

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Discovery of the Genus *Microtypus* Ratzeburg (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) in China, with Records of Three Species

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The braconid subfamily Microtypinae is currently known from three genera: the Holarctic *Microtypus* Ratzeburg (five species), the Neotropical *Neomicrotypus* van Achterberg (one species), and the Oriental/Polynesian *Plesiotypus* van Achterberg (three species)(van Achterberg, 1992). Host records are not common, and are only recorded for *Microtypus*, but indicate that microtypines are koinobiont endoparasitoids of larvae belonging to the lepidopteran families Pyralidae, Gelechiidae, Tortricidae and Yponomeutidae (van Achterberg, 1992; Capek and van Achterberg, 1992; van Achterberg, 1997).

Three species of *Microtypus* are here reported from China for the first time: *M. algiricus* Szepligeti, *Microtypus desertorum* Shestakov, and *M. wesmaelii* Ratzeburg. These represent the first records of the genus *Microtypus* as well as of the subfamily Microtypinae in China, and are all from the Palaearctic part of the country. Little is known of the biology of most of the species, but specimens of *M. wesmaelii* examined in this paper were reared from *Loxostege sticticalis* (Linnaeus) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), constituting a new host record consistent with previous known host use patterns.

For the identification of the genus *Microtypus* Ratzeburg, see van Achterberg (1992, 1997) and Capek and van Achterberg (1992). Voucher specimens of these species are deposited in the Hymenoptera Collection, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China (ZJU).

Species

Microtypus desertorum Shestakov, 1932

Material examined: 1 female, CHINA: Jilin, Gongzhuling, 1993.viii–ix, Wang Chenglun, no. 840114; 1 female, CHINA: Xinjiang, Bazhou, 1983.ix, Song Meijie, no. 833935.

Biology: Unknown.

Distribution: CHINA (Xinjiang, Jilin); ALGERIA, KAZAKHSTAN, MONGOLIA, RUSSIA.

Microtypus algiricus Szepligeti, 1908

Material examined: 3 females, CHINA: Xinjiang, Bole, 1982.iv–ix, Chen Yaqiong, no. 826407.

Biology: Unknown.

Distribution: CHINA (Xinjiang); ALGERIA and JORDAN.

Microtypus wesmaelii Ratzeburg, 1848

Material examined: 3 females, 4 males, CHINA: Heilongjiang, Keshan, 1983.v.5, Zhang Luhong, nos. 978807, 947114–117, ex. *Loxostege sticticalis* L. (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

Biology: The specimens were reared from *Loxostege sticticalis*. Other hosts see Čapek & van Achterberg (1992).

Distribution: CHINA (Heilongjiang); also elsewhere in Palaearctic and Nearctic regions.

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