



Research Note

First report of the parasitoid wasp, *Hyposoter leucomerus* Thomson (Hym.: Ichneumonidae, Campopleginae) from Iran

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ABSTRACT: *Hyposoter leucomerus*, an ichneumonid is reported for the first time as the parasitoid of *Pieris rapae* (L.) from Iran

KEY WORDS: *Hyposoter leucomerus*, *Pieris rapae*, Iran

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To identify the hymenopterous larval and pupal parasitoids of the small cabbage butterfly, *Pieris rapae* (L.) (Lepidoptera: Pieridae), several samplings were carried out in infected cabbage fields at southern part of Tehran (N= 35°30'52.62", E= 51°17'2.76", 3337 m a.s.l.) during 2011. The larval and pupal stages of *P. rapae* were collected and reared under laboratory conditions at 22±2°C, 65±2% RH, and 14:10 (L:D) photoperiod in transparent plastic containers (15×5×5 cm). The larvae were fed daily with fresh leaves of cabbage. Sweeping net and light traps were also used for collecting parasitoids in the infested cabbage fields. Several parasitoids were reared and identified. Among them, *Hyposoter leucomerus* (Thomson, 1887) (Hym.: Ichneumonidae, Campopleginae), which was identified by the fourth author, is a new record for the fauna of Iran (Barahoei *et al.*, 2012, Yu *et al.*, 2012) (Fig. 1). The main diagnostic morphological characters of *H. leucomerus* are: temple 0.4x as

wide as the base of mandible; fore and mid coxa completely and hind coxa apically yellow; all trochanters yellow; hind tarsus predominantly yellow (Horstmann, 2000).

The parasitoid is distributed in Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Finland; France; Germany; Hungary; Ireland; Latvia; Poland; Romania; Spain; Sweden; Turkey and United Kingdom. In Iran *H. leucomerus* was recorded for the first time previously on the moth, *Gracillaria syringella* (Fabricius) (Lep.: Gracillariidae) Thus, the small cabbage butterfly *P. rapae* is the second established host for *H. leucomerus* from Iran.

Specimens of this species were deposited in the Zoological Museum of the University of Turku, Finland and the insect laboratory of Shahed University, Tehran, Iran.



Fig. 1. Parasitoid wasp of the small cabbage butterfly, *Hyposoter leucomerus* (Thomson, 1887).

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