

The Genus *Merismus* Walk. in Sweden and Description of a New Genus and Species (Hym. Pteromalidae, Miscogasterinae)

Notes on Chalcidoidea (Hym.). VI

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Abstract

The author gives a key to the Swedish species of *Merismus* Walk. Only *M. megapterus* Walk. was known before from Sweden; now he is adding four species: *M. splendens* V. Grah., *M. nitidus*

(Walk.), *M. rufipes* Walk. and *M. lasthenes* (Walk.).

A new genus *Cirdania* gen. n. is described with type-species *Cirdania styliclava* sp. n. from province Skåne (Scania).

Merismus Walk.

Walker, 1833, Ent. Mag. I, 371, 375.

Synonyms: see Graham, 1969.

Type species: *Merismus rufipes* Walk. designated by Westwood, 1839, An introduction to the modern classification of insects no. 13, 68.

Only *Merismus megapterus* Walk. was hitherto known from Sweden. The author can now add four species to our fauna.

The genus *Merismus* Walk. is characterized by margined pronotal collar, clypeus with three asymmetric teeth, antennal clava of female with a long stripe of micropilosity, prepectus with oblique carina which cuts off an upper triangle with weak and irregular punctuation, and petiole longer than wide, strongly reticulated.

Very little is known about the biology. *M. megapterus* Walk. is reared from species of *Phytobia* and *M. splendens* V. Grah. from *Agromyza albipennis* Mg. (Agromyzidae).

Key to the species of *Merismus* Walk.

(Modified after Graham, 1969.)

♀ ♀ and ♂ ♂.

1. Gastral petiole (fig. 4 A) without a raised transverse crest near its base 2
- Gastral petiole (fig. 4 B) with a raised transverse crest near its base 3

2. Antenna, fig. 5 B. Gastral petiole as long as or longer than propodeum, mesoscutum and axilla with distinctly raised reticulation. Antennal scape hardly or just reaching lower edge of median ocellus *M. megapterus* Walk.

- Antenna, fig. 5 C. Gastral petiole shorter than propodeum, mesoscutum with slightly raised reticulation, axilla with engraved reticulation. Antennal scape reaching middle of median ocellus *M. splendens* V. Grah.

3. Antenna relatively strongly clavate (fig. 5 E). Head (fig. 3 A) in dorsal view with temples converging more strongly .. *M. nitidus* (Walk.)

- Antenna not strongly clavate 4

4. Antenna (fig. 5 F). Gastral petiole nearly twice as long as broad. Head (fig. 3 B) in dorsal view with temples more rounded. Mandibles with 3 teeth (left) and 4 (right). Legs (not coxae) reddish testaceous, sometimes hind and mid femora partly infuscated *M. rufipes* Walk.

- Antenna (fig. 5 D). Gastral petiole somewhat longer than broad. Mandibles with 4 teeth (left and right). Legs usually wholly reddish testaceous with femora mainly dark *M. lasthenes* (Walk.)

Merismus megapterus Walk. (figs. 1, 2 A, B, 4 A, 5 A, B).

Walker, 1833, Ent. Mag. I, 377.

Synonyms: see Graham, 1969.

Distribution: Britain, Ireland, Italy, Sweden.

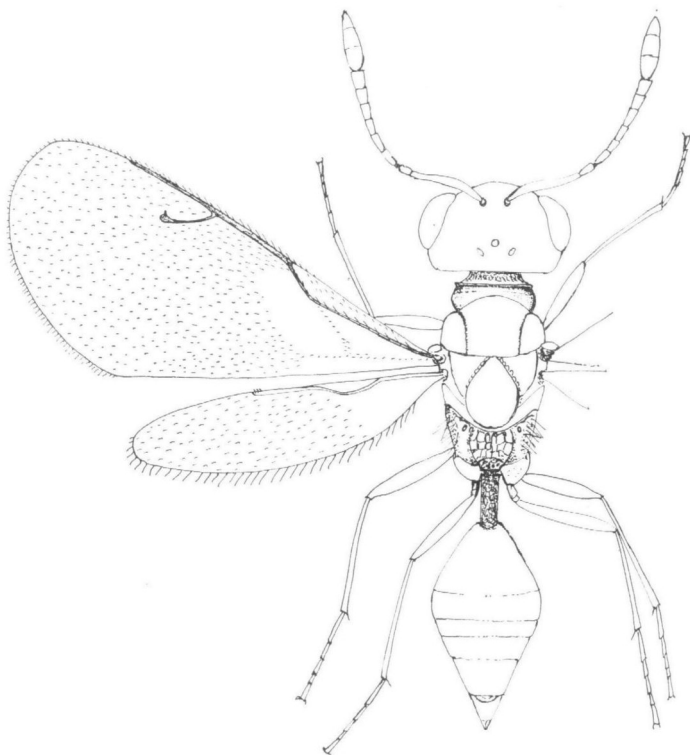


Fig. 1. *Merismus megapterus* Walk. female.

Material seen from Sweden: *Skåne*, Sandhammaren 5.IX.62 1 ♀; Åhus 8.V.61 1 ♂; Brösarp 27.VI.73 1 ♂, 29.VII.73 1 ♀. *Småland*, Oskarshamn, Virkvarn 20.IX.61 1 ♀. *Uppland*, Börje, Hässelby 19.V.64 1 ♀; Vallentuna 3.VI.62 1 ♂, 27.VIII.72 1 ♂, 17.IX.59 1 ♂. *Medelpad*, Övertyringen 12.IX.58 1 ♂. *Västerbotten*, Hällnäs 12.IX.62 1 ♀ 2 ♂. — All specimens collected by the author.

Merismus splendens V. Graham (fig. 5 C).

V. Graham, 1969, Bull. Brit. Mus. Ent. Suppl. 16, 174—176.

Distribution: England, Ireland, Sweden.

Material seen from Sweden: *Skåne*, Åhus 2.VIII.70 1 ♀ (K.-J. Hedqvist).

Merismus nitidus (Walk.) (figs. 3 A, 5 E).

Walker, 1833, Ent. Mag. I, 462 (*Miscogaster nitida*).

Distribution: Britain, Ireland, Norway, Sweden.

Material seen from Sweden: *Skåne*, Åhus 10.VIII.70 1 ♂ (K.-J. Hedqvist). *Blekinge*, Gö 2.IX.63 1 ♀ (K.-J. Hedqvist). *Gotska Sandön*

7.VIII.64 1 ♂ (K.-J. Hedqvist). *Södermanland*, Julita, Tockenön 19.VIII.59 1 ♀ (A. Jansson). *Uppland*, Vallentuna 27.VIII.72 1 ♂ (K.-J. Hedqvist). *Närke*, Örebro, Oset 5.VIII.47 1 ♀ (A. Jansson). *Dalarna*, Malung 10.IX.55 1 ♂ (O. Lundblad).

Norway: Rygg 6.VIII.72 2 ♀, on flowers of *Angelica* (K.-J. Hedqvist).

Merismus rufipes Walk. (figs. 3 B, 4 B, 5 F).

Walker, 1833, Ent. Mag. I, 378.

Distribution: Britain, Sweden.

Material seen from Sweden: *Skåne*, Åhus 14.IX.59 1 ♂ (K.-J. Hedqvist); Sandhammaren 24.VII.73 2 ♀ (K.-J. Hedqvist). *Blekinge*, Gö 2.IX.63 1 ♀ (K.-J. Hedqvist). *Östergötland*, Ändebol 26.IX.57 1 ♀ (K.-J. Hedqvist). *Uppland*, Vallentuna 22.VIII.71 1 ♀ (K.-J. Hedqvist). *Närke*, Örebro, Adolfsberg 11.VIII.57 1 ♀ (A. Jansson).

Merismus lasthenes (Walk.) (fig. 5 D).

Walker, 1848, List of the specimens of Hymenopterous insects in the collection of the British

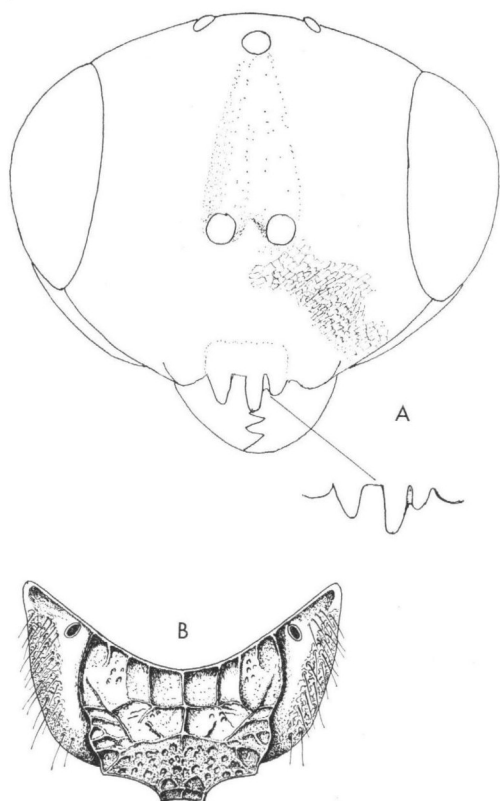


Fig. 2. A—B *Merismus megapterus* Walk. female. A. Head in frontal view. B. Propodeum.

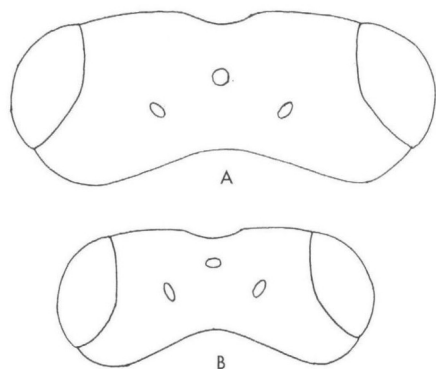


Fig. 3. A. *Merismus nitidus* (Walk.) ♀, head in dorsal view. — B. *Merismus rufipes* Walk. ♀, head in frontal view.

Museum. Part II. — Chalcidites. Additional species. 108, 165.

Distribution: Britain, Sweden.

Material seen from Sweden: *Västerbotten*, Hällnäs 23.VIII.64 1 ♀ (K.-J. Hedqvist).

*Cirdania*¹ gen. n.

Clypeus with anterior margin stright (fig. 6 B). Antennae, 11263, inserted just above the level of the anterior margin of eyes, clava with a spine. Pronotal collar sharp by margined. Notauli indistinct behind scutum. Scutellum without frenum. Prepectus punctate. Propodeum (fig. 6 A) with plicae and median carina. Gastral petiole longer than broad, strongly reticulate. Gaster with posterior margin of segments nearly straight. Hind tibia with one spur. Fore wing with large speculum, marginal vein shorter than postmarginal vein.

Type species: *C. styliclava* sp. n.

Cirdania styliclava sp. n. (figs. 6, 7).

♀. Dark blue-green. Antennal scape black with blue tint, funiculus black. Mandibles brown. Legs testaceous with femora and tibiae more or less with tint of brown, claw-joints dark brown. Wing veins brown.

Head (fig. 6 B) a little wider than thorax. Clypeus smooth. Mandibles with 4 teeth (left and right). Malar space as long as $\frac{2}{3}$ of the width of one eye. Antennal scape (fig. 6 C) not reaching median ocellus; funicle joints slightly longer than wide with few sensillae in a row on each joint, clava with stylus. POL a little longer than OOL. Occiput strongly sinuate with temples moderately converging. Pronotal collar with a sharp margin in the middle. Notauli indistinct behind. Head and thorax reticulate. Propodeum (fig. 5 A) reticulate with plicae, mid carina indistinct in the middle. Spiracles very small, circular; callus with few hairs. Hind coxe without hairs above. Petiolus (fig. 5 D) twice as long as broad, reticulate. Gaster ovate, as long as thorax, with first segment nearly as long as half gaster.

Fore wing (fig. 7) with basal cell nude, along basal vein a few hairs. Speculum large, nearly closed below by a row of hairs, costal cell with hairs. Marginal vein $1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as stigmal vein and shorter than postmarginal vein.

♂. Unknown.

Length: 1.4—1.7 mm.

¹ Named from the book of Tolkien: "The Lord of the Rings".

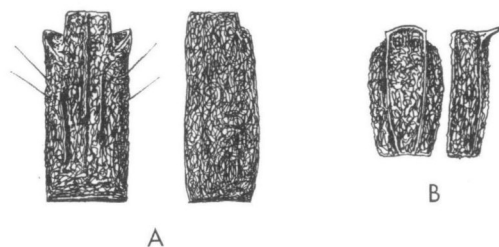


Fig. 4. A. *Merismus megapterus* Walk. ♀, petiole in dorsal view (left) and in lateral view (right). — B. *Merismus rufipes* Walk. ♀, petiole in dorsal view (left) and in lateral view (right).

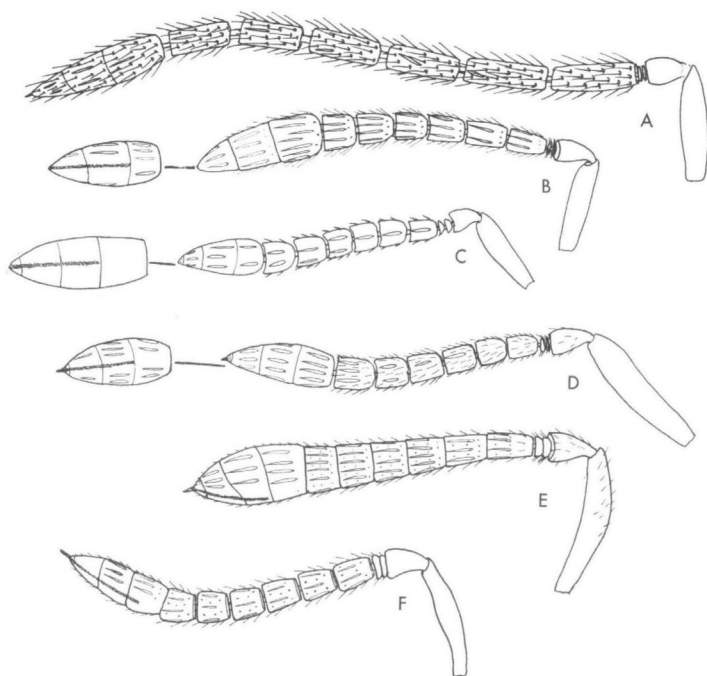


Fig. 5. Antennae of: A—B. *Merismus megapterus* Walk., A. Male; B. Female; C. *Merismus splendens* V. Grah. ♀; D. *Merismus lasthenes* (Walk.) ♀; E. *Merismus nitidus* (Walk.) ♀; F. *Merismus rufipes* Walk. ♀.

Holotype: Skåne, Sandhammaren 24.VII. 1973, leg. K.-J. Hedqvist, swept from vegetation on sand dunes (in coll. mea).

Paratypes: 10 ♀ ♀, 8 in coll. mea, 2 in Mus. Lund (9 ♀ from the same locality as holotype; 1 ♀ Skåne, Baskemölla 8.VII.73, leg. K.-J. Hedqvist).

Biology: Unknown.

Cirdania gen. n. seems to be a link between the *Sphegigasterini*, with genus *Toxeuma* Walk., and the *Miscogasterini*, with genus *Merismus* Walk. The author has placed it near *Merismus* Walk., because in its habitus it is more similar to the genus: it has a long petiole,

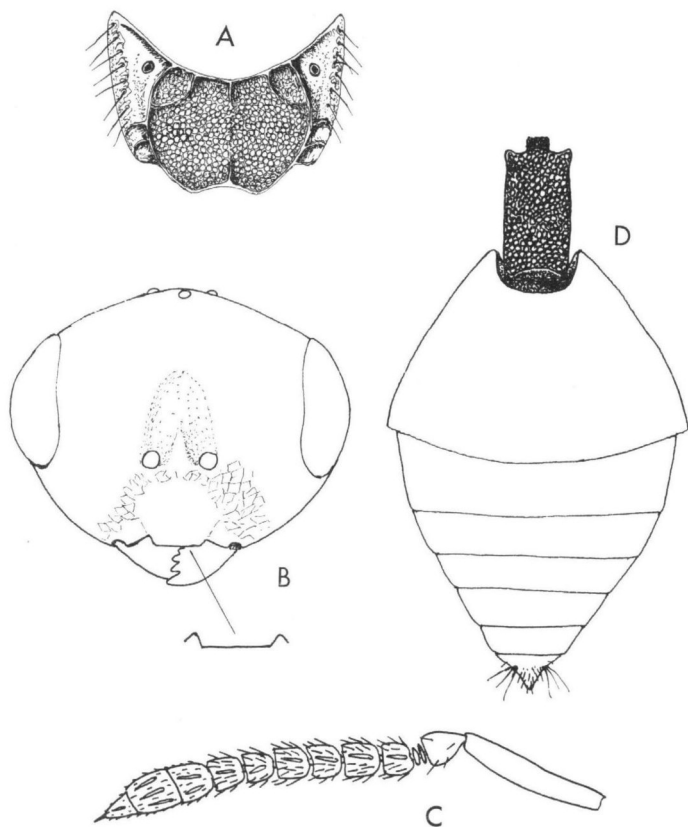


Fig. 6. *Cirdania* gen. n. *styliclava* sp. n. female, A. Propodeum, B. Head in frontal view, C. Antenna and D. Petiole and gaster.

the pronotal collar is margined and the clava has a spine. It differs in having clypeus with stright anterior margin.

Reference

GRAHAM, M. W. R. DE V., 1969. The Pteromalidae of North-Western Europe (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea). — Bull. Brit. Mus. (N. H.), Entomology. 16. 1—908.

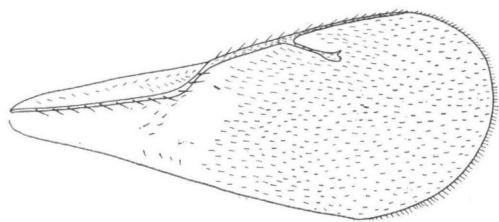


Fig. 7. *Cirdania* gen. n. *styliclava* sp. n. female, fore wing.

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