



A catalogue of the types of Platygastriidae (Hymenoptera, Platygastroidea) at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, with brief notes on the history of the collection

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Abstract

The types of 42 nominal species of Platygastriidae (Platygastroidea) in the collection of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris are catalogued. One new combination is established: *Amblyaspis sylvicola* (Risbec, 1950). The name *Fidiobia hofferi* Kozlov, 1978 is reinstated as a valid, available name. Brief notes are provided on the collections and type material of Joseph-Étienne Giraud, Jean-Jacques Kieffer, Paul Marchal and Jean Risbec.

Key words: Insecta, Hymenoptera, Platygastroidea, Platygastriidae, types, catalogue, Joseph-Étienne Giraud, Jean-Jacques Kieffer, Paul Marchal, Jean Risbec

Résumé

Les types de 42 espèces nominales de Platygastriidae (Platygastroidea) de la collection du Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle de Paris ont été cataloguées. Une nouvelle combinaison est établie: *Amblyaspis sylvicola* (Risbec, 1950). *Fidiobia hofferi* Kozlov, 1978 est rétabli comme un nom valide et disponible. L'histoire des types et collections de Joseph-Étienne Giraud, Jean-Jacques Kieffer, Paul Marchal et Jean Risbec fait l'objet d'un bref rappel.

Introduction

Platygastriidae is a cosmopolitan family of parasitic wasps comprising about a thousand described species (Vlug 1995). The greater part, including the mega-genus *Platygaster* are koinobiont egg-larval or egg-pupal parasitoids of gall midges (Cecidomyiidae) and most of the rest attack either adult Hemiptera or the eggs of Coleoptera. They are often a major component of the microhymenopteran fauna in a range of habitats, including crop ecosystems, where they attack a range of pest species. Apart from a handful of species attacking economically important pests, they are poorly known.

A recent visit to the entomology unit of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, showed that many types of Platygastriidae were present, including those representing the type species of the genera *Inostemma* Haliday, 1833, *Mandraka* Risbec, 1953 and *Sacspalus* Kieffer, 1917. The location and recognition of such types is a necessary preliminary to revisionary studies which, in order that they have lasting value, must be based on knowledge of the species already described. This problem is particularly severe for neglected families, such as the Platygastriidae, with a large and fragmented literature. There is no previous comprehensive list of platygastriid types held by the MNHN. Many original descriptions do not mention the type repository, or if mentioned some types have since been moved. Important works locating some types include: Maneval (1936a, b); Risbec (1950, 1953, 1955a, b, 1956a, b, 1957, 1958); Kelner-Pillault (1958); Masner (1960); Vlug (1973, 1995) and Buhl (1996), even so these do not cover many types, there is