineo, 2004a).

In this year another species was intercepted in the Island. It is new for Science and is described in this note.

For symbols and abbreviations refer to my previous work (Mineo, 2004b).

Robertella süssi n. sp.

DIAGNOSIS: female. She is easy to select because of the shape of A9 that from one side is dilated in a sort of odontoid process (Fig.1): such a feature results so far unique in Telenominae.

DESCRIPTION. Length 1.3 mm. Head and mesosoma black, metasoma brown; appendages brownish, excluding tarsomeres, bases and apices of tibiae pale coloured; man-

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dible dirty yellow; wing venation brownish while the plan of fore wing is weakly fumose, except basal cell, hyaline.

HEAD 10Wx8Lx9H; *eh* = 5.3; *ms* = 3.5; *ios* = 6.8; vertex falling roundly onto the occiput; radicle less long than pedicel (1.7:2); scape and subsequent antennomeres see Fig. 1; scrobes rather deep, short, housing not more than 1/3 of scape; parascrobal area strongly bulging; the remaining surface of frons gently convexing towards anterior ocellus; temporal genal sulcus weak; occipital carina absent; lateral ocellus less distant his own diameter from inner orbit of eye; gena and temple of the same tickness; all the surface above interantennal process smooth and shiny with some scattered short hairs.

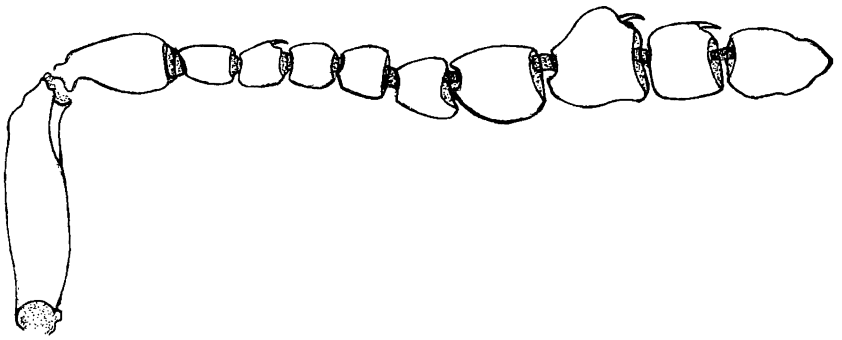

Fig.1 - *Robertella süssi* Mineo: female antenna.

Mesosoma. From above 16Lx 10W of which the mesoscutum occupies half length; scutellum rather triangular in shape, while dorsellum is in form of a trapezoidal strip; propodeal halves exposed, subquadrate; fore wing 33Lx8W, her marginal fringe = 3.3L; *pm*, *st* ratio as 10:3; *sm*, *mg* ratio as 7:6; marginalis widened; basalis well indicated; basal cell almost bare; stigmalis weakly bending, knob rather big; hind wing with complete *sm*, 2.9Lx4W; her marginal fringe= 2.2L.

Metasoma 36Lx9W (T3-T7 not retracted); T1, T2 length ratio as 2:9.5; T1 sculpturless, bulging at meson; subsequent tergites sculptured like *Robertella dessarti*, *i.e.* crossed on the relative apical and over about 1/3 of the surface by dense, parallel, extremly fine ribs.

MALE. Unknown.

HOST AND BIOLOGY. Unknown.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: 1 ♀ (Holotype) (Casteldaccia (PA), Torrente Milicia c/da "Corvo" (S.P. 16 Bagheria-Baucina Km 9.2), 27.VIII.04 - dr S. Blando); it was collected by sweeping net on flowers both of *Pulicaria dysenterica* and of near associated plants.

REMARKS. As previously described the main morphological feature by which *Robertella süssi* Mineo can be easy selected from other species of the same genus, regards to its odontoid type projection of A9. Such a respect in antennae of Telenominae was never observed. In another species, *i.e* on the presumed male of *Telenomus sulculus*

Johnson (Johnson, 1984), occurs that an antennomere shows similar evidence although here the segment involved is the scape. With regard to antenna of *R. süssi* not only the shape of A8, A7 but also the relative articulations between A8 and A9 as well as between A7 and A8, also appear rather peculiar. Nevertheless their functional reasons remain speculative, until its host will be known and the female of *R. süssi* observed alive.

For what it concerns the hosts of *Robertella* spp., we know that of *R. nysivora* (Huggert) is an Heteropteran (Ashmead, 1893), while that of *R. dessarti* is *Nysius* sp. (Lygaeidae) (Mineo, 2004*a*).

Derivatio nominis. The species is named in honour of prof. Luciano Süss, Istituto di Entomologia Agraria - Università degli Studi di Milano.

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