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Taxonomic notes on some Indian Aphelinidae (Hymenoptera:
Chalcidoidea)

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Two generic and three specific synonymies are established. Synonyms are placed in parenthesis. *Encarsia* FÖRSTER (= *Encarsiella* HAYAT syn. n.), *Ablerus* HOWARD (= *Azotus* HOWARD syn. n.), *Eretmocerus serius* SILVESTRI (= *Eretmocerus gunturensis* HAYAT syn. n.), *Ablerus delhiensis* (LAL) comb. n. (= *Azotus qadrii* AGARWAL syn. n., *Azotus indicus* KHAN & SHAFEE syn. n.). Four new combinations are established: *Encarsia noyesi* (HAYAT) comb. n., *Ablerus aligarhensis* (KHAN & SHAFEE) comb. n., *Ablerus bimaculatus* (KHAN & SHAFEE) comb. n. and *Ablerus delhiensis* (LAL) comb. n.

Genus *Encarsia* FÖRSTER

Encarsia FÖRSTER, 1878: 65.

Type-species: *Encarsia tricolor* FÖRSTER.

Encarsiella HAYAT, 1983: 85. syn. n.

Type-species: *Encarsiella noyesi* HAYAT.

Comment: HAYAT (1983) proposed the genus *Encarsiella* for the species, *Encarsiella noyesi* HAYAT and has shown its affinity with the genera: *Encarsia* FÖRSTER and *Coccophagus* WESTWOOD and stated «it differs from both these genera in the absence of setae on the axillae, oblique second suture of antennal clava and its strongly, obliquely truncated third segment». The diagnosis and illustrations for the genus *Encarsiella* given by HAYAT clearly indicate that the genus is more closely related to *Encarsia* than *Coccophagus* in majority of characters. The characters given above for separating the genera are only of specific value. Therefore, *Encarsiella* HAYAT is treated here as synonym of *Encarsia* FÖRSTER.

Encarsia noyesi (HAYAT) comb. n.

Encarsiella noyesi HAYAT, 1983: 85.

Genus *Ablerus* HOWARD

Ablerus HOWARD, 1894: 7.

Type-species: *Centrodora clisiocampe* ASHMEAD.

Azotus HOWARD, 1898: 138. syn. n.

Type-species: *Azotus marchali* HOWARD.

Dimacrocerus BRETHES, 1914: 4.

Type-species: *Dimacrocerus platensis* BRETHES.

Comment: A careful examination on number of species described under *Ablerus* HOWARD and *Azotus* HOWARD revealed that they possess number of

common characters viz., antennae with 4-segmented funicle and 1-segmented club; pronotum with submarginal ridge along each lateral margin; female genitalia with first valvifer semi-circular, second valvifers and third valvulae long and narrow; subgenital plate broad, anterior margin connected with posterior margin by mid-longitudinal groove, notch on posterior margin followed by laterally directed ridges, antero-lateral apodemes present. ALAM (1956) gave generic importance to pronotal and genitalic characters. Therefore, *Azotus* HOWARD is treated here a synonym of *Ablerus* HOWARD.

Ablerus aligarhensis (KHAN & SHAFEE) comb. n.

Azotus aligarhensis KHAN & SHAFEE, 1976: 173.

Material examined: Holotype ♀, India: Uttar Pradesh, Aligarh ex. *Aleurolobus barodensis* MASKELL, on *Saccharum officinarum* LINN., 10.IX.1975 (M. YOUNUS KHAN).

Ablerus bimaculatus (KHAN & SHAFEE) comb. n.

Azotus bimaculatus KHAN & SHAFEE 1976: 172.

Material examined: Holotype ♀, India: Uttar Pradesh, Aligarh, ex. *Aleurolobus barodensis* MASKELL, on *Saccharum officinarum* LINN., 10.IX.1975 (M. YOUNUS KHAN).

Ablerus delhiensis (LAL) comb. n.

Azotus delhiensis LAL, 1938: 2.

Azotus qadrii AGARWAL, 1964: 329. syn. n.

Azotus indicus KHAN & SHAFEE, 1976: 173. syn. n.

The descriptions and illustrations provided for the species, *Azotus qadrii* AGARWAL and *Azotus indicus* KHAN & SHAFEE agree in every respect with the description and illustrations of *Azotus delhiensis* LAL. Therefore, *Azotus qadrii* AGARWAL and *Azotus indicus* KHAN & SHAFEE are treated here as synonyms of *Ablerus delhiensis* (LAL) comb. n.

Eretmocerus serius SILVESTRI

Eretmocerus serius SILVESTRI, 1928: 46.

Eretmocerus gunturensis HAYAT, 1972: 102. syn. n.

The specimens mentioned below were identified as *E. serius* SILVESTRI. This is first report from India as well as from Pakistan.

The characters given by HAYAT for separation of his species, *E. gunturensis* with *E. serius* are much variable, and hence *E. gunturensis* is treated here as synonym of *E. serius* SILVESTRI.

Material examined: 5 ♀, India: Andhra Pradesh, Guntur; 3 ♀, Pakistan: Multan, ex. *Aleurocanthus woglumi* pupae on citrus leaves, 27.XI.1980 (A. I. MOHYUDDIN).

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