Revisonal Notes on the Provancher Types of Ichneumoninae (Hymenoptera)

By Gere H. Heinrich

Dryden, Maine

During November, 1958, I studied the Provancher types of Ichneumoninae in the Provincial Museum of Quebec. My work was very much facilitated by the kind assistance of subdirector Noel M. Comeau, who has arranged the once badly neglected historical specimens in a most exemplary way, securing them against any further damage as well as saving the time of the visiting specialist. I have only to regret that the revision of all Provancher types, which Mr. Comeau has accomplished by many years' endeavour, is not yet published and therefore not available yet to scientific workers.

As a result of my studies I propose the following taxonomic changes in the arrangement given by Townes (1951).

New Synonyms

Ichneumon deliratorius L., 1761, Fauna Suec., p. 401; 8.
Ichneumon citripes Prov., 1875, Nat. canad. 7: 22, 50 (procoelo); 8.
Ichneumon signifer Prov., 1875, Nat. canad. 7: 22, 52 (procoelo); 8.
Ichneumon cinctus Prov., nom. nov. for citripes, 1877, Nat. canad. 9: 7; 8.
Ichneumon sigillifer Cress., nom. nov. for signifer, 1877, Entom. Soc. Trans. 6: 151.

Barlechneum anatolicus F., 1804, Entom. system. II 1793 p. 169 n. 149.
Phygadeus niger Prov., 1876, Nat. canad. 8: 317; 8.
Ichneumon trizonicatus Prov., 1877, Nat. canad. 9: 8; 8.

The association of the sexes was confirmed by material in the Canadian National Collection reared from Ctenucha virginica Charpt.

Exephanes terminalis Prov., 1874, Nat. canad. 6: 284; 8.
Ichneumon fulvus Prov., 1877, Nat. canad. 9: 8; 8.

The sexes were associated on the basis of morphological characters but also of many observations in the field: similarities in ecology, distribution, and frequency, especially in Maine during 1956, when the species was exceptionally common.

Species or Subspecies Resurrected from Synonymy

Phylgadeus rufipes Prov.

Phygadeus rufipes Prov., 1875, Nat. canad. 7: 181; 8, 9.

Not identical with Incocolus Prov., but a good species differing by the

a) distinctly projecting teeth of the propodeum; b) considerably denser and stronger punctuation of the mesonotum; c) stouter tarsi; d) distinctly infuscated lobes of mesonotum.

In the Canadian National Collection this species is represented by one specimen from British Columbia, which agrees exactly with the type specimen from Quebec, and by two specimens from Alaska, which differ specifically by lack of the white annulus of the flagellum (Pl. rufipes comors Cress.).

Ichneumon unifasciatus vancouveriensis Prov.

Ichneumon vancouveriensis Prov., 1885, Canad. Ent. 17: 114; 8.

The type specimen as well as eight other specimens from Vancouver Island and the mainland of British Columbia in the Canadian National Collection lack the white annulus of the flagellum typical of the male of this species in Eastern Canada. Furthermore, all these specimens are considerably less white marked than the eastern populations. Therefore the Provancher name may not be considered as a synonym but should be applied to the western subspecies.

Aphorus rufipes vagans Prov.

Ichneumon vagans Prov., 1875, Nat. canad. 7: 19, 51; 8.

The occurrence of females of Aphorus rufipes (Grav.) in the Nearctic region was recorded by Heinrich, Canadian Ent. 38: 648-649. The males of I. vagans Prov. were associated with the females of A. rufipes (Grav.), by two rearings of each sex from Macaria sp. in New Brunswick. These rearings also confirmed the correctness of the association of the sexes of A. rufipes rufipes (Grav.) as published by Heinrich (Mitt. X. Munch. Ent. Ges. 35-39: 6, 1949). The color of Nearctic females is within the variation of European populations, whereas American males differ from European by having dark brown or even black hind femora. On account of this slight, but evidently constant, color difference, the Nearctic population may be considered subspecifically different from the European and the Provancher name may be retained for it.

Cyclophus impressus Prov.

Phygadeus impressus Prov., 1874, Nat. canad. 6: 281; 8.
Ichneumon crysopogus Prov., 1875, Nat. canad. 7: 24, 79; 8.
Cyclophus impressus Townes, 1931, Hymn. of Am. North of Mexico p. 281; 8.

In consideration of the pronounced gastrocoeli with a relatively narrow interval this species is better placed in the genus Cyclophus Heinr. than in Ectopus Wesm., the latter being especially characterized by the obsole gastrocoeli.

The type of I. crysopogus Prov. is a male, not a female as described by Provancher and quoted by Townes.

Cyclophus signatus Prov.

Phygadeus signatus Prov., 1874, Nat. canad. 6: 281; 8.

In this small species the spiracles of the propodeum are not exactly circular but very shortly oval. In this character it stands between Platylobus Wesm. and Cyclophus Heinr. However, the very small size of the spiracles, and especially, the strongly abbreviated propodeum give distinct preference to placement in the latter genus.

Asthenolobus scutellatus Prov.

Ichneumon scutellatus Prov., 1873, Nat. canad. 7: 111; 8.


This species obviously belongs in the genus Asthenolobus Heinr., which was erected as a new name for the genus Scutellatus Heinr. (procoelo) in the Bonn. Zool. Beitr. 2: 240. 1951.

(Received July 2, 1959)