

Vespoidea of Micronesia. 3¹

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IN 1938 Professor Teiso Esaki recorded the occurrence of a mutillid wasp in Micronesia for the first time. This handsome mutillid was identified by him as *Timulla (Trogaspidia) albertisi* (André, 1896), although he felt some suspicion with respect to the identity of certain details of the pubescence. In the spring of 1949 Professor Esaki requested me to re-examine this mutillid specimen. After a careful study of the specimen, as well as of the descriptions of some related species, I came to the conclusion that the specimen represents a new species, as pointed out by Dr. Krombein (Hawaii. Ent. Soc., Proc. 13, 1949).

Timulla (Trogaspidia) esakii sp. nov.

- 1938 *Timulla (Trogaspidia) albertisi* Esaki (nec André), *Annot. Zool. Jap.* 17: 431-432, ♀.
1949 *Timulla* sp., Krombein, *Hawaii. Ent. Soc., Proc.* 13: 369, 375-376.

Female. 10.5 mm. long. Head, thorax, and abdomen entirely black. Median portion of mandibles, antennal tubercles, and apex of antennal scapes ferruginous. Front clothed with sparse, erect, pale pubescence and somewhat dense, recumbent, ferruginous pubescence. Vertex covered with thick, appressed, pale or somewhat ferruginous pubescence, but not distinctly "échancrée en arc en avant" as in *albertisi*. Genae with somewhat thick, recumbent, pale pubescence. Mandibles slender, edentate at apex and with a small tooth

on inner margin near apex. Clypeus elevated posteriorly, elevated margin arcuate and with a very small tubercle just at the middle of the margin, median longitudinal line of elevated area ridged; anterior margin of clypeus straight. Antennal scape almost impunctate; third antennal segment about twice as long as fourth. Antennal scrobes carinate above. Malar space about as long as wide. Front, vertex, and genae with moderate, dense, confluent punctures. Apical half of malar space almost impunctate, but basal half minutely wrinkled. Relative width of head and thorax (mesonotum) about 37:32. Dorsum of thorax clothed with sparse, erect, pale pubescence and sparse, recumbent, somewhat ferruginous pubescence. Pale pubescence on dorsum of anterior portion of pronotum thick and erect. Posterior face of propodeum with somewhat dense, long, erect, pale pubescence. Pleural area with pale or whitish micropubescence. Dorsum of thorax with moderately large, dense, confluent punctures; humeral angles angulate but inconspicuous; pronotum slightly wider posteriorly than anteriorly; mesonotum only faintly narrower than pronotum; lateral margins parallel and crenulate; scutellar scale present, distinct and slightly raised; lateral margins of posterior face of propodeum denticulate. Anterior margin of propleurae defined by distinct carina; all of pleural areas, including sides of propodeum, impunctate. Abdominal tergites II, IV, and V covered with ferruginous black, velvety pubescence; laterobasal areas of second tergite and basal and apical margins of fourth and fifth tergites without such velvety pubescence; second tergite with a pair of large, subcircular, anterior spots separated by about their own transverse diameter; third tergite

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with a broad, complete band of dense, appressed, golden pubescence. Pubescence on posterior margin of second tergite somewhat ferruginous at middle and pale laterally. A very small tuft-like golden pubescence is recognizable at middle of posterior margin of second tergite. First tergite and anterior portion of second covered with rather dense, erect, long, pale pubescence. Pygidium with dense, erect, long, pale pubescence only at sides. Posterior margin of second to fourth sternites with rather dense, erect, long, pale pubescence. First tergite with dense, moderate punctures, posteriorly the punctures close and confluent; second tergite with moderate, well-separated punctures. Tergites III to V with small, well-separated punctures. Pygidium minutely, longitudinally striate except apically and with close, small, confluent punctures at sides. First sternite with a prominent, median, longitudinal carina, in profile appearing roundly emarginate; second sternite with sparse, moderate punctures except the posterior margin with small, close punctures; sternites III to V with sparse, moderately small punctures, denser at the posterior margin of each; hypopygium with moderately small, close punctures. Legs entirely

black, sparsely covered with pale pubescence; calcaria pale.

Holotype: ♀, Palau Islands—Ashiasu, Peliliou Island, 23, II, 1938, Professor Esaki leg., preserved in the collection of the Entomological Laboratory, Kyushu University.

Habitat: Micronesia—Palau Islands.

This new species is closely related to *Timulla (Trogaspidia) albertisi* (André, 1896) from New Guinea, but the latter is quite distinct from this species in the following points: "Tête avec des soies noires éparses sur le front; vertex largement recouvert d'une bande de pubescence fine, serée, d'un jaune d'or soyeux, échançrée en arc en avant. Thorax hérissé de soies noires sur le dos . . . et recouvert sur les flancs d'une pubescence jaunâtre . . ." (E. André, 1896, *Études sur les Mutillides existant dans les collections du Musée Civique de Gênes. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova* II, 17: 70–71).

This species is known at present only from the unique female described above. It is named in honor of Professor Esaki of the Kyushu University, who first discovered the mutillid wasp in Micronesia.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Professor Esaki for his generosity in placing the material at my disposal.