

A NEW ENCYRTID PARASITE (CHALCIDOIDEA: HYMENOPTERA) OF A COCKROACH FROM INDIA.

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Only one Chalcid *Tetrastichus asthenogmus* (Waterst.)¹, parasitic in the eggs of *Periplaneta americana* (Linn.), has so far been recorded from India. Recently, however, I bred an Encyrtid parasite from two oothecae of an unidentified species of cockroach found in old tamarind stored in the kitchen of a Calcutta house. About a dozen males emerged from these oothecae, while two females were caught near an electric lamp at night in the same place. The specimens belong to the genus *Solindenia* Cameron.² Cameron describes the eyes as pilose in this genus, but Ashmead³ and Schmiedeknecht⁴ were correct in considering them as non-pilose. The Indian species, which differs in several important respects from *S. picticornis* Cam., is described below as a new species under the name *S. blattiphagus*.

In view of Cameron's description of the genus *Solindenia* being based on a female only, I give below an amended description of the genus :

Head large, transverse, much broader than thorax in both sexes; face with rather shallow antennal furrows; front ocellus placed outside the furrow; vertex not specially narrow; large non-pilose eyes converging dorsally; lateral ocelli placed close to eye border. Antennae long, subclavate towards apex, inserted below the lower level of the eyes, segments cylindrical, 13 in both sexes (scape 1, pedicel 1, ring joint 1, funicle joints 7, club joints 3). Fore femur not much swollen. Tibiae of mid legs with lateral spurs. Tarsal joints of mid legs with minute black teeth. Hind tibiae slightly compressed, with only one apical spur. Hind metatarsus not compressed apically. Abdomen depressed in both sexes, more pronounced in male. Ovipositor hidden or slightly exerted. Wings not hyaline, of a cloudy or brown colour, with a transverse white band in middle.

Genotype.—*S. picticornis* Cam.

***Solindenia blattiphagus*, sp. nov.**

Female.—Length about 3.5 mm. Head metallic green to blue with a coppery lustre at certain angles, sparsely pilose. Mandibles very dark red, tridentate. Palpi testaceous. Scape of antennae brown, slender, about a third of the length of flagellum. Pedicel of antennae about one fourth the length of scape, brownish. Ring joint somewhat broader than long. Funicle black; segments one to three subequal; fourth segment shorter than third; fifth shorter than fourth and about three fourths the length of third; sixth and seventh segments equal,

¹ Waterston, *Bull. Ent. Res.*, V, p. 340, (1914); also see Gahan, *Proc. U. S. N. Mus.*, XLVIII, p. 168, (1914).

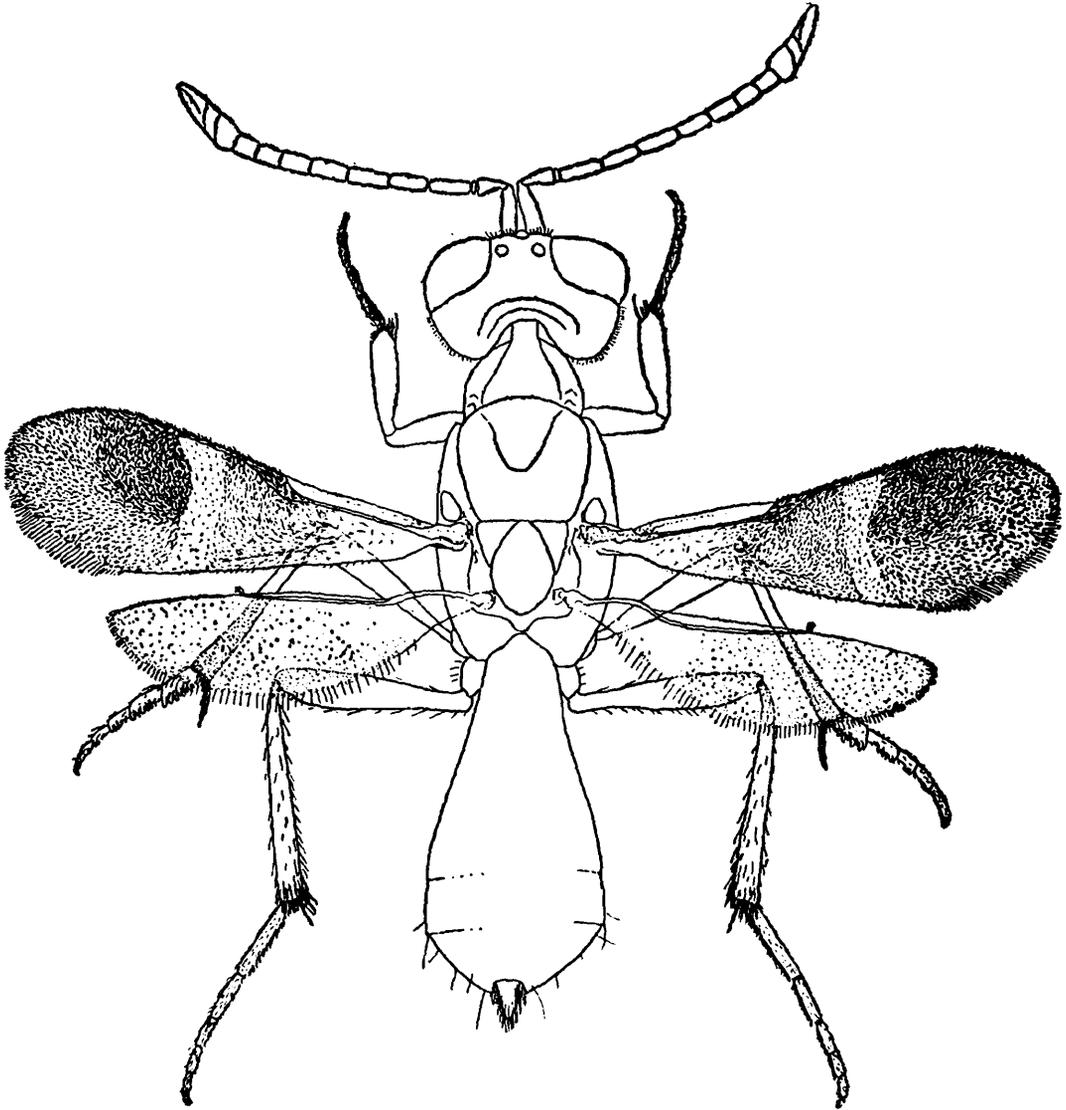
² Cameron, *Trans. Ent. Soc. London*, p. 189, (1883).

³ Ashmead, *Mem. Carnegie Mus.*, I, (4), p. 288, (1904).

⁴ Schmiedeknecht, *Gen. Ins.*, fas. 97, p. 178, (1909).

each a little shorter than fifth and much darker than the rest of the antennae; club about half the length of scape, apical joint longest. Eyes chocolate red. Thorax of a dark honey brown colour. Legs concolourous with thorax. Abdomen black except in the basal one third, which is whitish.

Male.—Length 3 mm. Scape of antennae smoky brown. Scapula black. Legs smoky, mainly testaceous. The whitish colour of the basal part of abdomen is more pronounced than in the female.



Solindenia blattiphagus, sp. nov. Male.

Holotype.—One male in spirit, No. 912/H 3. Emerged from the oothecae of an unidentified species of cockroach found on tamarind stored in the kitchen of a Calcutta house on 26-v-1935. In the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta.

Allotype.—One female in spirit, No. 913/H 3. Caught near an electric lamp at 2 A.M. on 29-x-1935 in the kitchen of a Calcutta house badly infested by cockroaches. In the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta.

Paratypes.—Several males and one female in spirit, No. 914/H 3. In the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta.