

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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A new species of genus *Pseudocentron* Mitchell (Hymenoptera: Apoidea: Megachilidae) from India

Virendra Kumar

Department of Zoology, D.S. College, Aligarh-202001

Email: vv_kv28@rediffmail.com

ABSTRACT

A new species *Pseudocentron bombayensis* of genus *Pseudocentron* Mitchell (Family: Megachilidae) has been described. The distinctive features of this species are: apical margin of clypeus slightly convex and tuberculate, cutting edge in second interspace of mandible is absent, apical lip of sternum₆ is with a row of short and dense setae.

Key words: *Pseudocentron*, Hymenoptera, Megachilidae

INTRODUCTION:

Like the Megachiloides, the genus *Pseudocentron* was said to be chiefly of neotropical distribution. In India they are generally reported from the Himalyan region and hills of Himachal Pradesh and few members from West Indian regions i.e. Maharashtra. Some Indian species also verifies its characters and got their placement under it. The new species described here falls under subgenus *Pseudocentron* Mitchell (Mitchell 1980) on the basis of the characters: apical lip of sternum₆ is bare; with a subapical fringe of short setae.

REVIEW LITERATURE:

Mitchell (1938) has described each included subgenera of genus *Pseudocentron* in detail with respect to American species. Mitchell (1980) categorizes following additional 6 subgenera under this genus.

Acentron Mitchell, 1934, p. 303. Type: *M. albitrarsis* Cresson, 1872, p. 273.

Leptorachis Mitchell, 1934, p. 201. Type: *M. petulans* Cresson, 1878, p. 127.

Melanosarus, Mitchell, 1934, p. 303. Type: *M. xylocopoides* Smith, 1853, p. 189.

Moureana Mitchell, 1980, p. 56. Type: *M. anthidioides* Rodoszkowski, 1874, p.147.

Leptorachina Mitchell, 1980 (monotypic), p. 56. Type: *M. laeta* Smith, 1853, p.186.

Grafella Mitchell, 1980. p. 56. Type: *Pseudocentron (Grafella) Crotalariae*, Eric Schwimmer, 1980 (in same paper on page 82, of Mitchell).

METHODOLOGY:

The comparative study of morphological characters of this species with prior described species characters makes the way to differentiate and identify the species as a new species. The specific characters of the new species are:

Pseudocentron (Pseudocentron) bombayensis sp. nov.

Female: Total Length – 340 lines (8.5 mm). Integument black, tegulae pale in color, femora blackish; head and thorax with fine and dense punctures; abdomen with few fine punctures; general pubescence on head is snow white; thorax and abdominal terga with brownish pubescence; legs with silky white hairs; scopa golden white.

Genitalia: quadrate plate well developed, triangular inner margin circular, outer margin straight, basal margin have a short tubercle, apical portion articulates with arm of sting bulb, with a well-developed fulcral plate.

Stylet: Elongated needle like without barbs, covered by stylet sheath.

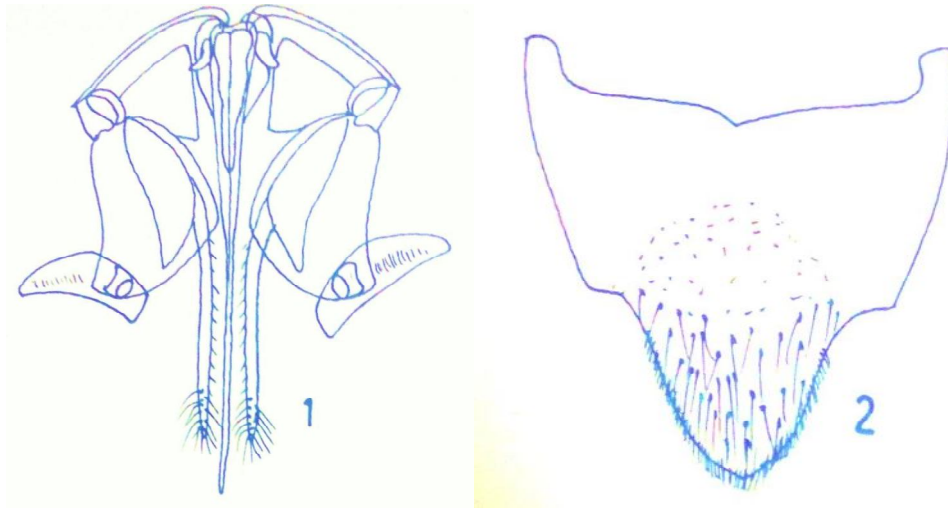
Sting Bulb: Elongate, narrow with rounded apex.

Palp appendages: Elongated, narrow with row of very short and fine setae on inner margin, few setae on outer margin.

Sternum6: Slightly transversely convex, punctate and setose across basal half, apical margin rather broadly rounded, apex with an apical fringe of short setae.

Material examined: Holotype: female, Bombay (Maharashtra) June 1985 (V.K) deposited at IARI, New Delhi; paratype: Three at Deptt. of Zoology and Entomology, Agra College, Agra.

Figs. 1-2. Female *Pseudocentron (Pseudocentron) bombaynensis* sp. nov.
(1. Genitalia and 2. Sternum6)



REMARKS/RESULT:

The new species is close to *P. (Pseudocentron) pruina* Smith (1858). However *P. bombaynensis* sp. Nov. can be distinctly separated from *P. pruina* by “apical margin of clypeus is slightly convex and tuberculate; surface of subocellar area is convex and with normal sized punctures; cutting edge in second interspace of mandible is absent; scutellum appears like a separate lobe; apical lip of sternum6 is with a row of short and dense setae”.

Male: Not known.

This specimen has been named after the location Bombay from where it was collected.

REFERENCES:

1. Mitchell T.B. (1980): A generic revision of the Megachiline bees of the Western Hemisphere. Contr. Deptt. Entomol. N.C. State Univ. 95 pp.
2. Smith F. (1858): Apis, Anthophora, Ctenoplecta, Megachile & Trigona species, J. Linn. Soc. Zool., 2: 45-52.