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THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION
OF "DIAERETUS OREGMAE GAHAN"
(HYMENOPTERA: APHIDIIDAE)

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The present account deals with the systematic position of "*Diaeretus oregmae* Gahan". This species is known as a parasite of the white woolly aphid, *Oregma lanigera* Zehnt., an important sugarcane pest.

The author has solved the problem of the generic group "*Diaeretus* Förster" in a previous paper (1960, 1. c.). It was ascertained that the greatest part of species placed in *Diaeretus* Först. by various authors belong to other genera (see 1. c.). The species "*D. oregmae* Gah." that was originally placed in *Diaeretus* represents one such case. By the wing venation and by the shape of ovipositor sheaths the species is, no doubt, a further member of the genus *Lipolexis* Förster that has been known as being monotypic from Europe only.

Lipolexis oregmae (Gahan), n. comb.

Diaeretus oregmae Gahan, 1932, Ann. ent. Soc. Amer., Columbus 25:736-737/♀ descr., Locality: Panay, Philippines.

L. oregmae is easily distinguishable from *L. gracilis* Först. by the shape and structure of tergite 1 and by the coloration.

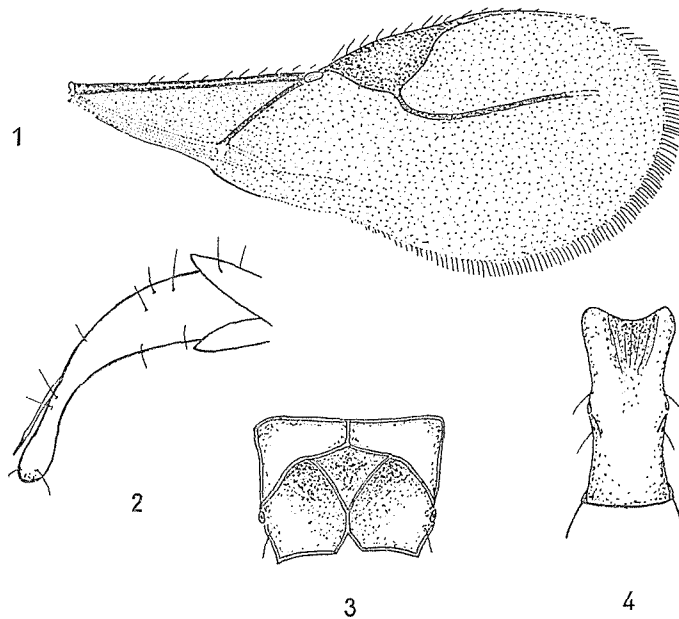
Description: Female.—Head transverse, smooth, shiny, sparsely haired, wider than thorax at tegulae. Occiput margined. Gena as wide as 1/4 of longitudinal eye-diameter. Temple as wide as half of transverse eye-diameter. Relative distance between tentorial pit and eye-margin as long as half of the relative distance between the pits. Clypeus oval, convex, arcuate and margined frontally, with sparse long hairs; with deep tentorial pit on each side; separated by shallow arcuate groove from face. Eyes large, strongly convex, with sparse and comparatively long hairs, somewhat convergent to the clypeus. Antennae slender, filiform, 12-segmented; flagellar segments long and slender.

Thorax smooth, shiny. Mesoscutum gibbous, without covering pronotum when viewed laterally, with sparse long hairs. Notaulices distinct in the fore part, crenulate, effaced on the disc. Propodeum distinctly areolated (Fig. 3); central carina and its rami very prominent, nearly tuberculiform on the edges of the central, trapezoidal, large areola; separating one smaller upper and one large lower, slightly concave, areolae on each side; discs of areolae smooth, shiny, sparsely haired. Wings (Fig. 1) with characters of the genus; pterostigma triangular. Legs slender.

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Abdomen lanceolate, somewhat longer than head and thorax combined. Tergit 1 (Fig. 4) very slender, about 2.5 times as long as wide at spiracles; smooth, shiny, slightly convex, sparsely haired. Spiracular tubercles situated about at the half of the tergite, very little prominent. Following tergites smooth, shiny, with long sparse hairs, more densely haired towards the apex of abdomen. Ovipositor sheaths slender, downwards-curved, strongly narrowing to the apex and slightly dilated at apex. Ovipositor curved downwards.

Coloration brown yellowish. Head yellowish; frons, vertex and occiput brown; mouthparts yellow. Antennae: Scape, pedicel, 1st flagellar segment and part of 2nd yellowish, the rest of antennae brown. Mesoscutum and scutellum brown; the rest of



Figs. 1-4. *Lipotaxis oregmae* (Gahan), female paratype.

1: Fore wing. 2: Ovipositor sheaths, drawn from the dried specimen.
3: Propodeum. 4: Tergite 1. (Figures 3 and 4 of relative dimensions).

thorax brown yellow, with more or less obscured tinges. Legs yellow, praetarsi obscured. Tergite 1 brown yellow, remaining tergites brownish.

Length of body about 2.6 mm.

Male.—Unknown.

General distribution: Oriental region (Philippines).

Material examined: 2 ♀♀, bred from *Oregma lanigera*, Island of Panay, Philippines, lgt. A. W. Lopez.

Host: *Oregma lanigera* Zehnt. (Gahan, 1932, on sugar cane, Philippines).

Note: Redescribed from two female paratypes (Labeled: Ex *Oregma lanigera*, Panay, P. I., Rec 'd. fr., A. W. Lopez, 6186, red label.—Paratype No. 43433, USNM).

Acknowledgements

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