



Type depositories of Chalcidoidea (Hymenoptera) species described from the Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, India

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Abstract

The type specimens of 717 chalcidoid species described by taxonomists from the Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, India, and their depositories are tabulated. Table 1 lists the holotypes and other type specimens of the species deposited in the Natural History Museum, London, England (BMNH), National Zoological Collections, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, India (NZSI), Forest Entomology Division, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, India (FRI), National Pusa Collections, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India (NPC), and the Insect Collection, Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India (ZDAMU). The holotypes and lectotypes of 700 species are distributed as follows: BMNH (175), NZSI (34), FRI (28), NPC (131), and ZDAMU (332). The holotypes of 17 species could not be located in ZDAMU, but all of these species are represented by paratypes. A further 23 species whose types are not located in ZDAMU are listed in Table 2.

Introduction

Progress in taxonomic research on the Chalcidoidea (or any animal group), especially in India, is greatly hampered by the lack of knowledge of where type material is deposited or, even if this is known, then on the accessibility of the types because of the reluctance of some authors or museums to loan types to taxonomists. One of us (MH) faced such difficulties, including unfortunately the non-response for loan of material by a few chalcid taxonomists and others who published 'new' records of species from India.

It should be expected that types are present in the institution (s) where they are stated in publications to be deposited. In our case, although types are stated to have been deposited in the Zoology Museum, Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India (ZDAMU), these were actually retained by the authors (M.M. Agarwal, M. Hayat, S.A. Shafee) in their laboratories. The availability of type material to other workers was solely their responsibility.

Also, for various reasons, but mainly for the safe keeping, Hayat subsequently transferred the holotypes and paratypes of some species described by him, first to the National Collections of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) (ZSI, now called NZSI), and then to the Natural History Museum, London (formerly British Museum (Natural History) (BMNH). Still later he transferred holotypes to the National Pusa Collections, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (NPC), and on the request of Dr. Sudhir Singh, the holotypes of some species were transferred to the Division of Forest Entomology, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun (FRI).

As stated above the type material of Agarwal, Hayat and Shafee were retained in their individual laboratories. Following the death of Agarwal and Shafee, the first author (MH) spent months locating the types of their described chalcidoid species in their collections and brought all the available material together in one place. The collection of chalcidoid types and other determined material (= non-type specimens) are now kept in a separate room in ZDAMU.

The purpose of this paper is to inform other taxonomists of the location in ZDAMU and in other institutions of the type material of chalcidoid species described by taxonomists from the Department of Zoology, A.M.U. Another