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Discovery of the genus *Neotrichoporoides* Girault, 1913 (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) in Iraq, with three new records

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ABSTRACT. Through a survey that was conducted in Basrah Province, Southern Iraq in 2021, specimens were collected from alfalfa fields (*Medicago sativa* L.) using a sweep net. These specimens were identified as *Neotrichoporoides* Girault, 1913 (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea, Eulophidae), which is a new report of the genus in Iraq. Three species were collected and identified, i.e. *Neotrichoporoides basiflavus* Li & Li, 2021; *N. cavigena* Graham, 1987; and *N. viridimaculatus* (Fullaway, 1955). An illustrated key for identifying *Neotrichoporoides* species in Iraq and notes on diagnostic characters of the newly recorded species along with illustrations are provided. The distribution map of the Iraqi species is presented. Furthermore, a preliminary checklist of recorded species of Eulophidae from Iraq is provided.

Keywords: Chalcidoidea, checklist, *Medicago sativa*, parasitoid, taxonomy, Tetrastichinae

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INTRODUCTION

The family Eulophidae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea) is the largest in the superfamily with more than 6000 species in 328 genera (UCD Community, 2023). Nevertheless, only a few studies have been done on these important wasps in Iraq (Bouček & Askew, 1968; Al-Azawi, 1967, 1971; OILB, 1971; Swailem et al., 1975; Abdul-Rassoul, 1976; Awadallah et al., 1979a, 1979b; Hassan, 2012; Mansowr et al., 2024). Tetrastichinae Förster, 1856 (Hymenoptera, Eulophidae) is the largest in the family (UCD Community, 2023). The genus *Neotrichoporoides* Girault, 1913 (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) has 73 species worldwide, and 28 species in the Palaearctic region (UCD Community, 2023; Jafarlu et al., 2023). *Neotrichoporoides* species are primary parasitoids of Diptera (Insecta) in the families Anthomyiidae and Diopsidae (Bouček, 1988; La Salle, 1994). Diagnostic characters of *Neotrichoporoides* are as follows: Body in majority of species with a metallic tint, and occasionally with some parts of the body yellowish; pronotum almost always elongate; mesoscutellum subequal to mesoscutum; funiculars usually elongate; propodeum clearly longer than dorsellum; fore wing with marginal vein 6.5–9.5× as long as stigmal vein; stigma with a short stem (Graham, 1987).

Alfalfa, *Medicago sativa* L. (Fabaceae) is one of the most economically important crops which grows worldwide (Bolton, 1962; Hirsh, 2014). This crop is attacked by many important pests (Miller & Jensen, 1970; Sisterson et al., 2018), and some natural enemies are their parasitoids (Lotfalizadeh et al., 2015; Sisterson et al., 2018; Jafarlu et al., 2022; Mansowr et al., 2024). One of the most important of these parasitoids is the family Eulophidae. Considering these issues, the objectives of this research are (1) to

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