

## FIRST RECORD OF GENUS *NEODONTOCRYPTUS* UCHIDA FROM INDIA (HYMENOPTERA : ICHNEUMONIDAE)

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### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Neodontocryptus* Uchida belongs to the tribe Ishnini of the family Ichneumonidae. This genus is known from Taiwan and South-eastern China. Townes (1970 : 204) and Gupta (1987: 793), referred only one species, viz. *Odontocryptus brilliantus* Uchida, 1932 from Taiwan and China. Saxena (1978) described a new species viz. *Neodontocryptus hyalina* Saxena from India, Nepal and Indonesia. On examination of the type of *N. hyalina*, it was found that this is a synonym of *Chlorocryptus coeruleus* Cameron (New synonymy). This is the first record of this genus from India.

### Genus *Neodontocryptus* Uchida

1932. *Odontocryptus* Uchida, *Jour. Faculty Agr. Hokkaido Imp. Univ.*, **33** : 187, Name preoccupied by Saussure, 1890, by Cameron, 1903 and by Szepliget, 1961. Type : *Odontocryptus brilliantus* Uchida. Original designation.
1940. *Neodontocryptus* Uchida, *Insecta Matsumurana* **14** : 122. New name.
1970. *Neodontodryptus* Uchida : Townes, *Mem. Amer. Ent. Inst.*, **12** : 204. Syn., des.
1987. *Neodontocryptus* Uchida : Gupta, *Mem. Amer. Ent. Inst.*, **41** : 793. Syn.

Body stout. Clypeus moderately large, about 2x as long as wide, moderately convex, its apex truncate; clypeal foveae deep. Malarspace wide, about 1.0x as long as basal width of mandible (Fig. 1a). Mesoscutum polished with large, deep and scattered punctures, notauli deep and very short. Upper margin of pronotum in front of notauli strongly swollen like tubercles. Mesopleurum divided into upper and lower halves by a moderately deep and broad groove, groove with strong vertical ridges (Fig. 1b). Propodeal spiracle slit-like, about 4x as long as wide, basal carina of propodeum not defined. First tergite stout, with basal lateral tooth, dorso-median carinae weak or absent, ventro-lateral carinae opposite to spiracle, expended like a triangular tooth in male, in female not seen (Fig. 1c). Second tergite polished, strongly convex and broad, its punctures in both sexes rather large, deep and separated by 1-4x their diameter. Ovipositor sheath about 1.1x as long as hind tibia. Ovipositor weakly compressed, its tip long and without nodules (Fig. 1e). Wing venation as shown in fig. 1d.

*Length* : Female and male about 12 mm.

*Type-species* : *Odontocryptus brilliantus* Uchida, 1932

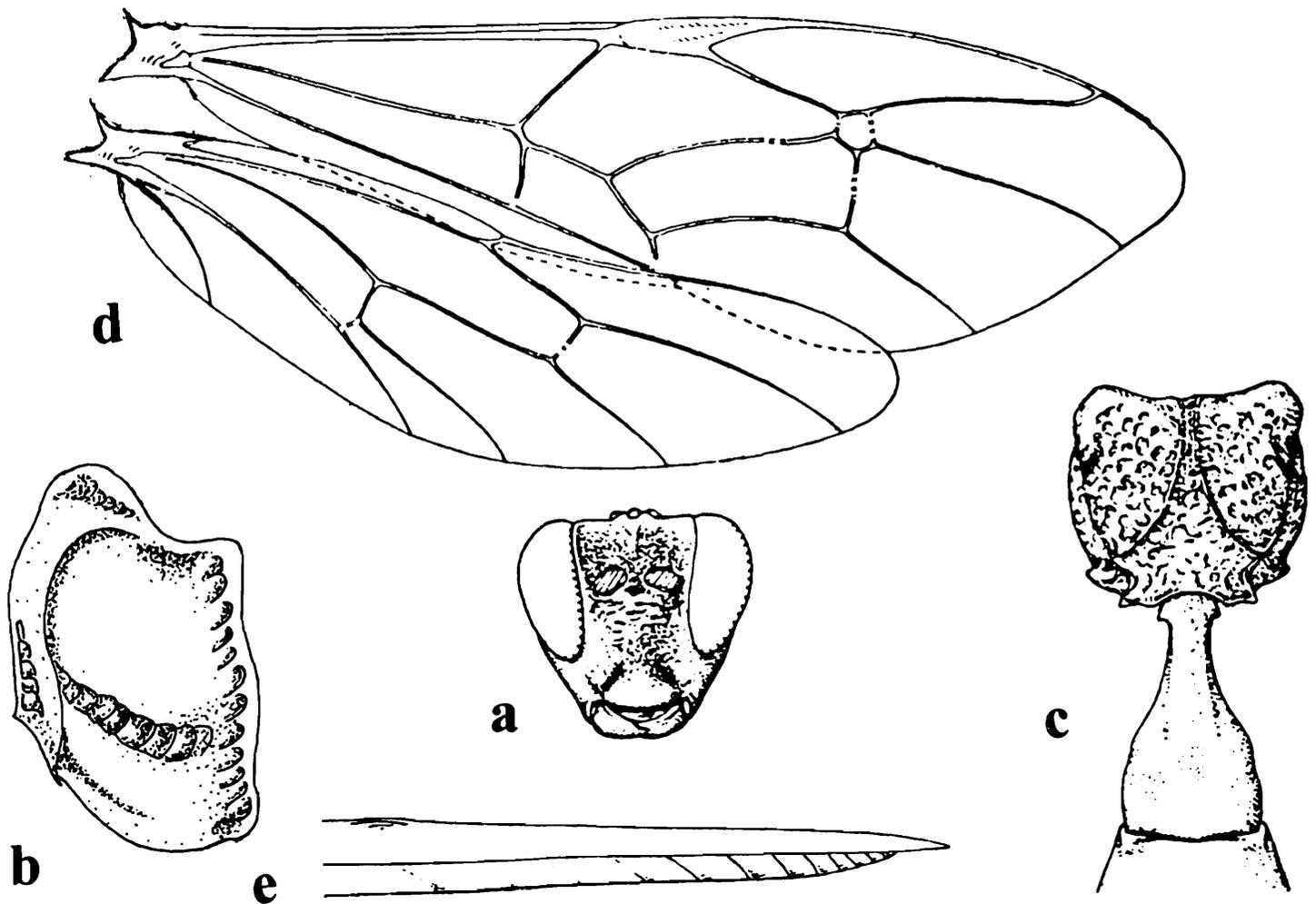


Fig. 1. *Neodontocryptus Uchida* : a. front view of head; b. mesopleurum; c. dorsal view of propodeum and first tergite; d. wing venation of fore and hind wings; e. ovipositor tip (after Townes, 1970).

### *Neodontocryptus brilliantus* (Uchida)

1932. *Odontocryptus brilliantus* Uchida, *Jour. Faculty. Agr. Hokkaido Imp. Univ.* **33** : 186. Female, des., fig. type : Female. Taiwan : Suisharyo (Eberswalde Museum).
1940. *Neodontocryptus brilliantus* : Uchida, *Insecta Matsumurana*, **14** : 122. China, Taiwan.
1970. *Neodontocryptus brilliantus* (Uchida) : Townes, *Mem. Amer. Ent. Inst.*, **12** : 204. Taiwan, S. E. China.
1987. *Neodontocryptus brilliantus* (Uchida) : Gupta, *Mem. Amer. ent. Inst.* **41** : 793. Syn.

This species is known by its female. The male of this species has been discovered for the first time which is described below.

*Male* Body polished, metallic blue in colour, wings hyaline dark brown. Face largely finely punctate, strongly rough and trans-rugose in the middle. Clypeus minutely and moderately closely punctate, besides these minute punctures a few scattered large punctures also present. Malarspace with minute and closely placed punctures. Frons moderately shallow, smooth and polished. Vertex and temple more or less smooth and polished, except for a few scattered small punctures. Mandible with minute close punctures, a few large punctures also present. Pronotum along the posterior margin with short strong ridges, its upper margin with large deep punctures, middle area with minute sparse punctures. Scutellum with small sized scattered punctures, its lateral carina not

extending more than 0.3. Metascutellum in the form of two lateral tubercles. Upper lobes of mesopleurum largely smooth and shiny, except for a few large deep punctures near subtegular ridge, middle groove strongly striate, lower lobe with large deep and sparse punctures. Metapleurum with large deep punctures, juxtacoxal carina strong. Propodeum between apical carina and base with very large, deep, close to moderately spaced punctures, at sides appears to be reticulate, apical of apical carina reticulo-winkled and with a median longitudinal carina, apophyses strong and tuberculate, below the apophyses additional pair of strong tubercles present. First tergite with moderately large, close to moderately spaced punctures, ventral longitudinal carina with a flange-like tooth below spiracle. Second and third tergites with small to moderate sized punctures, punctures close to dense at apex, sparse towards the base, second and third tergites large by shield-shaped, following tergites short and somewhat retracted, seventh tergite at apex with a fringe of thick bristles.

*Female* : Not seen. Body structure similar to male and as detailed under generic description.

*Length* : Male, about 13 mm. Fore wing 11 mm.

*Specimen examined* : 1 Male, INDIA : MEGHALAYA : Above Tura in Garo Hills (formerly Assam), 1000-1115 m, 15.vii-30.viii.1917 coll. S. Kemp. (Z. S. I., Calcutta).

*Distribution* : India : Meghalaya. Taiwan, South-eastern China.

### SUMMARY

The genus *Neodontocryptus* Uchida has been recorded for the first time from India. This genus was previously known from Taiwan and southern China. A detailed description of the male of the only known species viz. *N. brilliantus* Uchida, which was known by its female, has been given.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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