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**TWO NEW SPECIES OF PROSOPISTEROIDES FROM PAPUA
NEW GUINEA (HYMENOPTERA, COLLETIDAE, HYLAEUS)¹⁾²⁾**

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Abstract

Two new species of the subgenus ***Prosopisteroides*** of the genus ***Hylaeus***, ***margaretae*** and ***paradisicola***, are described and the male characters of ***Prosopisteroides*** are discussed.

The subgenus *Prosopisteroides* of the genus *Hylaeus* is endemic to New Guinea and shows very interesting characters (Hirashima, 1967). It has been known by the female of two species only. We were able to collect two new species of this subgenus including the male during our 1982 expedition to Papua New Guinea. It is very interesting to note that the male of *Prosopisteroides* is provided with the diagnostic characters common with the female.

Now, *Prosopisteroides* is represented by four species. The descriptions of new species are given below.

Genus *Hylaeus* Fabricius

Subgenus *Prosopisteroides* Hirashima

Hirashima, 1967, p. 134.

Type-species : ***Hylaeus heteroclitus*** Hirashima, 1967.

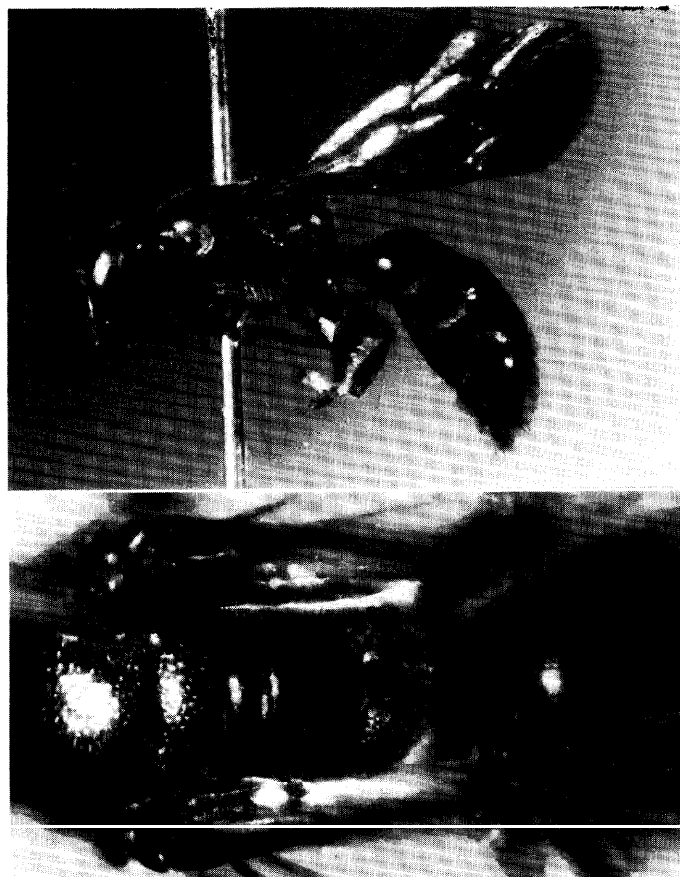
The male is new to science. It is provided with the characters common with female, as follows:

Maxillary palpus extraordinarily elongate (longer than thorax in *margaretae*, new species), preoccipital carina present, and propodeum long, rounded posteriorly, with propodeal enclosure large, long, subhorizontal, almost all dorsal, smooth and shining.

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KEY TO SPECIES OF *Prosopisteroides*



Figs. 1 (above) and **2.** *Hylaeus* (*Prosopisteroides*) *margaretae*, new species, holotype male. 1: Lateral view of the body. Note the elongate maxillary palpi. 2: Dorsal view of the thorax and the base of metasoma. Note the long, horizontal and smooth propodeal enclosure.

face flat; frons just below ocelli more or less convex; vertex well exceeding above a line tangential to upper ends of eyes; mid ocellus² small; interocellar distance slightly less than twice as long as lateral ocellus, slightly shorter than ocellocular distance, about as long as ocelloccipital distance; genal area strongly receding below. Antennae rather short; scape shorter than length of clypeus, not swollen, or only slightly thickened at apex; basal segments of flagellum compact; flagellum with 1st segment broader than long, 2nd annular, 3rd broader than long, 4th slightly broader than long.

Thorax long, cylindrical; collar of pronotum low, rather thick, more or less rounded laterally; scutellum and metanotum only slightly convex; propodeum rather long, rounded posteriorly; propodeal enclosure large, subhorizontal, apex only on vertical face.

Legs not specially modified; femora slightly swollen; hind legs with tibiae

not thicker than femora.

Wings with 1st submarginal cell receiving 1st recurrent veins near end of cell (thus, 1st recurrent vein ending **before** cubital vein) ; 2nd submarginal cell small, receiving 2nd recurrent vein near end of cell.

Metasoma cylindrical; 1st tergum rather long, well convex and rounded mid-basally; 2nd tergum shorter than 1st, well convex, constricted at base ; 3rd tergum longer than 2nd, broadly exposed; 4th about as long as 2nd; 3rd and 4th sterna each with a weak elevation in the middle; no spines or projections at apex of metasoma.

Lower half of face below antennae smooth, shining, with sparse, somewhat longitudinal punctures ; upper half of face above antennae densely punctate, punctures small; space lateral to lateral ocellus smooth, rather coarsely, irregularly punctate; genal area smooth, very shining, with rather weak and sparse punctures. Mesoscutum smooth, very shining, with irregular, shallow punctures ; scutellum similar to mesoscutum ; metanotum with minute punctures, nearly smooth; propodeal enclosure smooth, very shining, with an indication of lineolation in some light; mesepisternum smooth, shining, with more or less coarse, rather sparse punctures; lateral face of propodeum shining, very weakly, densely subrugoso-punctate. First tergum more or less densely punctate, punctures very weak; 2nd more punctate than 1st, punctures on median portion more or less coarse ; 3rd densely punctate, punctures slightly stronger than those on 1st, weaker than those on 2nd; apical margin of 2nd tergum impunctate, well indicated on median portion.

Color: Head and thorax brilliant blue-green including tegulae and tubercles; mandible blackish, red apically, with yellow stripe on anterior margin basally; malar space blackish or with purple shade; round mark on clypeus and lateral stripes of face nearly ivory; antennae blackish, underside of flagellum broadly yellowish brown. Wings distinctly darkened except basal portions ; veins and stigma fuscous. Legs metallic blue-green, with purple shade in some light; anterior faces of fore tibiae broadly ferruginous; fore tarsi and apices of mid tibiae also pale. Metasoma blue-green with distinct purple tint in some light, especially on apical segments.

Pubescence: Hairs on head brownish, not dense; hairs on thorax nearly white ; hairs on mesoscutum very short, sparse, those on lateral face of propodeum not conspicuous. First and 2nd metasomal terga with white, somewhat dense, fringe-like white hairs at sides apically ; hairs on 3rd and following segments black; 4th and 5th sterna without transverse fringe of hairs on apical portions.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype male, on the top of Mt. Kaindi, 2388 m, near Wau, Morobe District, 14-26. VII. 1982 (S. Shinonaga).

TYPE DEPOSITORY: B. P. Bishop Museum.

REMARKS: This is the first male of *Prosopisteroides* known to science. It

seems probable that *margaretae* is a close relative of *gressitti*, but differs from the latter in having the smoother integument and paler hairs on the thorax.

The wing venation and the relative lengths of the segments of maxillary palpi are also different.

The name of this new species is dedicated to the late Mrs. J. L. Gressitt, who was very helpful to her husband, the founder of Wau Ecology Institute, Wau, Papua New Guinea. She had been very kind to the senior author in many ways since he first met her in Honolulu in 1966.

***Hylaeus (Prosopisteroides) paradisicola*, new species**

Female: Length 5-6 mm, with more or less short wings.

Relative head measurements : length, 21.0; width, 21.0; eye length, 17.0; upper interocular distance, 12.0; width of face, 14.0; lower interocular distance, 9.0; length of clypeus, a little less than 7.0.

Outline of head rounded as seen in front; inner eye margins distinctly converging below except upper about one-third; apical half of clypeus distinctly depressed (not concave), therefore its outline arched as seen from side; mandible bidentate; **maxillary palpi extraordinarily elongate** as usual for the subgenus, about as long as thorax, relative length of each segments, from base to apex, 3.0 : 3.5 : 5.0 : 7.5 : 7.0 : 10.5 ; mid ocellus distinctly smaller than lateral one ; frons well convex; preoccipital carina sharp, distinct ; genal area narrow, lower portion strongly receding ; malar space linear anteriorly, only slightly widened posteriorly; clypeo-ocular space very narrow on lower portion. Thorax elongate, cylindrical ; collar of pronotum thick, lateral portion rounded-flattened dorsally; mesoscutum long, slightly convex ; scutellum more or less large, flat; metanotum only slightly convex ; propodeum long, rounded posteriorly ; propodeal enclosure large, well convex and almost horizontal, lateral



Figs. 3 (left) and 4. *Hylaeus (Prosopisteroides) paradisicola*, new species, female. **3:** Frontal view of the head, **4:** Dorso-lateral view of the head and thorax. Note the characteristic propodeum.

margins not well indicated.

Wings with 1st recurrent veins meeting with cubital vein.

Metasoma rather compact and well convex; three basal terga large.

Clypeus longitudinally weakly rugoso-punctate, sometimes punctures obscure; supraclypeal area longitudinally lineolate; frons and upper portion of head with distinct, dense punctures, which are sparse on ocellocular space. Mesoscutum weakly and sparsely punctate on distinctly tessellate and nearly dull ground; scutellum similar to mesoscutum, but punctures much smaller, microscopical; metanotum microscopically shagreened, impunctate; *propodeal enclosure* very *finely tessellate, nearly dull*; propodeum outside enclosure also impunctate, finely sculptured; pre- and 'meso-episterna shining, with weak and sparse punctures; metepisternum and side of propodeum nearly impunctate, very weakly shagreened, almost dull. First metasomal terga smooth, shining (much more shining than thorax), with very fine, rather sparse punctures, median portion of apical margin narrowly impunctate; 2nd tergum smooth, shining like 1st, with similar, fine punctures; apical impunctate margin of 2nd tergum more or less broad, well indicated on median portion; 3rd tergum coarsely (but not strongly) rugoso-punctate, punctures much larger than those on 1st and 2nd.

Color: Head metallic dark blue with brassy tint, shining; narrow lateral stripe of face ivory; antennae piceous, flagellum beneath reddish brown. Thorax nearly dull except for pre- and meso-episterna; thorax metallic dark blue, with slight brassy tint dorsally. Wings subhyaline, slightly darkened distally; veins and stigma fuscous. Legs piceous with strong metallic blue reflection. Metasoma also distinctly metallic dark blue, shining, with purple and brassy shades in some light.

Pubescence: Hairs whitish, very short and sparse on head and thorax; no apical hair fringes on metasomal terga; hairs fuscous on apical metasomal segments.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype female, and 20 paratopotype females, Baiyer River Birds of Paradise Sanctuary, 1200 m, Western Highland District, Papua New Guinea, 4-8. VIII. 1982 (Y. Hirashima and O. Tadauchi).

TYPE DEPOSITORY: Holotype in the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii; paratypes in British Museum (Natural History), London; Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra; Department of Primary Industry, Konedobu, Papua New Guinea; and Kyushu University.

REMARKS: Unfortunately the male of this new species is not known.

The female of *paradisicola* is unique, and is easily separable from that of *heteroclitus* Hirashima by the smaller size, smoother propodeal enclosure and weaker punctures on the thorax, and that of *gressitti* Hirashima by the coloration and weaker punctures on the mesoscutum.

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Addendum

Very recently Houston (1983) described *Euryglossa* (*Euhesma*) *tubulifera* Houston, n. sp., from western Australia. It is "remarkable for its enormously enlarged maxillary palpi, which cohere to form a slender tube up to 80% as long as the head and body. The tube functions as a drinking straw, enabling the bees to extract nectar from the essentially bird-adapted flowers of *Calothamnus*." He also summarizes the phenomena on the enlargement of either the labial or maxillary palpi in several groups of Colletidae.

According to our observation made at Bayier River Birds of Paradise Sanctuary, the female bees of *Hylaeus paradisicola* do not use the elongated maxillary palpi to suck nectar while they were kept in an aspirator, although they feed on nectar easily in captivity.

- Houston, T. F. 1983. An extraordinary new bee and adaptation of palpi for nectar-feeding in some Australian Colletidae and Pergidae (Hymenoptera). *J. Aust. ent. Sm.*, **22**: 263-270.