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Anokha gen. n. (Hymenoptera: Platygastroidea: Scelionidae) and two new species from India

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Abstract

A new genus *Anokha* is described in the subfamily Scelioninae (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae), from India with two new species *A. anoojii* Rajmohana and Veenakumari and *A. nigra* Rajmohana. The new genus is distinguished from other Scelioninae, by the following combination of characters: closely placed large, round, setigerous tubercles separated by narrow sinuous furrows on head and mesosoma; posteriorly emarginate mesoscutellum with postero-lateral corners drawn into prominent spines. Both sexes are described and imaged. Affinities with closely resembling genera are discussed.

Keywords: *Anokha, new genus, new species, Platygastroidea.*

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Introduction

The superfamily Platygastroidea with four families (McKellar and Engel, 2012), 166 genera and around 2600 species, is one of the most diverse taxa in Hymenoptera (Johnson, 2016). Several taxa at the generic and species levels have recently been described in this family from India (Rajmohana and Peter, 2012; Rajmohana, 2014; Rajmohana and Veenakumari, 2014). Another genus *Anokha* is erected with two new species *A. anoojii* Rajmohana and Veenakumari and *A. nigra* Rajmohana. Closely placed large, round, setigerous tubercles separated by narrow sinuous furrows on head and mesosoma, resemble the sculpture in the genus *Chakra* Rajmohana and Veenakumari, 2014. With a posteriorly emarginate mesoscutellum having its postero-lateral corners drawn into pointed spines, the proposed new genus is quite unique and distinct in Scelioninae.

Materials and Methods

Specimens collected using yellow pan traps (YPT), malaise traps (MT) and sweep nets (SN) mounted on point-card tips were described, measured and imaged using a Leica M205A stereomicroscope, with 1× objective and Leica DFC-500 digital camera. The holotype and paratypes of *A. anoojii* and *A. nigra* with ZSI registration numbers are deposited at the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calicut (ZSI), while seven paratypes of *A. anoojii* with NBAIR registration numbers are at the National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru (NBAIR). Morphological terminology follows Masner (1976, 1980), Austin and Field (1997) and Mikó *et al*. (2007, 2010).