



For the first time the tribe Phanerotomini (Braconidae, Cheloninae) of the Arabian Peninsula is revised, with all species illustrated by colour photographs and keyed. This paper shows the large diversity of the Phanerotomini in the Arabian Peninsula, with special reference to the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The review is based on the largest known collection of the tribe from the Arabian Peninsula, which was assembled during 1998–2009 by Tony van Harten. It resulted in 21 new species of which 20 species belong to the genus *Phanerotoma* Wesmael representing 75% of the reported species.

The tribe has a world-wide distribution, but occurs predominantly in the subtropical and tropical areas, and specimens come frequently to light. The most common genus in the Arabian Peninsula is *Phanerotoma*, a large genus of usually largely yellowish and often medium-sized species, which are solitary ovo-larval koinobiont endoparasitoids of mainly Pyralidae and Tortricidae (Lepidoptera) and to a lesser extent of other Lepidoptera (Blattobasidae, Coleophoridae, Cosmopterygidae, Gelechiidae, Gracillariidae, Lasiocampidae, Lymantriidae, Noctuidae, Nolidae, Oecophoridae and Yponomeutidae). The preferred use of Pyralidae as host seems to be a special development within the Phanerotomini. In other Cheloninae the use of Pyralidae is exceptional; it is only known for a few species of the genus *Chelonus* Panzer. In addition, a new species from Yemen of the medium-sized genus *Phanerotomella* Szépligeti is described and the genus is new for the Arabian Peninsula. The biology of this genus is largely unknown, only one species is known to be a parasitoid of Oecophoridae.

It is likely that still several species remain to be discovered considering the small part of the peninsula examined and the amount of unique specimens among the large (5,500+) collection. Specimens are often difficult to identify because of the many very similar species and the lack of a comprehensive and well-illustrated modern revisions. It is important that the taxonomy of the Phanerotomini is properly understood because it includes parasitoids of several species which may be pests in orchards, e.g. of citrus, lychee and coffee. Two European species (*P. fracta* and *P. flavitestacea*) have been introduced into the U.S.A. for biological control purpose.

## THE TRIBE PHANEROTOMINI (HYMENOPTERA, BRACONIDAE, CHELONINAE) OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND YEMEN

BY  
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*Phanerotoma angusticrus* van Achterberg, sp. nov.

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