

Synopsis of the Bee Genus *Ceratina* (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Apidae) in Nepal, with Descriptions of Five New Species and One New Subspecies

Makoto Shiokawa

4-1-5-306 Kawazoe 9-zyo, Minami-ku, Sapporo, 005-0809 Japan

E-mail: m-shio@soleil.ocn.ne.jp

(Received 4 November 2007; Accepted 24 August 2008)

Thirteen taxa belonging to five subgenera of the genus *Ceratina* Latreille, 1802 are recorded from Nepal. Six of them are described as five new species, *C. (Ceratina) belliata* sp. nov., *C. (Neoceratina) takeshii* sp. nov., *C. (Catoceratina) splendida* sp. nov., *C. (Ceratinidia) himalayana* sp. nov., and *C. (Ceratinidia) gurkhana* sp. nov., and a new subspecies of *C. (Ceratinidia) okinawana* Matsumura and Uchida, 1926, *C. okinawana nepalensis* ssp. nov. Close relatives of the new taxa are discussed.

Key Words: Insecta, Hymenoptera, Apidae, *Ceratina*, taxonomy, new species, new subspecies, Nepal.

Introduction

When van der Vecht (1952) dealt with 44 species of seven subgenera in his monograph on the classification of the genus *Ceratina* of the Oriental Region except for the northern and western margins, he left the Nepalese *Ceratina* unstudied. In the present study, while examining many ceratinid specimens collected in Nepal by T. Matsumura and others, I recognized 13 taxa, including six undescribed taxa, placed in five subgenera. Previously known taxa were identified as *C. (Pithitis) smaragdula* (Fabricius, 1787), *C. (P.) binghami* Cockerell, 1908, *C. (Neoceratina) dentipes* Friese, 1914, *C. (Ceratinidia) cognata* Smith, 1879, *C. (Ceratinidia) cavifrons* Shiokawa, 2006, *C. (Ceratinidia) lepida* Smith, 1879, and *C. (Ceratinidia) bryanti bryanti* Cockerell, 1919.

In this paper, the seven known taxa of *Ceratina* mentioned above are recorded from Nepal for the first time and six undescribed taxa are described as new, *C. (Ceratina) belliata* sp. nov., *C. (Neoceratina) takeshii* sp. nov., *C. (Catoceratina) splendida* sp. nov., *C. (Ceratinidia) himalayana* sp. nov., *C. (Ceratinidia) gurkhana* sp. nov., and *C. (Ceratinidia) okinawana nepalensis* ssp. nov. Relationships between the new taxa from Nepal and allied known taxa occurring in the Oriental Region are discussed.

Materials and Methods

Most specimens examined in this study were collected by T. Matsumura during the Hokkaido University Scientific Expedition to the Nepal Himalayas 1968 and