NOTE ON TWO LITTLE KNOWN SPECIES OF
ANTROCEPHALUS KIRBY (HYMENOPTERA :
CHALCIDIDAE) FROM INDIA

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Two little known species of Antrocephalus Kirbyviz. A. dividens (Walker) and A. renalis
Waterston are redescribed with a correction of the generic status of the former species.
A new synonym of A. renalis is reported.

The paper contains redescriptions of
two oriental species of Antrocephalus Kirby
collected from different places in South
India. The earlier descriptions of these
two species are vague and without sufficient
illustrations, making it rather difficult to
establish their precise identity. Hence this
account. A mistaken generic identification
of A. dividens (Walker) is corrected and
this species has been recorded for the first
time from India. A new synonym of A.
renalis Waterston is reported.

1. Antrocephalus dividens (Walker)
comb. nova. (Figs. 1–7)

Chalcis dividens (Walker) 1860, Ann.
dividens (Walker) : Mani, 1938, Cat. Ind.
Ins., 3 : 54.

Female : Length 5.3 mm. Head black,
eyes pale yellowish–black; antenna black;
thorax black, shiny; tegulae reddish–black;
wings hyaline, veins brown; all legs except
the black fore coxa, ferrugenuous–red;
abdomen black; shiny. Pubescence yello-
wishwhite.

Head (Figs. 1 & 2) : width a little more
than the width of thorax, surface distinctly
pitted. Median ocellus a trifle larger than
the lateral; the distance between median and
lateral ocelli about half the interocellar
distance; interocular space a little over one
and three fourths interocellar distance; width
of ocellar area a little more than four-
fifths as wide as interocular space; interocellar
distance a little over three times the maximum
diameter of the lateral ocelli. Antenna
(Fig. 3) slender; scape not quite reaching the
front ocellus.

Thorax : With rounded pits on dorsal
side; interspaces of pits shiny, as wide as or
half as wide as the diameter of the pits on
scutellum and mesoscutum; on the pronotum
the interspaces narrow and rugose; anterior
carinae on pronotum distinct, bituberculate,
scutellum a little less than one and one fifth
as long as wide; apical margin as in figure 4.
Fore wing and its veins are as in figure 5.
Hind coxa on ventral side densely punctate
and pubescent, dorso–outer side smooth
and shiny without a distinct tooth near base;
hind femur (Fig. 6) with minute pits and
moderate pubescence on outer side, inner
side with less pits and less pubescence and
without an inner basal tooth.

Abdomen (Fig. 7) about as long as the
combined length of pronotum, mesoscutum,
scutellum and propodeum; first tergite
Figs. 1-7. *A. dividens* (WALK.), female: 1. head; 2. head lateral aspect; 3. antenna; 4. scutellum dorsal aspect; 5. forewing; 6. hindfemur; 7. abdomen lateral aspect.

smooth and shiny, base with short carina on each side of the median fovea (as long as the fovea); second tergite with faint pits and sparse pubescence.

Male : Length 4.7 mm. Colour of the legs slightly different from female; coxae black with apices of mid and of hind coxae reddish; fore and mid femora and their tibiae almost black with their apices reddish; hind femur and tibia turrigenous red as in female. Abdomen distinctly shorter than the combined length of pronotum, mesoscutum, scutellum and propodeum together.

Specimens examined

Distribution
This species had been originally recorded from Sri Lanka (Ceylon). The present author records this species for the first time from India.

Remarks
This species _A. dividens_ was first described by Walker (1860) and he wrongly included the species under the genus _Chalcis_ of authors (not of Fabricius). Later this species continued to be known wrongly as _Brachymeria dividens_ (Walker) when Gahan & Fagan (1923) synonymised the genus _Chaletis_ of authors (not of Fabricius) with the genus _Brachymeria_ Westwood.

2. _Antrocephalus renalis_ Waterston
(Figs. 8–13)

_Antrocephalus renalis_ Waterst. 1922, _Ind. For. Rec._, 9 : 69 Stomatoceras sulcatiscutellum, Girault, 1971, _Deser. Chal. var._

Female : Length 5.0 mm. Head black; eyes brownish black; antenna reddish black; thorax black; shiny; tegulae brownish black. Wings almost hyaline; veins of fore wings brown with the submarginal pale. Legs black. Abdomen black, shiny. Pubescence yellowish white.

Head (Figs. 8 & 9) : Width a little more than the width of thorax, surface rather shallowly pitted with a line of deeper pits along the inner margin of compound eyes. Median ocellus a little larger than the lateral; the distance between median and lateral ocelli about half the interocellar distance; interocellar space a trifle over two and one fifth times the interocellar distance; width of ocellar area a little over four-fifths as wide as interocellar space; interocellar distance two and one fourth times as wide as the maximum diameter of the lateral ocelli. Antennae somewhat stout; scape reaching the front ocellus, length subequal to the combined length of segments two to six; pedicel as long as segment four, almost twice as long as wide; ring segment as long as wide; fourth segment a little shorter than twice the length of ring segment, one and two-thirds as long as wide; fifth segment slightly shorter and slightly wider than fourth segment; sixth segment a little shorter and a little wider than fifth segment (rest of the segments are found missing from the antennae).

Thorax : with rather small pits on dorsal side; interspaces of pits shiny and in most places of scutellum and mesoscutum as wide as or wider than the diameter of pits; pronotum with distinct anterior carinae at sides, turning faint near the middle, not forming tubercles; scutellum about one and one-fifth times as long as
wide and as in figure 10. Fore wing and its veins are as in figure 11. Hind coxa a little less than three-fourths the length of hind femur, ventral side minutely and densely punctate with pubescence, dorso-outer side smooth and shiny with a tooth near base; hind femur (Fig. 12) outer and inner sides moderately pitted and moderately pubescent, interspaces between the pits rugose; inner side with a distinct basal tooth.

Abdomen (Fig. 13): Longer than the combined length of pronotum, mesoscutum, scutellum and propodeum together; first tergite smooth and shiny with the base having short but distinct carina on each side of the median fovea (as long as the fovea); second tergite with pubescent pits on sides; sixth tergite rugulose and with shallow pits.

Plesiotype


Distribution: Sri Lanka and India.

Host: Nephantis serinopa M. (Lep., Xyloryctidae)

Remarks: A specimen identified by Dr. B. D. BURKS (U. S. National Museum, Washington D.C., U.S.A.) as Antrocephalus sulcatiscutellum (Girault) is present in the Department of Zoology, University of Calicut. Dr. BURKS identified this specimen after comparing the type specimen of Stomatoceras sulcatiscutellum (Girault) present in the U.S. National Museum. When the present author compared this specimen with the plesiotype of Antrocephalus renalis WATERSTON, he is convinced that the species sulcatiscutellum is a new synonym of Antrocephalus renalis WATERSTON.

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REFERENCES

