Scolia caffra Saussure and Sichel
and a Malagasy species usually confused
with it.

(Hymenoptera: Scoliidae)

by

J. Chester BRADLEY

Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

SAUSSURE and SICHEL described *Scolia caffra* (*Cat. espèces de l'ancien genre Scolia*, 1864, p. 84) from females and males from Mozambique, in his collection. In 1890 (GRANDIDIER, Alfred, *Hist. phys., natur. et politique de Madagascar*, vol. XX; *Hist. nat. des Hyménoptères* par Henri DE SAUSSURE, p. 193) he incorrectly recorded the species as apparently common in Madagascar.

There are two females of *caffra* from Mozambique in the Saussure collection in the Museum of natural history of Geneva. Both agree with the original description. The larger of these I have marked and hereby designate the lectotype. The late Dr. CARL was so kind as to send it to me for re-examination and for comparison with specimens from Madagascar of the form which has been misidentified as *caffra*. This lectotype is now before me, and so is a female from Madagascar, also from the SAUSSURE collection, and which represents the form upon which Saussure based his Madagascar record.

FEMALES.

Surface of propodeum with copious black bristles, these as long or longer than the median length of the metanotum, without whitish nap; wings bronzy brown, the apex of the hind pair with a slight green lustre. Tropical East African mainland.

caffra Saussure.

Surface of propodeum with a short whitish nap, and few short black bristles, the latter chiefly evident at the sides of the areas horizontales laterales, but even there not one-half the median length of the metanotum; wings with a strong violet reflection. Madagascar.

divalis n. sp.

Scolia caffra Saussure.

♀. Description taken from the lectotype. Black, the head obscurely reddish, the flagellum and apex of the pedicel reddish brown. Vestiture coarse, bristly, copious and entirely black. Wings deeply infuscated, with black veins, and feeble green reflections in some parts, most pronounced near the apex of the hind pair; wing-membrane glabrous except along the costa, along the lower margin of the first submarginal cell, and some margins of more basal cells.

Clypeus not rugose, the sides deeply punctate; area frontalis confluent with the spatium frontale, each coarsely punctate, the latter more so, the punctuation terminating in the smooth front; laminae frontales prominent, a brush of hair on the inner side of each on the spatium frontale; fissura frontalis deep, continuous to the ocellus; front with a curved row of punctures, doubled near the fissura; a row of punctures extending around the sinu oculares; vertex nearly impunctate, except the hind margin, a few punctures between, and at the sides of the hind ocelli; occiput densely punctate; upper surface of scape nearly impunctate.

Pronotum densely, evenly, coarsely punctate and bristly; mesoscutum densely punctate, but with a large impunctate U-shaped central area, the base of which is thickened; scutellum densely punctate, mesonotum similarly punctate, but with a median impunctate line; mesopleura densely and coarsely punctate and bristly; metapleura with the upper 2/3 of the upper plate densely punctate, all but the smooth upper and hinder margin of the lower plate punctate, but less coarsely; neither bristly.

Upper surface of propodeum densely and coarsely punctate and bristly, without median tubercle or apical ridge; lateral and hind surfaces densely punctate and bristly, the punctures less coarse and irregularly sparser medially.

First tergite with a prominent transverse tubercle at the base

of the dorsal surface, the dorsal surface near this shining, with sparse punctures and bristles, but the rest of the surface rather coarsely and densely punctate and bristly, bushy toward the sides; tergites with a transverse median band that is impunctate laterally, sparsely punctate medially, the apical band densely punctate and bristly, the basal band somewhat less so; following three tergites somewhat similarly punctate and with bristly apical margins. Sternites sparsely punctate, the punctures denser toward the apices of the segments; sternite 2 without a ridge or tubercle. Length 36 mm.

This species is close to, if indeed distinct from, *ruficornis* Fabr.

Scolia divalis n. sp.

♀. Black, including the head, the scape orange-brown, lighter than in *caffra*. Vestiture black, much shorter and less coarse than in *caffra*, the propodeum, first tergite and coxae with more or less fine, very short whitish nap. Wings deeply infuscated with a strong violaceous reflection (the tone approaching dark bluish violet of RIDGWAY's Color standards and nomenclature) membrane of much of the base of the wings and costal area to beyond the marginal cell hairy.

Clypeus with median area convex, coarsely, longitudinally rugose, the sides coarsely punctate; area frontalis confluent with the spatium frontale, each coarsely, closely, punctate, the latter with a brush of bristles along the well-marked laminae frontales; fissura frontalis deeply impressed, to the ocellus; front coarsely but not closely punctate; the sini oculares with few punctures; vertex with a few punctures towards the eyes, then nearly impunctate to the top, the posterior part and occiput coarsely punctate. Anterior surface of scape impunctate.

Upper surface of pronotum coarsely punctate and covered with short black bristles; mesoscutum coarsely punctate, more sparsely in the center; scutellum coarsely punctate; metanotum more finely punctate, with a median impunctate strip. Mesopleura coarsely punctate and bristly; metapleura and lateral plates of propodeum but little punctate, except the former, above.

Upper surface of propodeum convex, finely and closely punctate, the bristles short and inconspicuous, except at sides, obscured by

the whitish nap, the hind surface weakly punctate around the margins; the dorsal surface without an apical ridge or tubercle.

Tergites shining and on the whole sparsely punctate; basal and lateral surfaces of tergite 1 coarsely bristled, the dorsal surface of 1 to 5 with only sparse small setiferous punctures, their setae short and slender, the apical fringes distinct; a tubercle at middle of base of dorsal surface of tergite one, somewhat weaker than in *caffra*. Sternites shining and with sparse punctures bearing bristles that are coarser than the dorsal setae; base of sternite 2 nearly vertical, and finely punctate. Length of type: 32 mm., of paratypes 27-37 mm.

♂. Black, the abdomen with a somewhat metallic lustre, the last 3 segments of the flagellum brownish orange above, less so at the sides, and beneath, and more segments obscurely so beneath. Vestiture black, bristly. Wings deeply infuscated and with strong violaceous reflection; the hair of the membrane extending along the costal margin $2/3$ of the distance from the marginal cell to the wing-apex.

Propodeum evenly punctate and densely hairy. Tergite 1 with a strong tubercle at base of dorsal surface. Length of allotype 26 mm., of paratypes 19-28 mm.

Holotype, ♀ and allotype, ♂: Tananarive, Madagascar, Cornell Univ. Nos. 165.1 and 165.2.

Allotypes: 7 ♀, 9 ♂, Tananarive, (Cornell Univ.) 1 ♀, 1 ♂, Betroka, Madagascar, Mar. '28 (A. Seyrig - Mus. Paris.) 1 ♀, Vangaindrano, S. E. Madagascar (Cornell Univ.); 1 ♂, Bekily, Madagascar, May-June '33 (A. Seyrig - Cornell Univ.), 1 ♀ Ft. Dauphin, Madagascar, Jan. '33 (A. Seyrig - Mus. Paris.); 1 ♀, "Madagascar" ex Coll. DE SAUSSURE (Muséum Hist. nat. Geneva); 1 ♂ Tananarive (Muséum Hist. nat. Geneva).

Bradley, J. Chester. 1946. "Scolia caffra Saussure and Sichel and a Malagasy species usually confused with it. (Hymenoptera: Scoliidae)." *Revue suisse de zoologie* 53, 735–738. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.117716>.

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