

A new species of the genus *Conarete pittchard* (Lestremiinae: Cecidomyiidae: Diptera) from India

Siddiqui MS

Department of Zoology, Sharadchandra College, Naigaon (Bz), Dist. Nanded, 431603. (M.S.), India

Email: dr.mssiddiqui50@yahoo.com

Manuscript details:

Received: 24.05.2020
Accepted: 23.06.2021
Published: 30.06.2021

Cite this article as:

Siddiqui MS (2021) A new species of the genus *Conarete pittchard* (Lestremiinae: Cecidomyiidae: Diptera) from India, *Int. J. of Life Sciences*, 9 (2): 269-271.

Available online on <http://www.ijlsci.in>
ISSN: 2320-964X (Online)
ISSN: 2320-7817 (Print)



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ABSTRACT

This research contribution reports the description of a new species, *Conarete naigaonsis* sp.nov. collected from Naigaon, Dist. Nanded, Maharashtra, India. This new species can be distinguished from the known species in the characters of its palpus, claw, empodium, and ovipositor.

Keywords: *New species, Conarete naigaonsis sp.nov.*, Diptera, Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION

Family Cecidomyiidae (=Itonididae) is one of the largest and youngest family of Nematoceros Diptera. It is worldwide distributed. Midge flies or gall midges are belonging to this family. They are best known as Cecidozoans i.e.plant gall makers. They produce characteristics galls i.e. deformities on various plant parts. Insects from subfamily Cecidomyiinae only produce plant galls but members of subfamilies Lestremiinae & Porricondylinae do not produce such galls.

The study of gall midge fauna made during 2019-2020 Naigaon Bazar area in Nanded district of Maharashtra State revealed a new species of Genus *Conarete Prichard Conarete naigaonsis* sp.nov. Presently 7 species under Genus *Conarete Prichard* are reported from India.

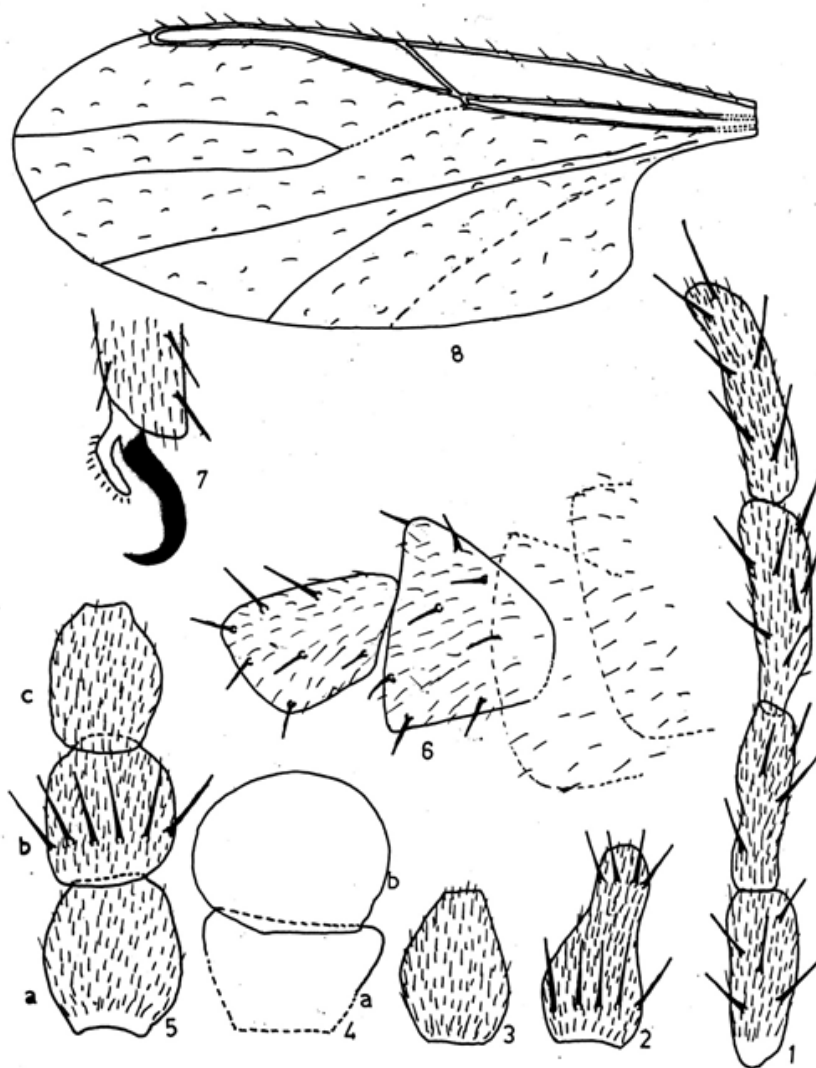
A total of 394 species belonging to 125 genera under 3 subfamilies are so far enlisted in India (Sharma, 2009).

Conarete naigaonsis sp.nov. (Figs.1-8)

FEMALE : BODY 0.75 mm long, pale brown in preserved condition. **HEAD**: EYES confluent above, ocelli two. **TROPH1** normal. **PALPUS** (Fig.1), quadriarticulate, long, sparsely setose; first segment subcylindrical, narrow at base, broad medially, length 2.40 X its maximum thickness; second segment (11:3), subcylindrical, as long as the first and 3.66 as long as its maximum thickness; third segment

(15:5), subcylindrical, narrow at the base, broad apically, 1.36 X as long as the second and 3.00 X as long as its maximum thickness; fourth segment (16:4), cylindrical, longest of all, narrower than the third, 4.00 X as long as its maximum thickness. **ANTENNA** 0.25 mm long, short, one third the length of the body, pale brown, with 2+9 ovate and moderately setose (segments, with a whorl of bristles basally, segments without marked stems; scape (Fig.4a) (6s11), cup shaped, length 0.55 X its maximum thickness; pedicel (Fig. 4b) (10:13), subglobose, 0.76 X as long as thick, longer and wider than the scape; third segment (Fig.5a) (11:10), not confluent with the fourth,

enlargement without basal prolongation, 1.1 X as long as thick, without marked stem; fourth segment (Fig. 5b) (9:10), shorter than the third, length 0.90 X as long as thick, wider than long; fifth segment (Fig.5c) (10:7), shorter and thinner than the fourth, 1.42 X as long as thick; sixth segment (9:8), shorter than the? fifth, 1.12 X as long as thick; seventh segment (10:8), as long as the fifth and 1.25 X as long as its maximum thickness; eighth segment (9:8), as long as the seventh; penultimate segment (Fig.3) (10:7), as long as the fifth, length 1.40 X its maximum thickness; terminal segment (Fig.2) (14:7), longest .of all, broad basally, with s subapical constriction, 2.00 X as long as thick.



(Figs. 1-8) : *Conarete naigaonsis* ♂ sp. nov.

Fig.1. Palpus, 2, Terminal antennal segments, 3, Penultimate antennal segments, 4(a,b), Scape and pedicel, 5, Third, fourth & Fifth antennal segments, 6, Genitalia, 7, Claw, 8.Wing.

THORAX : mesonotum dark brown, scutellum and postscutellum light, brown. **WING** (Fig. 8) (55:22), hyaline, nearly rectangular, 2.50 X as long as broad, roicotrachae scattered uniformly all over the wing, wing margin is-, not interrupted at union of R5 with costa, vein R5 unites costa at three fourth of the wing, vein M1 and M2 longer than the vein M1+2, the later obsolete, vein r—m short, M3+4 complete, vein Cu simple, vein Cu2 obsolete. **Legs** long, brown, sparsely setose, metatarsus (100) shorter than the terminal tarsal segments combined together (125), second tarsal segment. (45) 0.45 the length of metatarsus, third tarsal segment (40) 0.88 the second, terminal tarsal segment (20) as long as the fourth; **CLAW** (Fig.7) (8), stout, dark brown, simple, evenly curved, empodium (4), half the length of the claw. **OVIPOSITOR** (Fig.6), not exerted, lamellate, basal lobe cup shaped (3.7 X its maximum thickness; terminal lobe (11:B), as long as the basal, nearly triangular, narrow at base, broad apically, 1.36 X as long as broad.

Male: Unknown.

Material examined:

HOLOTYPE: ♀, dissected and mounted on slide, labelled as, "at light" Naigaon Bazar Dist. Nanded, Maharashtra, India, Coll., dated 11/07/2019 . slide Con. 1.

PARATYPE: Two males dissected and mounted on slide, data as of Holotype. slides Con. 2, 3.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet *naigaonsis* refers to the place where it is collected.

STUDY AREA: Naigaon Bazar, Dist. Nanded, Maharashtra, India..

REMARKS

Conarete naigaonsis ♀ sp. nov., resembles with *C. mihijamensis* (Grover 1963) but can be distinguished from it with following differences:

- i) Terminal lamella triangular (Not oval);
- ii) wing 2.50 X as long as broad (not a little more than twice);
- iii) Third palpal segment 3.(90 X as long as thick (not more than five times);
- iv) fourth palpal segment 4.00 X as long as thick (not more than ten times).

Acknowledgements:

We express our gratitude to Principal ESN, Sharadchandra Arts, Commerce & Science College, Naigaon (Bz) Dist. Nanded for facilities and encouragements.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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