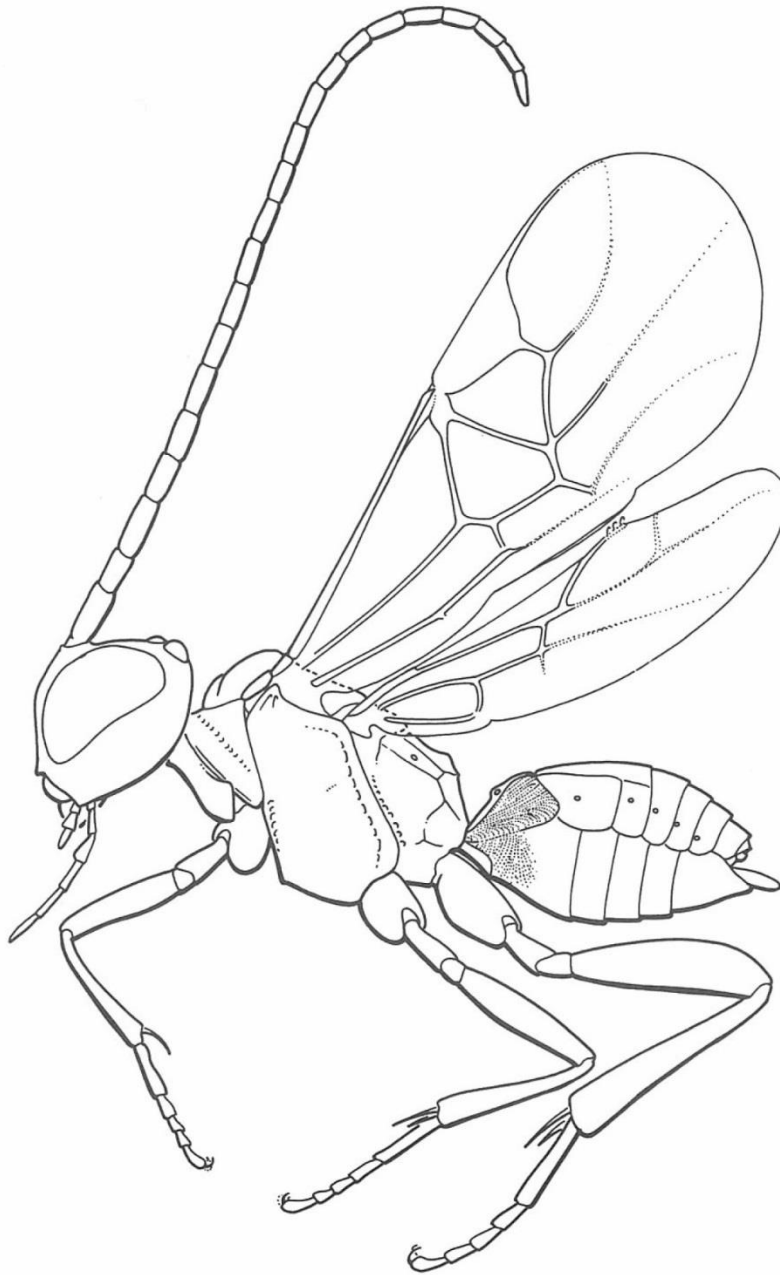


SUBFAMILY DIRRHOPINAE

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INTRODUCTION. Van Achterberg (1984) erected a new subfamily for *Dirrhope* which had been placed in a number of different subfamilies previously. Only a single relatively rare genus, *Dirrhope* Foerster, is known.

PHYLOGENY. Within the Braconidae, the Dirrhopinae is clearly a part of the Microgastroid clade (Quicke and van Achterberg, 1990; Wharton et al., 1992; Whitfield and Mason, 1994), but to date it has not been included in a molecular phylogenetic analysis.

BIOLOGY. Koinobiont endoparasitoids of Lepidoptera of the family Nepticulidae (van Achterberg, 1984; Whitfield and Wagner, 1991).

COMMON GENERA. *Dirrhope* is the only described genus and it is rare.

DISTRIBUTION. Cosmopolitan, reported here from Africa for the first time (Madagascar, in the Hymenoptera Institute Collection).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS. *Dirrhope* species somewhat resemble adeliines or small microgastrines in form but differ from adeliines in not having the first two metasomal tergites fused, and in having the spiracle of the strongly flattened petiole posterior to the midlength of the tergite. Unlike the microgastrines, the first metasomal spiracle is on the median tergite rather than on a lateral tergite, and the first tergite is highly flattened. The fore wing venation is also diagnostic.

GENERIC TREATMENT

Dirrhope Foester, 1851

Diagnosis. Small size and the forewing venation.

Biology. See above

Diversity. 5 described species, probably a dozen or more undescribed. Only one New World species *D. americana*, widespread in the USA is described.

Distribution. Cosmopolitan, see above.

Publications. Muesebeck (1936), described *D. americana*.

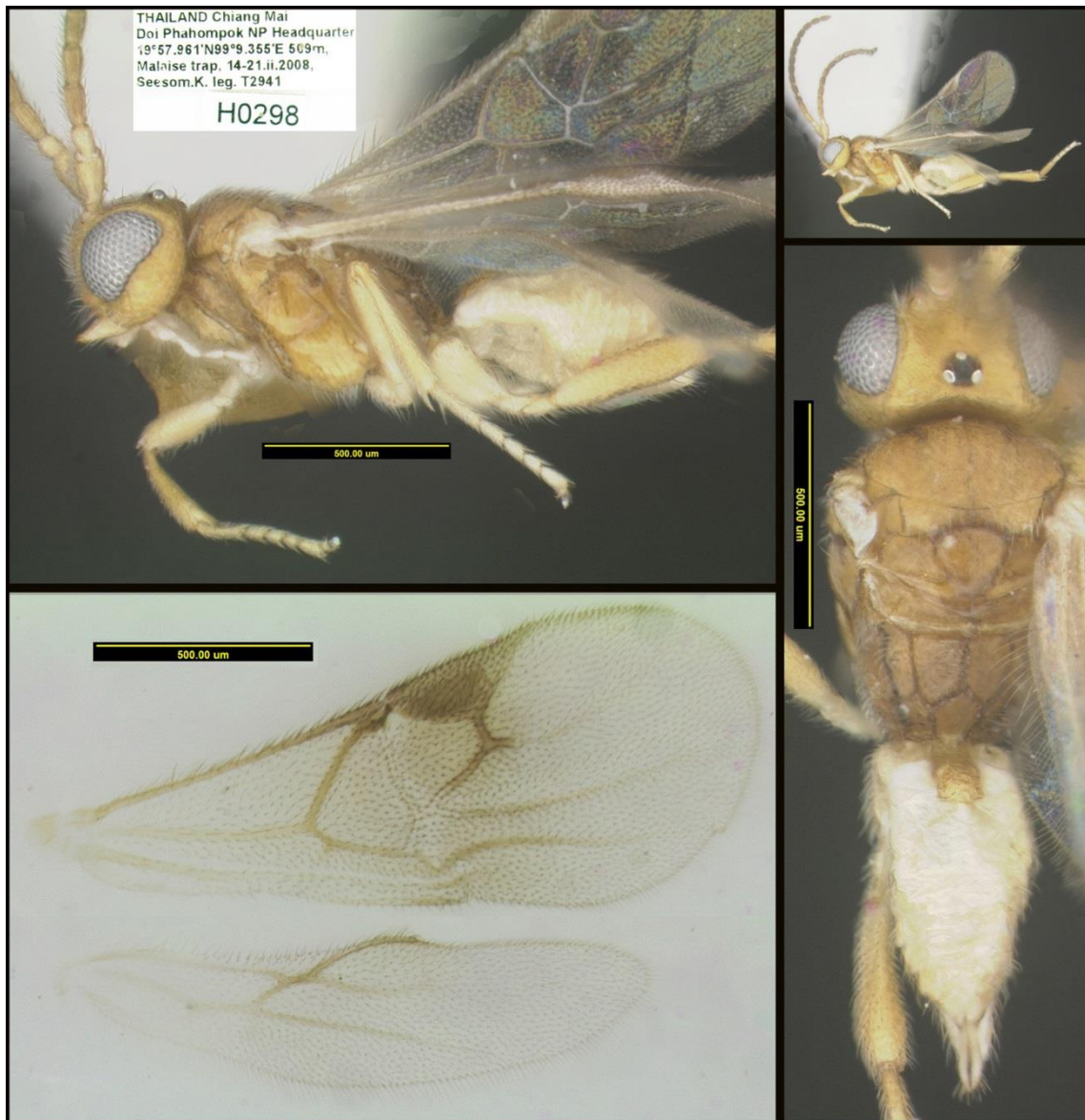


Figure 1. *Dirrhope* n. sp.

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