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A New Species of Sarcophagid Fly Parasitic in the Egg Sac
of the Spider, *Argiope catenulata* (DOLESCHALL)
in the Philippines

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Synopsis A new species belonging to the genus *Pierretia* is described and figured.
This species is a parasite of the spider, *Argiope catenulata*, in the Philippines.

Pierretia litsingeri SHINONAGA et BARRION, sp. nov.

Male. Body length about 9.0 mm. **Head:** Frons about 0.15 of head width at narrowest point; frontal vitta black; frontal bristles 11 to 13, upper 2 or 3 reclinate; parafrontals and parafacials silvery to golden pollinosity and with fine hairs; antennae dark brown to black, length of 2nd segment about one-half that of the 3rd segment; face black with silvery pollen; vibrissae inserted at vibrissal angles; genae black with black hairs; metacephalon black with white hairs; palpi black slender. **Thorax:** Ground color black with grayish pollen and three dark longitudinal stripes; *ac* 4-5+1; *dc* 4+4; *ia* 1+3; *prs* 1; *h* 3; *ph* 2; *nt* 4; *sa* 3; *pa* 2; *scut* 1+4; *st* 1+2; propleuron bare; prosternum with fine hairs; mid and post stigma dark brown. **Wings:** Hyaline; *r*₁ bare; *r*₄₊₅ with several fine hairs on dorsal surface and 1 or 2 on basal node of ventral surface; basicosta, subcostal sclerite and basal part of costa yellow; upper and lower squamae white with whitish marginal cilia; halter brown. **Legs:** Black; *t*₁ with 3 *ad* and 1 *p*; *t*₂ with 1 *ad*, 3 *pd* and 1 *pv*; *t*₃ with 2 long *ad*, 2 *pd*, 2 *av*, without fringe of hairs. **Abdomen:** Ground color black with checkered pattern; 2nd and 3rd tergites without median marginal bristles; sternites black with long hairs; genital tergites black, 2nd genital tergite black with metallic reflection; inner forceps pointed apically; phallosome as shown in figure; theca with membraneous region between ventralia; ventralia large, membraneous on apical half; apical part of paraphallus membraneous; stylet slender.

Female. Body length 7-8 mm. General characters similar to those of the male.

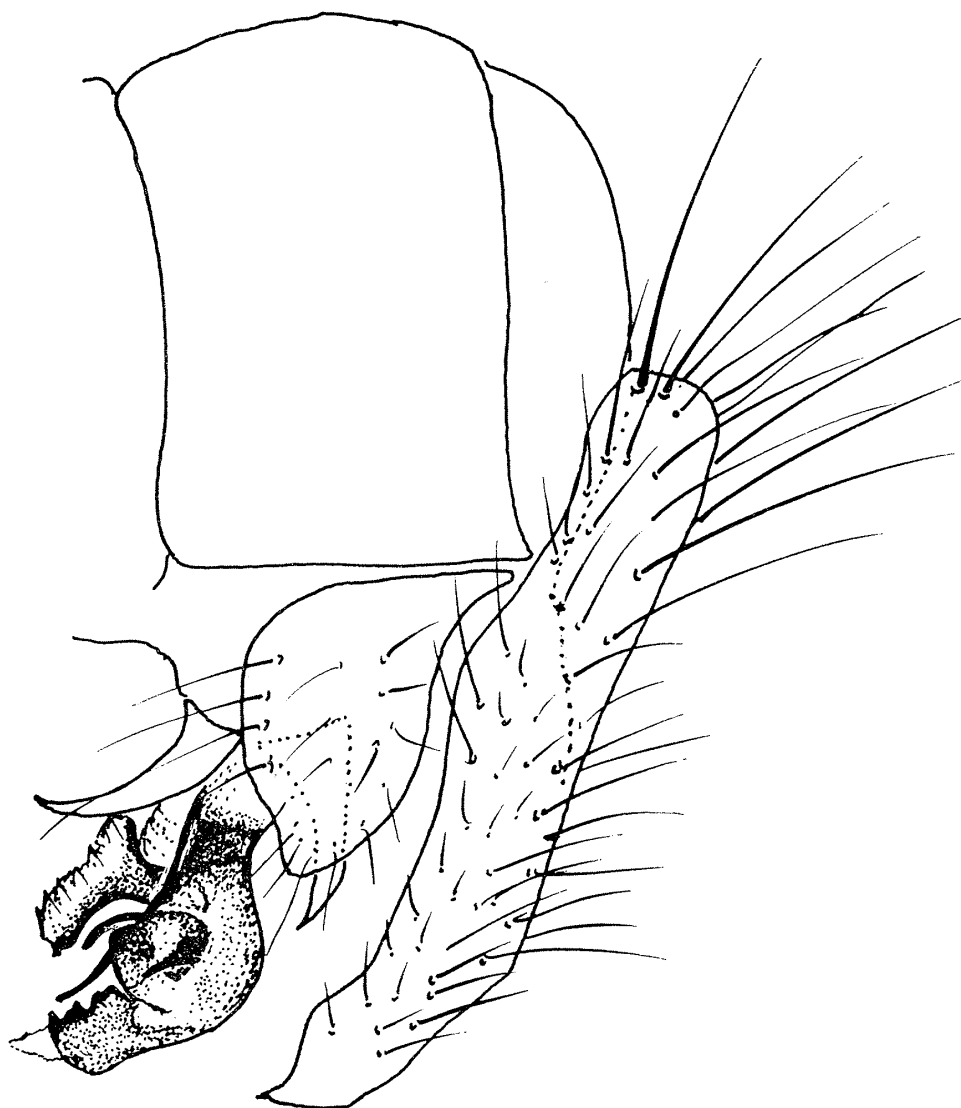


Fig. 1. *Pierretia litsingeri* sp. nov. Male genitalia.

Holotype: Male, I.R.R.I. 14°10' N., 121°15' E., 4 km E. of Los Banos, Laguna, Luzon, Philippines, ex. *Argiope catenulata* (DOLESCHALL), A. T. BARRION leg.

Paratypes: 1 male, 1 female; same data as holotype.

Holotype of this study will be deposited Museum of Natural History, U. P. Los Banos, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines.

Remarks. This species is closely related to *Pierretia tsintaoensis* YEH from China and *Pierretia urceola* SHINONAGA and BEAVER from Malaysia belonging to the sub-genus *Mehria* of genus *Pierretia* (FAN, 1965; LOPES *et al.*, 1977; SHINONAGA & BEAVER, 1979). It is characterised by having 4 postsutural dorsocentral bristles and large ventralia. This species is easily identified from these species by the shape of paraphallus and without hairs on the middle part of propleuron.

Scientific name of this species is named in honour of Dr. James A. LITSINGER, Entomologist, Department of Entomology, Cropping Systems Programme, IRRI, Los Banos, Philippines.

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