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*Pseudoligosita babylonica* n. sp. (Hymenoptera:  
Trichogrammatidae), egg parasitoid of *Ommatissus lybicus*  
Bergevin (Homoptera: Tropiduchidae) in Iraq

*Abstract* – *Pseudoligosita babylonica* n. sp. (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae), egg parasitoid of *Ommatissus lybicus* Bergevin (Homoptera: Tropiduchidae), is described from Iraq.

*Key words:* *Pseudoligosita*, *Ommatissus*, Iraq.

During a study on the old world date bug (Dubas bug), *Ommatissus lybicus* Bergevin, one of us (B.H.H.) reared an *Oligosita* sp., which is here described as a new species and included in the genus *Pseudoligosita* Girault (PINTO & VIGGIANI, 2004).

*Pseudoligosita babylonica* Viggiani, new species

*Female.* Body rather stout, yellow, base of ovipositor brown. Fore wings hyaline, with infuscation at level of premarginal and stigmal vein. Length: 0.7 mm.

Head with antennal toruli at level of the ventral margin of the eyes. Antenna (Fig. I, 1) with short radicle, slightly longer than wide, pedicel one-fifth shorter than scape, funicular segment clearly longer than wide, as long as the basal club segment; club conical, elongate, 3.5 as long as wide; club

segments with rather few setae, linear sensilla on C2 and C3; terminal club segment with a seta at apex. Maxillary palps unisegmented, cylindrical, about twice as long as wide. Labial palps vestigial. Mandible tridentate.

Mesosoma slightly shorter than metasoma; mid lobe of mesoscutum and scutellum with a delicate longitudinal striation (Fig. I, 2), both with a pair of setae; metanotum and propodeum very short. Forewing as in Fig. I, 3, with a few cilia on the blade.

Metasoma with terga from I to VII differentiated in an anterior part uniformly sclerotized and in a posterior longitudinally striate section (Fig. I, 4).

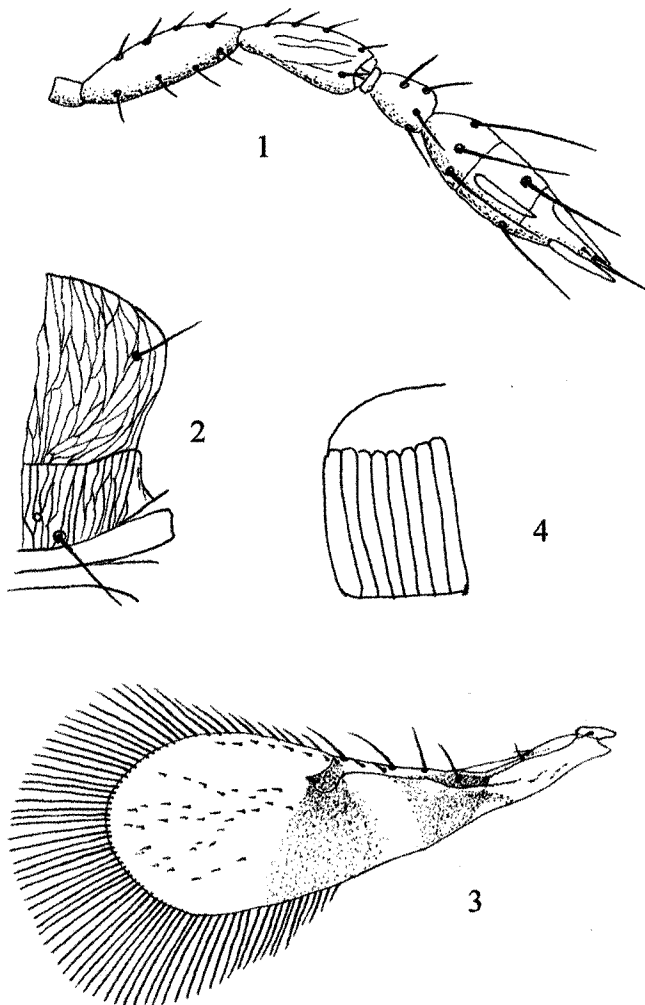


Fig. I - *Pseudoligosita babylonica* Viggiani. - Female. 1. Antenna. 2. Midlobe of mesoscutum and scutellum. 3. Fore wing. 4. Particular of the first tergum of metasoma.

Ovipositor extended on about two-third distal part of the metasoma, not extruded, 1.65 as long hind tibia.

*Male.* Similar to the female, but club of the antenna with longer terminal setae (Fig. II, 1), metasoma distally more rounded and with a black stripe on the VIII tergite (Fig. II, 2). Copulatory organ tubular, curved in side view and distally enlarged (Fig. II, 2-3).

*Diagnosis.* *P. babylonica* is closest to the *P. robusta* (VIGGIANI, 1980), but can be mostly distinguished by the shorter club and longer forewing fringe, mesosoma with well developed striation on the tergites, shorter ovipositor and shape of the copulatory organ.

*Material examined.* Holotype (female). IRAQ, Baghdad, Al-Tuwaitha, Abu-Ghraib, October 2001, collector Bassim. H. Hassan. Paratypes: 9 males, with the same data. This samples have been sent from Prof. Ibrahim AL-Jboory as a part of MSc student Bassim H. Hassan

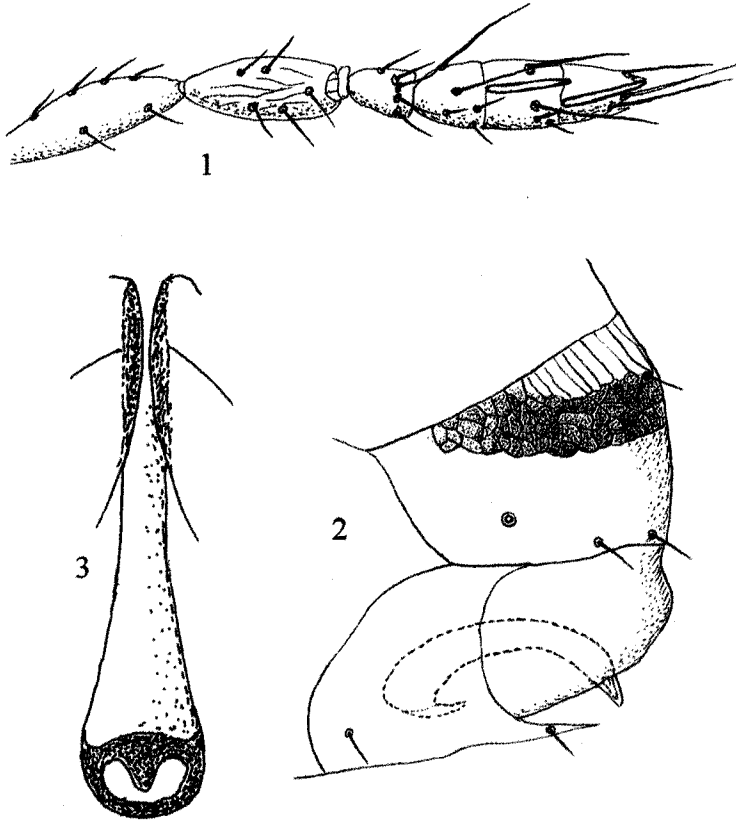


Fig. II - *Pseudoligosita babylonica* Viggiani. - Male. 1. Antenna. 2. Distal part of metasoma, in side view. 3. Copulatory organ.

who works on *O. lybicus* from Iraq. Holotype and some paratypes preserved in the entomological collection of the Dipartimento di Entomologia e Zoologia Agraria “Filippo Silvestri”, Università degli Studi di Napoli «Federico II», Portici (NA), Italia. Paratypes are also preserved at the University of Baghdad, College of Agriculture, Department of Plant Protection, Abu-Ghraib, Baghdad, Iraq.

**Biological Notes.** According to the observations of B. H. Hassan, *P. babylonica* was first reared from the spring eggs of *O. lybicus* in Baghdad area. The parasitoid have two appearance time, the first in June and the second from the beginning of October till November. Apparently *P. babylonica* shows winter and summer quiescence stage.

Laboratory trials showed that eggs hatch after 31 days at 28° C and R. H. 70%. The female needs 2-4 minutes to lay its egg, inserting the ovipositor in the leaflet tissue in which bug eggs are deposited. Both females and males feed on the honeydew of the host bug, which effects positively the longevity. The percent of parasitization in the field was 17% for the autumn generation and 22% for the spring generation.

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