Morphology and biology of terminal-instar larvae of Ormyridae (Hymenoptera, Chalcidoidea)
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Comparative larval morphology of nine ormyrid species (Hym., Chalcidoidea, Ormyridae) from Europe is for the first time presented. The species are representatives of the different life cycles and host plant associations presented for the family in Western Europe: O. pomaceus, O. nitidulus, O. rufimanus, O. diffinis, O. wachtly, O. capsalis and O. papaveris, parasitoids of oak and herb gall wasps; O. cupreus, parasitoid of eurytomids inducing galls on Ephea and O. orientalis, a parasitoid of tephritid flies in head flowers of Centaurea species. The terminal-instar larva of the listed species was prepared for observation under SEM at low vacuum and pictures were taken of the ventral body, head, mouth parts and mandibles. We describe the external ormyrid larval morphology, comparing with the larva of related chalcidoid groups, namely Eurytomidae and Torymidae, as well as we summarize the qualitative variation among the studied larvae. Some diagnostic characters could characterize the family: presence of scarce and short pilosity on the body, rough tegument on parts of head and first segments of body, one toothed mandibles, and a trilobate labrum without deep divisions in the centre.