

## ***Mesopolobus trasullus* (Walker, 1839) a valid species and senior synonym of *Mesopolobus roseni* Graham, 1984 (Hymenoptera, Chalcidoidea: Pteromalidae)**

GARY A. P. GIBSON

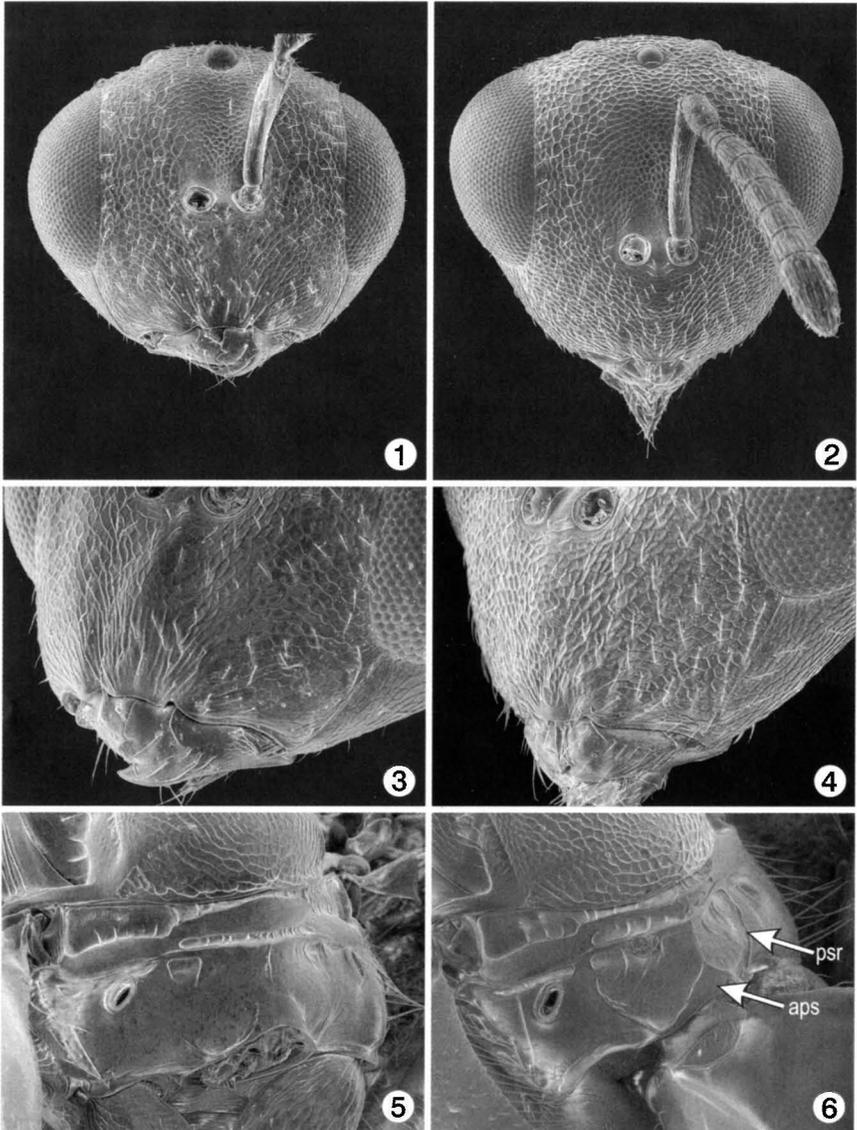
*Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management, K. W. Neatby Bldg., 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0C6*  
gibsong@agr.gc.ca

HANNES BAUR

*Department of Invertebrates, Natural History Museum, Bernastrasse 15, CH-3005 Bern, Switzerland*  
hannes.baur@nmbe.unibe.ch

*Ormocerus trasullus* Walker, 1839, was described from an undisclosed number of females collected near London, England. The species was subsequently placed in the genera *Pteromalus* Swederus, *Amblymerus* Walker and *Hormocerus* Förster by Walker (1848), Dalla Torre (1898) and Morley (1910), respectively, and correctly transferred to *Mesopolobus* Westwood by Graham (1957). In the same paper Graham designated one of two females in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) as lectotype and synonymised *O. trasullus* under *M. incultus* (Walker, 1834) along with nine other Walker names and one Thomson name. Graham stated that at one time he thought more than one species might be involved under what he interpreted as *M. incultus*, but after study of a great deal of material could find no consistent differences among the forms. Almost 30 years later, Graham (1984) described a new species, *M. roseni*, based on the holotype female from France and other females from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France and Spain. He stated that females were most similar to those of *M. incultus* and *M. morys* (Walker, 1848), but differed from these by having a strigose rather than reticulate clypeus, the antennae inserted well above the ventral edge of the eyes, a shorter pedicel, weaker mesonotal sculpture, the propodeum nearly or quite smooth, and a shorter mesotibial spur. Askew, Blasco-Zumeta & Pujade-Villar (2001) subsequently described the male of *M. roseni* based on associated sexes collected in Spain on *Gypsophila struthium* Loeffl. (Caryophyllaceae), *Juniperus thurifera* L. (Cupressaceae) and *Tamarix canariensis* Willd. (Tamaricaceae).

During study of the parasitoids of the cabbage seedpod weevil, *Ceutorhynchus obstrictus* Marsham (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), we discovered different species of *Mesopolobus* in Europe and North America that are morphologically similar to *M. morys*, *M. incultus* and *M. roseni*. In preparation for describing the putative new species we examined type material of the three named species and of their synonyms contained in the BMNH. Our examination confirmed all but one of the synonymies proposed by Graham (1957) of Walker species under *M. incultus*. We discovered that *O. trasullus* is not a junior synonym of *M. incultus*, but is the senior synonym of *M. roseni*. Here we present evidence to validate these



**Figs 1–6.** *Mesopolobus* spp. 1, 2, head, frontal view, of (1) *M. trasullus*; (2) *M. incultus*. 3, 4, clypeus, oblique view, of (3) *M. trasullus*; (4) *M. incultus*. 5, 6, propodeum, oblique view, of (5) *M. trasullus*; (6) *M. incultus*. (aps = adpetiolar strip, psr = paraspiracular ridge.)

nomenclatural changes so that the correct names are used in future taxonomic treatments.

The female lectotype of *O. trasullus* is entire and card-mounted such that the clypeus is concealed. The single female paralectotype, also card mounted, now lacks its gaster and is broken, with the head detached and glued to the card. The first author photomicrographed this specimen (Figs 1, 3, 5) using an environmental scanning electron microscope to document the presence of the principal features that Graham (1984) used to differentiate *M. roseni* from *M. incultus*. These features include a higher antennal insertion for *M. trasullus* compared to *M. incultus* (cf. Figs 1, 2), a strigose rather than reticulate clypeus (cf. Figs 3, 4), and differences in propodeal sculpture. Female *M. trasullus* have the propodeum at most weakly alutaceous without an apparent paraspiracular furrow or ridge in oblique view (Fig. 5), whereas female *M. incultus* have a more conspicuously sculptured propodeum that in oblique view often has a complete, though shallow paraspiracular furrow and ridge (Fig. 6, psr). Furthermore, the propodeum of female *M. trasullus* has a much less distinctly differentiated adpetiolar strip than that of female *M. incultus* (cf. Figs 5, 6, aps). Another more conspicuous difference is that both sexes of *M. trasullus* have the tegula entirely dark, whereas *M. incultus* is similar to *M. morys* in having the tegula entirely or largely yellow, with at most the apical third dark. For these reasons we resurrect the name *Mesopolobus trasullus* (Walker) and treat it as the senior synonym of *M. roseni* Graham, as follows:

***Mesopolobus trasullus* (Walker, 1839) stat. rev.**

*Ormoceris Trasullus* Walker, 1839: 207. Lectotype ♀, **England**: near London, August, on windows (BMNH) [examined]; designated by Graham (1957: 229). [Erroneously synonymised under *Mesopolobus incultus* by Graham (1957: 229).]

*Pteromalus trossulus*; Walker, 1848: 115. [Misspelling.]

*Amblymerus trossullus*; Dalla Torre, 1898: 97. [Misspelling.]

*Hormoceris trasullus*; Morley, 1910: 34. [Misspelling.]

*Mesopolobus roseni* Graham, 1984: 512–513. Holotype ♀, **France**: Cantal, near Salers, 2.viii.1973 (Graham) (BMNH) [examined]. **Syn. nov.**

*Mesopolobus (Xenocrepis) roseni*; Askew, Blasco-Zumeta & Pujade-Villar, 2001: 23, 62.

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