THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF THE GENUS

TAINANIA [HYM.: CHALCIDIDAE]

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A comparative study of the genus Tainania Masi and the genus Antrocephalus Kirby revealed that the former genus does not have sufficient good morphological characteristics to hold the status of a separate genus from that of the genus Antrocephalus. The important morphological characteristics of the genus Antrocephalus have been given.

The genus Tainania was erected by Masi (1929). The type specimen was named by him as Tainania acutiventris. The known localities of this genus were reported as Philippines and Formosa. Habu (1960, 1962) redescribed the genus from Japan. Kirby (1883) erected the genus Antrocephalus [Type : Antrocephalus fascicornis (Walker)]. Bouček (1951) Nikolskaya (1952), Steffan (1953) and Habu (1960, 1962) redescribed it. The members of these 2 genera are parasitic on lepidopterous insects.

A careful comparative study of these 2 genera has been done by the present author and this study revealed that Tainania Masi does not have sufficient characters to be separated from the genus Antrocephalus Kirby. Habu (1962) expressed some doubt regarding the generic status of Tainania. Bouček (in one of his personal correspondence with the author in 1976) believes that Tainania is a species group of Antrocephalus. However, prior to putting Tainania and Antrocephalus in synonymy, it is necessary to fix the characters of Antrocephalus.

The genus Antrocephalus includes numerous species that can be distinguished by the characters listed below:

1. The structure of the pre-orbital carinae and their relation to the genal or post-orbital carina: the auricular carina is either directed towards the base of the orbit generally uniting with the genal carina or the auricular carinae is continuous with the pre-orbital carina and always removed from the genal carina and at the most united to the genal carina by a transverse carina.

2. The presence and absence of a distinct glabrous temporal furrow behind the eyes.

3. The variable development of the lateral carinae on the pronotum, some times stout, some times nearly joining themselves in the proximity of the apical margin of the prothorax.
4. The presence or absence of a longitudinal furrow on the scutellum.

5. The presence or absence of 2 very distinct parallel carinae at the base of the 1st abdominal tergite.

6. The shape of the hind femur, at times without lobe, at times uni-, bi-, or trilobed

7. The presence or absence of a process or protuberance or tooth on the hind coxa.

8. The presence or absence of an inner basal tooth on the hind femur.

9. The presence or absence of an external carina on the posterior tibia.

The type species Antrocephalus fascicornis (Walker) (Halticella fascicornis Walker: original designation) has the abdomen with 2 stout carinae at its base and the head of this species shows a very deep shiny glabrous temporal furrow. The nature of the pre-orbital and auricular carinae are different from that of genuine Tainania Masi (T. acutiventris Masi and T. lugubris Masi). In genuine Tainania the auricular carina is continuous with the pre-orbital carina and always removed from the genal carina but united to the genal carina by a secondary transverse carina. There is no stout pairs of parallel carinae at the base of the 1st abdominal tergite as in the case of the type A. fascicornis. The glabrous area behind the eyes is also not well demarcated. In genuine Tainania the mesoscutellum is strongly prolonged at the apex. Antrocephalus renalis Waterston (1922) resembles very closely the genuine Tainania in the structure of the pre-orbital and auricular carinae and in having a furrow on the mesoscutellum. According to HABU (1960, 1962) T. hakonensis (Ashmead) is an intermediate species between Antrocephalus and Tainania. HABU (1962) also suggests that Antrocephalus satoi HABU occupies an intermediate position between genuine Antrocephalus and T. hakonensis (Ashmead). Thus it has become quite evident that the genus Tainania does not have characteristics sufficient enough to hold the status of a separate genus from that of the genus Antrocephalus Kirby and so the present author places the genus Tainania in a new synonymy with Antrocephalus Kirby. As a result of the formation of this new synonymy the following new combinations are reported below:


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RÉSUMÉ

Position systématique du genre Tainania [Hym. : Chalcididae].

La comparaison du genre Tainania Masi et du genre Antrocephalus Kirby montre que le premier n'a pas de caractères morphologiques assez bons pour justifier d'être distingué du second. Les caractères morphologiques importants du genre Antrocephalus sont rappelés.