



Calliscelio elegans (Perkins), a tramp species, and a review of the status of the genus *Caenoteleia* Kieffer (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae)

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Abstract

The monobasic genus *Caenoteleia* Kieffer (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae) is considered to be a junior synonym of the widespread and common genus *Calliscelio* Ashmead, **new synonymy**. *Calliscelio elegans* (Perkins) is redescribed, transferred to *Calliscelio*, **new combination**, and its geographic distribution documented. Originally described from Hawai‘i, this species is widespread through the tropics. The species likely is distributed by human commerce, possibly in association with cricket pests (Orthoptera: Gryllidae) of sugar cane.

Key words: Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae

Introduction

In 1910 R.C.L. Perkins described a colorful new species of the family Scelionidae from the Hawaiian island of O‘ahu, *Caloteleia elegans*. He recorded the type locality as “Honolulu” and commented that it was certainly introduced. To his eye, this species was distinguished by the shape of its wings: “The wings are very narrow (petiolate) on less than the basal half....” Twenty-five years later, Kieffer (1926) created the new genus *Caenoteleia* for this species, but he provided no explicit indication of why he chose this course of action. His short generic description cites only three character states: hairy eyes, stalked wings (with a complement of veins normal for a scelionid), and the presence of a horn on the first metasomatic segment of the female. Masner (1976) suggested that *Caenoteleia* may be synonymous with *Calliscelio* Ashmead, but without having seen the type, he took no formal nomenclatural action. Currently, the status of the genus *Caenoteleia* has not changed in the 83 years since the publication of Kieffer’s monograph: it contains the single species, *Caenoteleia elegans* (Perkins), and continues to be treated as a valid genus.

In the years since 1976, we have been able to examine the type material during three visits to the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu. The objective of this paper is to clarify the taxonomic status of both the genus *Caenoteleia* and its sole species *C. elegans*. Additionally, records are presented of the remarkable distribution of this species that have been gleaned over the past 30 years from collections around the world.

Materials and methods

This work is based upon specimens from the following collections with abbreviations used in the text: ANIC,