

# On *Triteleia* Kieffer (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) from India, with descriptions of two new species

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**ABSTRACT:** *Triteleia* Kieffer is a little known scelionid genus. Two species, viz., *T. flagellata* Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. and *T. robusta* Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. are described as new to science. Further *T. bengalensis* (Saraswat), the only species known under *Triteleia* in India, is redescribed and a dichotomous key to the three Indian species of *Triteleia* is provided. © 2021 Association for Advancement of Entomology

KEY WORDS: Scelionid genus, Triteleia flagellata, T. robusta, T. bengalensis, key

### **INTRODUCTION**

The genus *Triteleia* (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae) was erected by Kieffer (1906) based on the type species *Triteleia punctaticeps* Kieffer and are among the largest and elongate members of the family (Masner, 1976). This genus is very much similar to *Macroteleia* Westwood and *Habroteleia* Kieffer in size and body shape. But in *Macroteleia* Westwood, T6 in females is laterally compressed like a wedge and *Habroteleia* Kieffer lacks a postmarginal vein in their forewings. T6 in females is never compressed laterally, instead flat and triangular in *Triteleia*. In males, the postero-lateral corners of the apical tergite or tergite 7, are bispinose or at least pointed (Masner, 1976; Chen *et al.*, 2013).

Of the 35 species reported worldwide, only 4 spp., are from the Oriental region viz., *Triteleia bengalensis* (Saraswat, 1978), *T. ladona* Kozlov and Le, 1995, *T. lagunica* Kozlov and Le, 1995 and *T. velicana* Kozlov and Le, 1995 (Cora and

Johnson, 2017). In India, the genus is represented by a single species, Triteleia bengalensis (Saraswat, 1978) and the species was transferred from Alloteleia Kieffer (Talamas et al., 2017). Of the two species earlier described as Triteleia by Sharma (1981), T. vindhiensis Sharma is now Baryconus vindhiensis (Sharma) by generic transfer and T. kotturensis Sharma, has been synonymised under Habroteleia flavipes Kieffer (Chen et al., 2018). Two species, T. flagellata Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. and T. robusta Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. are described here, along with a key to the Indian species. Data on hosts and biology of these egg parasitoids are scanty. However Popovici et al. (2011) reared Triteleia peyerimhoffi from the tettigonid (Orthoptera) eggs from Romania.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study is based on specimens collected through Malaise traps, Yellow pan traps, and Sweep net from various localities in Kerala. Specimens

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were studied under a Leica M 205A stereomicroscope. Images were taken using Leica DFC 500 camera and processed using extended focus montage LAS software. The holotypes and other material examined are deposited at the Western Ghat Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode, Kerala (ZSI, WGRC), one specimen of *T. bengalensis* is deposited in ZSI, Kolkata (ZSIK). Terminology followed is based on Miko *et al.* (2007).

#### Abbreviations used

A1- A12- Antennal segments; EH- Eye height; HL- Head length; HW- Head width; IOS-Inter Ocellar length; L- Length; LOL- Lateral ocellar length; *m*- Marginal vein; MW- Mesosoma width; ML- Mesosoma length; OOL- Ocellocular length; OD- Ocellar diameter; *pm*- Post marginal vein; POL- Posterior ocellar length; SSS- Scutoscutellar sulcus; *stg*- Stigmal vein; T1- T2-Tergites of metasoma; W- Width.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

# Key to species of the Genus *Triteleia* Kieffer from India (based on females)

- Setigerous foveae on frons scattered and small, separated by more than their own diameter; A3 elongate, >1.3 × longer than A2 and nearly 6 × as long as wide; T1 without a distinct anterior dorsal horn ...... *T. flagellata* Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov.
- Setigerous foveae on frons dense and large, separated by less than their diameter; A3 and A2 subequal in length, or A2 slightly longer than

A3; A3 only $3.25 \times$ as long as wide; T1 with an
anterior dorsal horn
T. bengalensis (Saraswat)

# *Triteleia flagellata* Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. (Figs. 1-8)

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:83CB1118-D720-4D4C-9BBB-FFE6AC244160

**Holotype:**  $\bigcirc$ . Length= 5.4 mm.

Body black; mandibles brown, teeth brownish black; legs pale brownish yellow except hind coxa brownish black; A1 yellow, A2- A6 pale brownish yellow, A7 brown, rest of antenna black; wings hyaline, veins brown.

**Head**: In dorsal view transverse (HL: HW= 60: 108),  $1.8 \times$  as wide as long, hairy and with fine microsculpture; central keel absent, except for a trace at its base; minimal distance of IOS: EH = 41: 66; frons with scattered setigerous foveae, small and separated by more than their own diameter, foveae extremely sparse towards malar region; base of frontal depression with short stumps of striae; frons smooth medially; ventrolateral frons foveolate; frons below anterior ocellus foveolate, not contiguous; ocellar triangle foveolate and coriaceously sculptured; gena foveolate and hairy; lateral ocellus with inner orbits almost contiguous; LOL  $4 \times OOL$ ; POL  $1.6 \times LOL$ ; POL: LOL: OD= 20:12.2:3; malar sulcus prominent, running from lower margin of eye to mandibular articulation; clypeus small, semicircular without corners; mandible tridentate, teeth subequal in length; relative proportions of antennal segments (L: W) being: (53: 11); (23: 8); (29: 5); (20: 7); (16: 8); (11: 8); (11: 12); (11: 14); (10: 14); (10: 13); (10: 12); (14: 11).

**Mesosoma:** In dorsal view (ML: MW = 132: 97)  $0.9 \times$  width of HW, hairy and with microcoriaceous sculpture; epomial carina present; skaphion absent; mesoscutum foveolate; notauli present, narrow anteriorly and broad posteriorly, distinctly foveolate and carinate; SSS narrow medially and broad laterally; mesoscutellum transverse, sculpture same as that on mesoscutum, crenulate anteriorly, carinate and foveolate posteriorly; posterior rim smooth and unarmed; metascutellum transverse, carinate and foveolate; propodeum carinate and



Figures 1-8. *Triteleia flagellata* Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. Holotype - Female.Fig. 1) Head- ventral; Fig. 2) Body profile; Fig. 3) Antenna; Fig. 4) Head- dorsal; Fig. 5) Mesosoma; Fig. 6) Metasoma; Fig. 7) Mesopleura; Fig. 8) Forewing venation



Figures 9-16. *Triteleia bengalensis* (Saraswat) - Female. Fig. 9) Body profile; Fig. 10) Head- ventral; Fig. 11) Antenna; Fig. 12) Head- dorsal; Fig. 13) Mesosoma; Fig. 14) Metasoma; Fig. 15) Mesopleura; Fig. 16) Forewing venation



Figures 17-24. *Triteleia robusta* Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. Holotype - Female Fig. 17) Body profile; Fig. 18) Antenna; Fig. 18) Mesosoma; Fig. 20) Head- ventral;
Fig. 21) Metasoma; Fig. 22) Mesopleura; Fig. 23) Head- dorsal; Fig. 24) Forewing venation

foveolate, excavate medially; cervical pronotal area hairy and coriaceously sculptured; dorsal pronotal area foveolate; lower pronotal area coriaceous anteriorly, indistinctly foveolate and carinate punctate; netrion hairy and foveolate; upper mesepisternum with a row of weak longitudinal carinae below subalar pit; speculum prominent, visible above femoral depression; mesopleural carina indistinct; sternaulus distinct; lower mesepisternum finely coriaceous and hairy with dispersed punctae; mesopleural depression smooth; metapleuron hairy; carinate and foveolate with speculum anteriorly and punctate posteriorly with lateral broad foveolae; forewing L: W= 390: 102; long not reaching tip of metasoma;  $m 0.68 \times \text{length}$ of *pm*; *pm*  $1.55 \times \text{longer than stg}$ ; *pm*: stg: m = 34: 22:23.

**Metasoma:** In dorsal view (L: W= 401: 75), 2.09  $\times$  longer than head and mesosoma combined, depressed; T1 longitudinally striate medially, dorsal horn not distinct; T2 with basal fovea anteriorly; T2-T3 densely longitudinally striate with punctures and carina in interstices; T4 and T5 densely punctate; T1-T4 hairy laterally; T5 onwards hairy medially and laterally; length of T3 nearly as long as T2; T5 longer than wide; metasoma widest at T3; sublateral tergal carina present on T1-T3; relative L: W proportion of tergites T1 to T5 being (46: 48); (78: 69); (82: 75); (76: 73) (61: 60).

Male: Unknown.

Host: Unknown.

**Etymology:** This species is named 'flagellata', after its elongated A3, the first flagellar segment.

Material examined: Holotype. 1 ♀. INDIA, Kerala, Munnar IB, Idukki District, 8-vi-2012, Coll. K. Rajmohana (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.5982); Paratype: 1 ♀, INDIA, Kerala, Manalar, Idukki District, 7-iv-2013, Coll. K. Rajmohana (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.5983).

**Discussion:** Frons with scattered and widely placed setigerous foveolae and with fine coriaceous microscuplture, A3  $1.3 \times$  longer than A2 and nearly  $6 \times$  as long as its width, an elongate metasoma,

which is >5.5 × as long as wide and no anterior metasomal horn on T1 are distinctive to *T. flagellata.* From *Triteleia bengalensis* (Saraswat), the closely resembling species, the proposed new species differs in the sculpture of the head region, the proportion of antennal segments as well as metasomal segments and also with regard to the dorsal metasomal horn on T1. Both the species can be well separated as per the key provided in this work. All the three Vietnamese species of *Triteleia* Kieffer, described by Kozlov and Le in 1995 (Lê, 2000), can be separated from *flagellata*, at once, their A2 and A3 being subequal in length like *T. bengalensis*, and also having a distinct dorsal metasomal horn on anterior T1.

#### *Triteleia bengalensis* (Saraswat), 1978 (Figs. 9-16)

*Alloteleia bengalensis* Saraswat, 1978, 18, 19. Original description in Saraswat and Sharma (1978).

*Tritelia bengalensis* (Saraswat, 1978), 211. Generic transfer, in Talamas *et al.* (2017).

Female. Length = 4.5 mm. Body black; mandible brown, teeth brown; legs pale brownish yellow; A1 and A2 brownish yellow, A3- A4 brownish black, A5- A12 black; wings hyaline, veins brown.

Head: In dorsal view, transverse (HL: HW= 43: 65),  $1.51 \times as$  wide as long, hairy; central keel weekly developed; IOS : EH =24: 37; frons not depressed; base of frontal depression obliquely strigose; medial frons smooth; ventrolateral frons foveolate rugose; frons below anterior ocellus rugosely foveolate, contiguous; ocellar triangle smooth or coriaceous with dispersed foveolae; gena with same sculpture as that on ventrolateral frons; POL: LOL: OD= 14: 10: 4; malar sulcus prominent, running from lower margin of eye to mandibular articulation; clypeus small, semicircular without corners; mandibles tridentate, teeth subequal in length; relative proportions of antennal segments (L: W) being: (34: 7); (14: 5); (13: 4); (7: 5); (7: 5); (5: 6); (6: 8); (6: 9); (6: 10); (6: 9); (6: 10); (10: 8).

**Mesosoma:** In dorsal view (ML: MW = 74: 58)  $0.89 \times$  width of HW, hairy and coriaceously sculptured; epomial carina present; skaphion

absent; mesoscutum foveolate notauli present narrow anteriorly and broad posteriorly, distinctly foveolate and carinate; SSS narrow medially; mesoscutellum transverse, sculpture same as that on mesoscutum; crenulate anteriorly, carinate and foveolate posteriorly; posterior rim smooth and unarmed; metascutellum transverse, carinate and foveolate; medial area slightly curved inward; propodeum, carinate and foveolate, excavate medially, propodeal flange with a pair of pointed spines; cervical pronotal area hairy and rugulose foveolate; dorsal pronotal area foveolate; lower pronotal area indistinctly foveolate rugulose; netrion hairy and foveolate; upper mesepisternum with a row of weak longitudinal carinae below subalar pit; speculum indistinct; mesopleural carina indistinct; sternaulus distinct; lower mesepisternum foveolate rugulose; mesopleural depression smooth; metapleuron longitudinally striate anteriorly and foveolate rugulose posteriorly, hairy; forewing L: W= 210: 67, apex extending from as far as posterior margin of T4 to middle of T5;  $m 0.65 \times$ length of *pm*; *pm* 1.43 × longer than *stg*; *pm*: *stg*: m = 20: 14: 13.

**Metasoma**: In dorsal view (L: W= 264: 48),  $5.5 \times$  as long as wide and  $2.26 \times$  longer than length of head and mesosoma combined, depressed; T1 longitudinally striate, with a small anteriorly smooth dorsal horn; anterior basal fovea present on T2; T2- T4 densely longitudinally striate medially, with scattered punctures in interstices; T5 and T6 densely punctate; T1- T3 hairy laterally; T4 onwards hairy medially and laterally; length of T3  $1.2 \times$  length of T2;T5 longer than wide; metasoma widest at T3; sublateral tergal carina present on T1- T4; relative L: W proportion of tergites T1 to T6 being (39: 35); (45: 43); (54: 48); (49: 47); (39: 36) and (30: 20).

#### Male: Unknown.

#### Host: Unknown.

**Material examined:**  $1 \bigcirc$ , INDIA, Kerala, Tholpetty, Wayanad District, 10-x-2013, Coll. Abhilash Peter (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.3708);  $1 \bigcirc$ , INDIA, Kerala, Gavi, Pathanamthitta District, 10-iv-2013, Coll. C. Bijoy (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/IR.INV.5984);  $1 \bigcirc$ , INDIA, Kerala, Gavi (9.4404 N 77.1603 E), Pathanamthitta District, 10-iv-2013, Coll. P.M. Sureshan (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.5985); 1  $\bigcirc$ , INDIA, Kerala, Gavi, Pathanamthitta District, 10-iv-2013, Coll. K. Rajmohana (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.5986); 1 ♀, INDIA, Kerala, Gavi, Pathanamthitta District, 10-iv-2013, Coll. C. Bijoy (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/IR.INV.5987); 1 Q, INDIA, Kerala, Mullaperiyar, PTR, Palakkad District, 6-iv-2013, Coll. K. Rajmohana (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/IR.INV.3712); 1 Female, INDIA, Kerala, Manomthora, Thenmala, Trivandrum District, 17-i-2014, Coll. K. Rajmohana (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/IR.INV.3713);  $1 \bigcirc$ , INDIA, Kerala, Madakkimala, Kalpetta, Wayanad District, 09-i-2009, Coll. K. Rajmohana (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/IR.INV.3714); 1 Q, INDIA, Kerala, Parambikulam, Palakkad District, 12-xii-2013, Coll. Abhilash Peter (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/ WGRC/IR.INV.3710); 1  $\bigcirc$ , INDIA, Kerala, Mangaladevi, PTR, Palakkad District, 5-iv-2013, Coll. Abhilash Peter (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.3711); 1 ♀, INDIA, Kerala, Mannuthy, Thrissur District, 16-19-ix-2012 (Malaise Trap), Coll. Abhilash Peter (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.5989); 1 Q, INDIA, Kerala, Gavi, Pathanamthitta District, 10-iv-2013, Coll. K. Rajmohana (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.3709); 1 Q, INDIA, Kerala, Peruvayal, Kozhikode District, 2-i-2009, Coll. K. Rajmohana (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/IR.INV.3715): 1 Q, INDIA, Kerala, Thattekkad, Ernakulam District, 10-ii-2017, Coll. K. Rajmohana (NZC/H3 3709).

Discussion: Frons with large closely placed setigerous foveolae, A2 and A3 elongate, almost subequal in length, A5 not elongate, at the most 1.5  $\times$  as long as wide, metasoma elongate, which is > 5  $\times$  as long as wide, presence of an anterior metasomal horn on T1, metasomal segments never transverse and longitudinally striate, serve to diagnose *T. bengalensis*. The species was originally described as *Alloteleia bengalensis* by Saraswat (1978), but recently through generic transfer by Talamas *et al.* (2017), the species is now valid as *T. bengalensis* (Saraswat).

#### Abhilash Peter et al.

### Triteleia robusta Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. (Figs.17-24)

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:83CB1118-D720-4D4C-9BBB-FFE6AC244160

**Holotype:**  $\bigcirc$ . Length= 2.56 mm.

Body black; mandibles brown with yellow tinge, teeth brown; legs yellowish brown; A1 and A6 yellow with brown tinge, A7- A12 brownish black; wings hyaline, veins brown.

**Head**: In dorsal view transverse (HL: HW= 42: 77),  $1.83 \times$  wider than long, hairy; central keel reduced or weekly developed; IOS: EH = 33: 46; frons not depressed; base of frontal depression obliquely strigose; frons smooth medially, rest with setigerous contiguous foveolae; gena with same sculpture as that on vertex; ocellar triangle smooth towards ocelli; lateral ocelli touching orbital margin; LOL  $3 \times$  OD; POL: LOL: OD= 5:3:1; malar sulcus prominent; clypeus small; mandible tridentate, teeth sub equal in length; relative proportions of antennal segments (L: W) being: (39: 8); (13: 6); (8: 5); (7: 6); (5: 7); (5: 7); (8: 11); (7: 12); (6: 12); (6: 12); (6: 11); (8: 9).

Mesosoma: In dorsal view (ML: MW= 68: 72) width  $0.94 \times HW$ , hairy and foveolate to foveolate rugose; epomial carina present; skaphion absent; mesoscutum foveolate; notauli present uniformly wide throughout, foveolate; SSS narrow medially; mesoscutellum transverse, sculpture same as that on mesoscutum; crenulate anteriorly, carinate and foveolate posteriorly; metascutellum transverse, carinate and foveolate; propodeum, carinate and foveolate, excavate medially, flanges laterally with paired spines; cervical pronotal area smooth, glabrous; dorsal pronotal area foveolate, hairy; lower pronotal area smooth; netrion hairy, foveolate and carinate; upper mesepisternum with a row of weak longitudinal carinae below subalar pit; speculum indistinct; mesopleural carina indistinct; sternaulus distinct; lower mesepisternum foveolate; mesopleural depression smooth; metapleuron foveolate throughout, hairy posteriorly; forewing L: W= 192: 64, apex slightly surpassing posterior margin of T6;  $m 0.46 \times \text{length of } pm; pm 1.71 \times$ longer than stg; pm: stg: m = 24: 14: 11.

**Metasoma:** In dorsal view (L: W= 131: 65), 1.19  $\times$  longer than head and mesosoma combined, depressed; T1 longitudinally striate throughout, anterior dorsal horn indistinct; anterior basal fovea present on T2; T2- T6 densely foveolate throughout; T1 hairy laterally; T2 onwards hairy throughout; T3 longer than T2; metasoma widest at T3; sub lateral tergal carina absent on T1- T6; T6 extremely transverse, 2  $\times$  as wide as long; relative L: W proportion of tergites T1 to T5 being (21: 45); (27: 61); (29: 65); (28: 57) (17: 39).

Male: Unknown.

Host: Unknown.

**Etymology:** The species is named after its robust body.

**Material examined:** Holotype. 1  $\bigcirc$ , INDIA, Kerala, Medical College Campus, Calicut District, 21-xi-2012, Coll. A. Rameshkumar (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/ IR.INV.5991); Paratype: 1  $\bigcirc$ , with same data as that of the holotype (ZSIK Regd. No. ZSI/WGRC/IR.INV.5992).

Discussion: Triteleia robusta Abhilash and Rajmohana sp. nov. with its peculiarly stout and broad metasoma can be compared best to the Australian species T. valida (Dodd, 1933). Both the species have T1-T5 rather transverse and A3 shorter than A2. But as per the images of the holotype of T. valida, available at (https:// hol.osu.edu/index.html?id=5572), the terminal metasomal segments in Dodd's species are more tapering. Metasoma is  $2.5 \times$  as long as wide in *valida*, while it is only  $2 \times$  in *robusta*. T3 in *valida* is  $1.5 \times$  as wide as long, but more than  $2 \times$  as wide as long in T. robusta. As per the original description too, T6 in T. valida is as long as T5 and also as wide as its length, where as in T. robusta, this segment is highly transverse, about 0.6 of T5 length and almost  $2 \times$  as wide as long.

The European species *Triteleia peyerimhoffi* (Kieffer, 1906) also has a broad metasoma, with T1-T5 transverse (Popovici *et al.*, 2011). But unlike in *T. robusta*, in this species, A3 is elongate, and not smaller to A2. Further both the species have

different sculpture and length to width proportion of metasomal segments. T2 is almost  $3 \times as$  wide as long in *T. robusta*, whereas T2 is at the most only  $2 \times as$  wide as long in *T. peyerimhoffi*. In the former, the longitudinal striae is restricted to anterior margin of T2, whereas in the latter, longitudinal striae extend throughout T2. T3 is foveolate and without any longitudinal striae in *T. robusta*, while it is longitudinally striate as well as with areolate rugulae throughout in *T. peyerimhoffi*. In the European species, T6 is longer than wide, while it is extremely transverse in the proposed new species.

Though in *Triteleia*, generally *m* is elongate and longer than *stg* (Masner, 1976), at least in the species with broad metasoma, this is not always the case. In *valida, m* is only two third the length of *stg* (Dodd, 1933), while it is variable from 0.7 to  $1.3 \times$  length of *stg* in *T. peyerimhoffi* (Popovici *et al.*, 2011) and in *T. robusta, m* is  $0.8 \times stg$ .

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Abhilash Peter et al.