**Introduction**

Recently, an apparently undescribed genus of the subfamily Braconinae Nees, 1812 (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) was discovered in China. It has a densely setose mesoscutum, the tarsal claws have a lobe, the ovipositor is slender and the angle between the veins 1-SR and C+SC+R of the fore wing is large and it is placed in the *Plesiobracon* group (van Achterberg 1983; Quicke 1987, 1988). The very transverse third metasomal tergite (Figs 2, 20) is also similar to that displayed by members of the *Chelonogastra* group. In this group it runs to the genus *Syntomernus* Endlerlein, 1920, because the tarsal claws have an acute lobe (Fig. 10), vein 3-SR of fore wing longer than vein 2-SR (Figs 1, 16), the sixth metasomal tergite is exposed and has an obsolete subapical groove (Fig. 12), the scapus is subtruncate apically (Fig. 6), the scutellum is triangular (Figs 4, 19), the hind tibia narrower than the hind femur (Fig. 5), the fourth metasomal tergite is strongly convex (Fig. 12), the frons is granulate (Figs 8, 17) and the clypeus differentiated from face (Figs 3, 18). *Sculptolobus* differs by the densely setose and sculptured mesoscutum (Figs 4, 12, 14, 19).

The biology of the new genus is unknown, but members of the *Plesiobracon* group have been reared from *Momphidae* or *Cecidomyiidae* galls (Maetô 1991) and from larvae of *Hispidae* or *Gracillariidae*, and *Syntomernus* has been reared from fig syconia (D.L.J. Quicke, unpublished observations in Uganda), and *Trigastrotheca* Cameron, 1906 is known to predate ant broods (Quicke & Stanton 2005).

**Material and methods**

For the recognition of the subfamily Braconinae, see van Achterberg (1990, 1993, 1997), for a key to the genera of Old World Braconinae, see Quicke (1987), and for the terminology used in this paper, see van Achterberg (1988). The EFI photographs are made with an Olympus motorized stereomicroscope SZX12 with AnalySIS Extended Focal Imaging Software. The following acronyms are used for the depositories: LBIF = Laboratory of Beneficial Insects, Fuzhou, Fujian and RMNH = National Museum of Natural History (Naturalis), P.O. Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands.

**Descriptions**

**Sculptolobus** gen. n.

Figs 1–15

Type species: *Sculptolobus sulcifer* spec. n.

**Description**

Head granulate dorsally and mesosoma granulate-rugulose; scapus moderately robust, apically protruding ventrally (Figs 6, 11) and its inner margin single; frons mainly flat and with a shallow median groove.
Figs 1–12. Sculpulobus sulcifer, female, paratype. – 1, Wings; 2, first-third metasomal tergites, dorsal aspect; 3, head, frontal aspect; 4, mesosoma, dorsal aspect; 5, hind leg; 6, scapus and pedicellus, outer lateral aspect; 7, apex of ovipositor, lateral aspect; 8, head, dorsal aspect; 9, apex of antenna; 10, outer hind claw; 11, antenna; 12, habitus, lateral aspect. 1, 5, 11, 12: 1.0 × scale-line (= 1.0 mm); 2, 4: 1.1 ×; 3, 8: 1.3 ×; 6, 7, 9, 10: 2.5 ×.