

## Oriental Hornet *Vespa orientalis* Linnaeus, 1771 found in Mexico (Hymenoptera, Vespidae, Vespinae)

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Hornets of the genus *Vespa* inhabit mainly Asia. Only two species are native to Europe and/or northern Africa: *Vespa crabro* LINNAEUS, 1758 and *V. orientalis* LINNAEUS, 1771. Two hornet species are listed as introduced species into the New World: *Vespa crabro* into the USA and south Canada and *Vespa simillima* Smith, 1868 into British Columbia, Canada (CARPENTER & KOJIMA 1997).

Within the Vespinae, only seven species of the genus *Vespula* to date were known from Mexico: *V. atropilosa* (SLADEN, 1918), *V. inexpectata* ECK, 1994, *V. maculifrons* (du BUYSSON, 1905), *V. pensylvanica* (de SAUSSURE, 1857), *V. squamosa* (DRURY, 1773), *V. sulphurea* (de SAUSSURE, 1854), and *V. vulgaris* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (CARPENTER & KOJIMA 1997). No *Dolichovespula* and/or *Vespa* species were found in Mexico.

I have received one worker of the oriental hornet *V. orientalis* found at Cozumel Isl., Mexico. Locality of the examined specimen: Mexico, Cozumel Isl., San Gervasio, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1998, 1 W, Gian-Luca Agnoli leg., Libor Dvořák det. et coll.

The world distribution of *V. orientalis* comprises northern part of Africa, southeastern Europe, southwest Asia across Turkey and Arabian Peninsula to India, and Nepal (CARPENTER & KOJIMA 1997, ARCHER 1998). The species was accidentally introduced into Madagascar and China: Xinjiang (= Fujian) (CARPENTER & KOJIMA 1997, ARCHER 1998). The occasional introductions with fruits are known from Belgium (DELMOTTE & LECLERCQ 1980) and the U.K. (EDWARDS 1982). From this point of view, the find from Cozumel Isl., which is an attractive tourist destination, is not too surprising.

The find of *V. orientalis* from Mexico represents the first known locality of this species in the Americas. The present number of social wasp species (Vespinae and Polistinae) introduced into Americas is five: *Vespa crabro* LINNAEUS, 1758, *V. orientalis* LINNAEUS, 1771, *V. simillima* SMITH, 1868, *Vespula germanica* (FABRICIUS, 1793), and *Polistes dominulus* (CHRIST, 1791) (CARPENTER 1996, CARPENTER & KOJIMA 1997).

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