The Genus *Holopyga* (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae) in Iran, with Five New Records

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**ABSTRACT**

The Iranian species of the genus *Holopyga* (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae) were investigated. Specimens were collected during four years of field research between 2010 and 2013, in northern and southern provinces of Iran. Twenty one species and subspecies were recognized, of which four species and one subspecies were recorded for the first time from Iran: *Holopyga beaumonti* Balthasar, 1953; *H. fascialis* Linsenmaier, 1959; *H. ignicollis* Dahlbom, 1854; *H. inflammata inflammata* ( Förster, 1853) and *H. jurinei* Chevrier, 1862. Geographical distribution of all species and morphological diagnostic characteristics of the newly recorded species are given. The number of *Holopyga* species and subspecies in Iran is now raised to 21.

**Keywords:** Cuckoo wasps, Diagnostic characteristics, Elampini, Taxonomy, Updated list of species.

**INTRODUCTION**

*Holopyga* Dahlbom, 1845 (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae), is a large genus belonging to the tribe Elampini and including 110 species. It is distributed in all Zoogeographical regions, with the highest diversity in the Palaearctic Region (Kimsey and Bohart, 1991). Biology of the genus *Holopyga* is poorly known. Apparently, sphecid and crabronid wasps are hosts for this genus (Kimsey and Bohart, 1991; Veenendal, 2012), whereas citations for Megachilidae are doubtful (Paukkunen et al., 2015). Veenendal (2012) suggested that *Holopyga* species have the same behavior and parasitism strategies as the American *Pseudolopyga*, which lay an egg directly on the Hemiptera may later transfer into the host nest by the crabronid wasps. Taxonomy of the genus *Holopyga* in the Palaearctic region was studied by various authors (Mocsáry, 1879, 1889, 1911; Linsenmaier, 1959, 1968, 1987, 1994, 1999; Arens, 2004, 2011, 2014). But species belonging to this genus have a confused situation (Rosa and Vårdal, 2015; Rosa and Xu, 2015; Rosa et al., 2015), therefore, an extensive review has become necessary to clarify the taxonomic position of the species in this genus. Prior to this study, fourteen species and seven subspecies were recorded for Iran (Mocsáry, 1892; Bischoff, 1910; Linsenmaier, 1959, 1987; Semenov-Tianshanskij, 1967; Rosa et al., 2013; Torabipour et al., 2013a; Farhad et al., 2016). The genus *Holopyga* is characterized by the sharply angulate fore wing median vein, setaceous median cell, multidentate tarsal claws, carinate and angulate mesopleuron, angulate postocular region and cross-ridged scapal basin (Kimsey and Bohart, 1991). This genus show sexual dimorphism in color and shape of third abdominal tergum (Kimsey and Bohart, 1991). According to Linsenmaier

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(1999), the genus is divided into four species-groups. The Iranian species belong to two species groups: *H. fervida* species group with a triangular smooth punctuation (in female) and finely punctured area anterobasally on scutellum (in male), and *Holopyga gloriosa* species group without smooth or finely punctured area anterobasally on scutellum. (Rosa et al., 2013). The aim of this study was to provide an updated list of the species belonging to the genus *Holopyga* currently found in Iran and provide a brief diagnosis for any newly recorded *Holopyga* species.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The revised list of *Holopyga* from Iran is based on literature records and specimens recently collected. Sampling was carried out by Malaise traps and sweep net in northern provinces (Guilan, Mazandaran, Alborz, and Qazvin) and southern provinces (Hormozgan, Kerman, and Fars) of Iran during the years 2010-2013. The specimens were prepared and sorted into genus and species level. Fifty-five of the collected specimens belonged to the genus *Holopyga*. Examination and descriptions were done under Olympus SZH10 stereomicroscope and images were taken by Sony CCD digital camera attached to an Olympus AX70 stereomicroscope. Photos were processed by Zerene Stacker 1.04 software. Specimens were deposited in the insect collection of the Department of Entomology, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran, and in the private collection of Franco Strumia (Italy). The following data were recorded: valid taxa names, distribution and brief description of the newly recorded species, which were marked by an asterisk (*) in the text. The abbreviations used in diagnostic characteristics of the newly recorded species follow Kimsey and Bohart (1991): F1, F2, F3, etc.= Flagellum 1, flagellum 2, flagellum 3, etc.; MOD= Middle Ocellus Diameter. The identification of species was done by the first and fifth authors.

**RESULTS**

**List of Species**

*Holopyga amoenula oriensa* Linsenmaier, 1959

Materials Examined: Mazandaran Province, Noor, Chamestan, Gaznasara (36° 16’ 56.82” N, 52° 10’ 58.50” E, 2,032 m), 05-vi-2011, 1♂, Noor; Chamestan, Tangehvaz (36° 21’ 55.68” N, 52° 06’ 10.32” E, 702 m), 05-ix-2011, 1♀, leg. M. Khayrandish.

Distribution: Greece, Palestine, Syria, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1968, 1959); Iran (Linsenmaier, 1959; Rosa et al., 2013).

*Holopyga arabica* Linsenmaier, 1994

Materials Examined: Hormozgan Province, Minab, Chelo (27° 10’ 30” N, 57° 01’ 09” E, 16 m), 18-v-2012, 1♂, leg. A. Ameri.

Distribution: Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab (Linsenmaier, 1994; Strumia and Dawah, 2011); Iran (Farhad et al., 2016).

*Holopyga beaumonti* Balthasar, 1953

Material Examined: Hormozgan Province, Hajiabad (27° 17’ 1.8" N, 55° 45’ 14” E, 867 m), 10-iv-2011, 1♀, leg. A. Ameri.

Diagnosis: Body length 5.3 mm; height of clypeus 1.4 MOD; scapal basin with fine transverse lines (Figure 1-A); temples angular and divergent (Figure 1-B); F1 almost two times as long as its maximum width; punctures on mesonotum, scutellum and metanotum coarse and dense with narrow intervals (Figures 1-C), on pronotum more scattered with smooth intervals covered with small punctures (Figure 1-D); on metasoma fine, deep and close (Figure 1-E), on second metasomal sternum few and sparse (Figure 1-F); coloration: head, pronotum, mesonotum and metasoma golden
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Figure 1. Holopyga beaumonti Balthasar, 1953: (A) Head, frontal view; (B) Head, dorsal view; (C) Pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum, dorsal view; (D) Pronotum, dorsal view; (E) Metasoma, dorsal view, (F) Metasoma, ventral view.

Holopyga beaumonti Balthasar, 1953

Distribution: Oman (Balthasar, 1953); Egypt, Palestine (Linsenmaier, 1999); Turkey (Strumia and Yildirim, 2011); Saudi Arabia, UAE (Strumia, 2014). New record for Iran.

Holopyga bifigurata Linsenmaier, 1968

Distribution. Iran, Palestine, Syria, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1968, 1987; Strumia and Yildirim, 2007).

Holopyga chrysonota discolor Linsenmaier, 1959

Distribution: Cyprus, Iran, Lebanon, North Africa, Palestine, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1959, 1987, 1999; Rosa et al., 2013).

Holopyga crassepuncta Semenov, 1954

Distribution: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan (Semenov and Nikol’skaya, 1954); Turkey (Kimsey and Bohart, 1991); Iran (Rosa et al., 2013).

Holopyga cypruscula detrita Linsenmaier, 1959

Material Examined: Alborz Province, Shahriar (35° 40’ 08.10” N, 50° 56’ 56.64” E, 1,168 m), 01-vi-2010, 1♀, 15-vi-2010, 2♀♂, 06-vii-2010, 1♂, 10-vii-2010, 1♂, 12-vii-2010, 1♀, 24-viii-2010, 1♀, 01-ix-2010, 1♂, 07-ix-2010, 1♂, 22-ix-2010, 2♀♂, leg. A. Nadimi; Karaj (35°46’08.88” N, 50° 56’ 55.20” E, 1,277 m), 29-v-2010, 2♀♂, 01-vi-
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2010, 1♀, leg. A. Nadimi; Hormozgan Province, Bandar Abbas, Zakin (27° 28′ 53″ N, 56° 18′ 27″ E, 680 m), 09-v-2011, 1♀, leg. A. Ameri; Fars Province, Sede (30° 44′ 08.77″ N, 52° 09′ 09.02″ E, 2301 m), 21-vii-2012, 1♀, leg. A. Amiri.

Distribution: Iran, Palestine, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1959, 1968, 1987; Strumia and Yildirim, 2007; Rosa et al., 2013).

Remarks: Strumia and Fallahzadeh (2015) listed *H. cypruscula* from Kordestan, without any subspecies identification. *H. cypruscula cypruscola* Linsenmaier, 1959 is currently considered as an endemic subspecies of Cyprus, and the Iranian specimen could belong to *H. cypruscula detrita* or *H. cypruscula turca*.

**Holopyga cypruscula turca** Linsenmaier, 1959

Distribution: Iran, Palestine, Syria, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1959); North Africa, south of Europe (Linsenmaier, 1999).

**Holopyga fastuosa proviridis** Linsenmaier, 1959

Material Examined: Alborz Province, Shahriar (35° 40′ 08.10″ N, 50° 56′ 56.64″ E, 1,168 m), 01-vi-2010, 1♀, leg. A. Nadimi.

Distribution: Iran, Palestine, Syria, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1959); North Africa, south of Europe (Linsenmaier, 1999).

**Holopyga fastuosa generosa** (Forster, 1853)

Remarks: Torabipour et al., (2013a) have recorded *H. generosa* (Lucas, 1849) as a new record species for the fauna of Iran. In this research we follow Fauna Europaea (Rosa and Soon, 2013), where there is only one species *H. fastuosa* (Lucas, 1849) and four subspecies: *H. fastuosa fastuosa* (Lucas, 1849), *H. fastuosa proviridis* (Linsenmaier, 1959), and *H fastuosa virideaurata* (Linsenmaier, 1959). Only *H. fastuosa generosa* (Forster, 1853) and *H. fastuosa proviridis* Linsenmaier, 1959 have been found in Iran. The first one with red or golden abdomen and the other is entirely green (Linsenmaier, 1997).

**Holopyga fervida** (Fabricius, 1781)

Material Examined: Hormozgan Province, Bandar Abbas, Zakin (27° 28′ 53″ N, 56° 18′
Figure 2. Holopyga fascialis Linsenmaier, 1959: (A) Head, frontal view; (B) Head, dorsal view; (C) Pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum, dorsal view; (D) Pronotum, dorsal view; (E) Metasoma, dorsal view, (F) Metasoma, ventral view.

27° E, 680 m), 25-vi-2011, 1♀, 11-iv-2013, 1♂, 16-v-2011, 1♀; Roodan, Faryab (27° 28’ 58” N, 57° 04’ 24” E, 313 m), 11-iv-2013, 1♂, leg. A. Ameri; Fars Province, Eqlid, Shahrmeyan (30° 54’ 39.07” N, 52° 28’ 16.82” E, 2,120 m), 19-vii-2012, 1♀, leg. A. Amiri.

Distribution: Europe, Iran, North Africa, Turkey (Bischoff, 1910; Linsenmaier, 1959; Kimsey and Bohart, 1991; Yildirim and Strumia, 2007; Rosa et al., 2013).

*Holopyga ignicollis* Dahlbom, 1854

Material Examined: Alborz Province, Karaj (35° 46’ 08.88” N, 50° 56’ 55.20” E, 1,277 m), 29-v-2010, 3♀♀; Shahriar (35° 40’ 08.10” N, 50° 56’ 56.64” E, 1168 m), 01-vi-2010, 3♀♀, 06-vi-2010, 1♂, 15-vi-2010, 1♀, 05-x-2010, 1♀, leg. A. Nadimi; Mazandaran Province, Noor, Faculty of Natural Resources and Marine Sciences (36°34’52.98” N, 52° 02’ 45.78” E, -14 m), 09-vi-2011, 1♀; Hormozgan Province, Bandar Abbas, Zakin (site II) (27° 53’ 7” N, 56°19’58”E, 1,020 m), 25-v-2012, 1♀, leg. A. Ameri; Fars Province, Jahrom (28° 39’ 35.18” N, 53° 32’ 10.77” E, 1,017 m), 03-vi-2012, 1♀, 17-vi-2012, 1♀, leg. A. Amiri; Kerman Province, Jiroft, dalfard (28° 58’ 53” N, 57° 37.06” E, 5,963 m), 30-vi-2013, 1♀, leg. A. Ameri
Diagnosis: Body length 5-6.2 mm; height of clypeus 2 MOD; scapal basin with transverse lines (Figure 3-A); temples subparallel (Figure 3-B); F1 three times longer than its maximum width in female, but shorter in male; punctures on mesonotum, scutellum and metanotum coarse and dense with narrow intervals (Figures 3-C), on pronotum more scattered with smooth intervals covered with small punctures (Figure 3-D); on metasoma very fine, deep and close (Figure 3-E), on second metastomal sternum almost invisible, with few and sparse punctures (Figure 3-F); coloration: female with pronotum, mesonotum and metasoma green-golden to flame red, other parts dark blue, body completely green in male, tegula nonmetallic, wings tanned on outer half.

Distribution: Cyprus, Greece, Middle and South Europe, North Africa, Palestine, Turkey, West Palaearctic to Middle Asia (Linsenmaier, 1959, 1968, 1999; Strumia and Yildirim, 2007). New record for Iran.

**Holopyga inflammata caucasica** Mocsáry, 1889

Distribution: Caucasus, Cyprus, Palestine (Linsenmaier, 1959); Turkey (Strumia and Yildirim, 2007); Iran (Rosa et al., 2013).

![Figure 3. Holopyga ignicollis Dahlbom, 1854: (A) Head, frontal view; (B) Head, dorsal view; (C) Pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum, dorsal view; (D) Pronotum, dorsal view; (E) Metasoma, dorsal view, (F) Metasoma, ventral view.](image-url)
**Holopyga inflammata inflammata**  
(Förster, 1853)

Material Examined: Alborz Province, Karaj (35° 46′ 08.88″ N, 50° 56′ 55.20″ E, 1,277 m), 06-vii-2010, 1 ♀, leg. A. Nadimi.

Diagnosis: Body length 7 mm; height of clypeus 1.3 times MOD; scapal basin with transverse lines (Figure 4-A); temples parallel with corners toward inside (Figure 4-B); F1 almost two times as long as its maximum width; punctures on head fine and close in the middle of ocellus and posterior part of head (Figure 4-B), on pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum shallow, scattered with smooth intervals covered with very small punctures with medium-sized punctures on scutellum, on metanotum coarse and dense with narrow intervals (Figures 4-C, -D), on metasoma very fine and close (Figure 4-E), on second metasomal sternite almost invisible, with few and dispersed punctures (Figure 4-F); coloration: pronotum, mesonotum, scutellum, matanotum and metasoma green-golden with cupreous reflection, head, sides of scutellum, propodeal angeles, mesopleuron and legs dark blue, tegula

![Image of insect](image_url)

**Figure 4.** *Holopyga inflammata inflammata* (Förster, 1853): (A) Head, frontal view; (B) Head, dorsal view; (C) Pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum, dorsal view; (D) Pronotum, dorsal view; (E) Metasoma, dorsal view, (F) Metasoma, ventral view.
nonmetallic, wings tanned on outer half. Distribution: Europe, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1959; Strumia and Yildirim, 2011). New record for Iran.

Remarks: Strumia and Fallahzadeh (2015) listed *H. inflammata* (Förster, 1853) without any subspecies identification from Khorasan Razavi, but in correspondence with Dr. Franco Strumia, it was found that their specimen belonged to *H. inflammata caucasica* Mocsányi, 1889 subspecies.

*Holopyga jurinei* Chevrier, 1862

Material Examined: Alborz Province, Karaj (35° 46′ 08.88″ N, 50° 56′ 55.20″ E, 1,277 m), 14-vii-2010, 1♀; Shahriar (35° 40′ 08.10″ N, 50° 56′ 56.64″ E, 1,168 m), 01-ix-2010, 1♀; Qazvin province, Zereshk Road (36° 25′ 23.88″ N, 50° 06′ 37.68″ E, 1,926 m), 27-vii-2011, 1♀, leg. M. Khayrandish.

Diagnosis: Body length 6-7 mm; height of clypeus 1.8 MOD; scapal basin with transverse lines (Figure 5-A); temples angular and subparallel (Figure 5-B);

![Figure 5. Holopyga jurinei Chevrier, 1862: (A) Head, frontal view; (B) Head, dorsal view; (C) Pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum, dorsal view; (D) Pronotum, dorsal view; (E) Metasoma, dorsal view, (F) Metasoma, ventral view.](image-url)
punctures on pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum irregularly scattered with smooth intervals covered with small punctures on pronotum and mesonotum, on metanotum coarse and dense with narrow intervals (Figures 5-C, -D), on metasoma fine, deep and close (Figure 5-E), on second metasomal sternite numerous and dense (Figure 5-F); coloration: head mesopleuron, propodeum and mesosoma ventrally blue, pronotum, mesonotum, scutellum, metanotum and metasoma flame red to cupreous, sternites and tegula nonmetallic, wings tanned on outer half.

Distribution: Middle and south of Europe, North India, Palestine, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1968, 1959, 1987; Strumia and Yildirim, 2007). New record for Iran.

*Holopyga minuma* Linsenmaier, 1959

Distribution: Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Middle East, Syria, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1968, 1959, 1987; Kimsey and Bohart, 1991; Strumia and Yildirim, 2007).

*Holopyga punctatissima* Dahlbom, 1854

Material Examined: Hormozgan Province, Minab, Agricultural and Natural Resources Research Center of Minab (27° 8' 39" N, 57° 04' 31" E, 28 m), 17-iv-2013, 1♀, leg. A. Ameri.

Distribution: Oman, Saudi Arabia (Linsenmaier, 1994); UAE (Strumia, 2014); Iran (Farhad et al., 2016).

*Holopyga zarudniana* Semenov-Tian-Shanskiy, 1967

Distribution: Bulgaria, Greece, Iran (Linsenmaier, 1959); Caucasus, Cyprus, Palestine, Turkey (Linsenmaier, 1959); Egypt, southern Russia (Linsenmaier, 1968).

DISCUSSION

So far, 244 species of chrysidid wasps have been recorded from Iran (Kimsey and Bohart, 1991; Rosa et al., 2013; Torabipour et al., 2013a, b; Samin et al., 2014; Farhad et al., 2015; Strumia and Fallahzadeh, 2015; Tavasoli and Fallahzadeh, 2015; Farhad et al., 2016; Strumia et al., 2016). The number of cuckoo wasps reported from Iran is considered high if compared to that of some neighboring countries such as Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan (Kimsey and Bohart, 1991); but still far to be enough well-known if compared with the Turkish fauna, which includes about 400 species (Strumia and Yildirim, 2007).

Four species (*Holopyga beaumontii* Balthasar, 1953; *H. fascialis* Linsenmaier, 1959; *H. ignicollis* Dahlbom, 1854; *H. jurinei* Chevrier, 1862) and one subspecies (*H. inflammatula inflammatula* (Förster, 1853)) are newly recorded for the Iranian fauna. According to previous studies (Mocsáry, 1892; Bischoff, 1910; Linsenmaier, 1959, 1987; Semenov-Tian-Shanskiy, 1967; Rosa et al., 2013; Farhad et al., 2016) along with the current four new records, 21 species and subspecies of *Holopyga*, have been recorded in Iran. According to our data, *H. cyruscula*
detrita and H. ignicollis are the most abundant species with a wide distribution in Iran.

Iran is located in southwest Asia and considered as a bridge connecting the Palaeartic, Oriental, and Afrotropical Regions (Abivardi, 2001) between Caspian Sea in the north and Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in the south. The fauna from the south part of Iran seems to be partially different from that of the northern part. We collected certain species (H. arabica; H. beaumonti; H. fascialis and H. vissicituda) distributed also in North Africa or in the Arabian Peninsula (Linsenmaier, 1959, 1994, 1999; Strumia, 2014). Since Iran is a territory of vast arid and semiarid areas, mountains, and forests, a larger variety of cuckoo wasps is expected and the Chrysididae fauna will be very likely substantially increased with further studies.

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Iranian Species of the Genus Holopyga

جنس Holopyga (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae) در ایران، همراه با پنج گزارش جديد

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چکیده
گونه های متعلق به جنس Holopyga در ایران مورد بررسی قرار گرفتند. نمونه ها از 13 استان شمالی و جنوبی ایران جمع آوری شدند. بیست و یک گونه و زیرگونه شناسایی شدند، که چهار گونه و یک زیرگونه برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش شدند: 

- H. H. fascialis Linsenmaier, 1959
- Holopyga beaumonti Baltasar, 1953
- H. inflammata inflammata (Förster, 1853)
- H. jurinei Chevrier, 1862

پراکنش جغرافیایی همه گونه ها و صفات مورفولوژیک گونه هایی که برای اولین بار گزارش شدند، به اختصار مورد بحث قرار گرفت. تعداد گونه های Holopyga در ایران به 21 گونه افزایش یافت.