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ON THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF TWO EURYTOMID GENERA: EUDECATOMA ASHMEAD AND SYCOPHILA WALKER (HYMENOPTERA, CHALCIDOIDEA)

Про систематичне положення родів *Eudecatoma* Ashmead та *Sycophila* Walker (Hymenoptera, Eurytomidae). Зерова М. Д. — На основі вивчення морфологічних особливостей типових видів родів *Eudecatoma* Ashmead, 1904 та *Sycophila* Walker, 1871 обстоюється самостійність вказаних родів, яка була поставлена під сумнів у працях відомого хальцидолога З. Боучека (Bousek, 1974, 1988). Показано, що про самостійність названих родів свідчать також дані про трофічні зв'язки та особливості поширення видів, які до них включаються.

Ключові слова: Hymenoptera, Eurytomidae, *Eudecatoma*, *Sycophila*, морфологія, трофічні зв'язки, поширення, таксономічний статус.

О систематическом положении родов *Eudecatoma* Ashmead и *Sycophila* Walker (Hymenoptera, Eurytomidae). Зерова М. Д. — На основании исследования морфологии типовых видов родов *Eudecatoma* Ashmead, 1904 и *Sycophila* Walker, 1871 отстаивается мнение о самостоятельности указанных родов, которая была подвергнута сомнению в работах известного хальцидолога З. Боучека (Bousek, 1974, 1988). В качестве дополнительных аргументов в пользу самостоятельности этих родов привлечены данные по трофическим связям и особенностям распространения включаемых в них видов.

Ключевые слова: Hymenoptera, Eurytomidae, *Eudecatoma*, *Sycophila*, морфология,

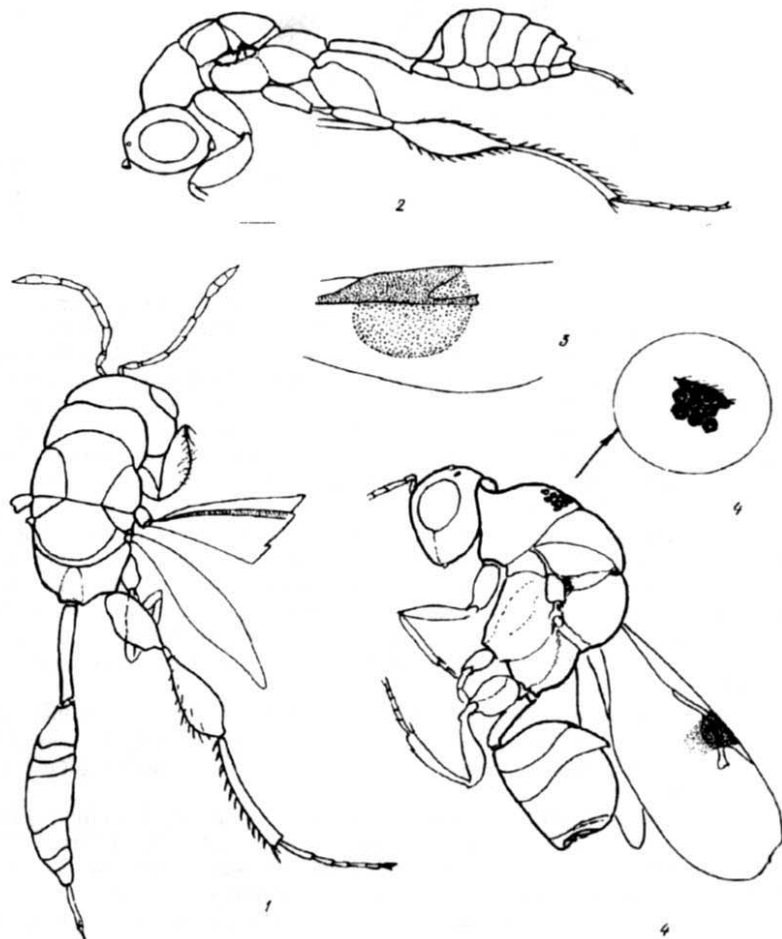


Fig. 1. Structural details of *Sycophila* and *Eudecatoma* typespecies: 1 — 3 — *S. decatomoides* Walkr., lectotype male (1 — dorsal aspect, 2 — lateral aspect, 3 — forewing venation, fragment); 4 — *E. batatoides* Ashmead, syntype male (lateral aspect with enlarged sculpture fragment).

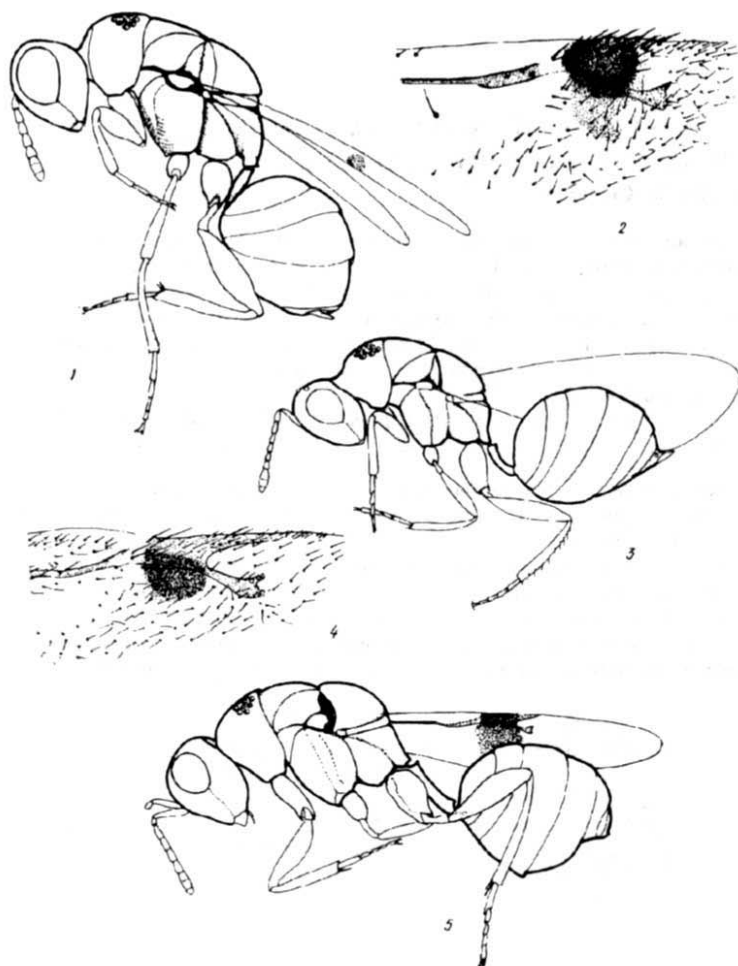


Fig. 2. Structural details of *Eudecatoma* species: 1, 2 — *E. batatoides* Ashmead, syntype female; 3 — 4 — *E. flavicollis* Walker, female (1, 3 — lateral aspect, 2, 4 — venation); 5 — *E. submutica* Thomson, male.

трофические связи, распространение, таксономический статус.

Following Dr. Z. Bouček's opinion (1974, 1988) who sunk *Eudecatoma* Ashmead, 1904 in synonymy of *Sycophila* Walker, 1871, most of recent entomologists do not accept their distinct status (Abdoul-Rassoul, 1980; Pujade, 1994; Narendran, 1994 et al.). Contrary to the above, an opinion in favour of distinct status of these two generic taxa have been substantiated in my previous publications on Eurytomid taxonomy (Zerova, 1978, 1988). Since cited papers were published in Ukrainian and Russian respectively and thus occurred to be almost completely unavailable to foreign students, expressed therein viewpoint still requires some additional arguments to escape misunderstanding.

First of all, I would like to call attention to a publication of Bouček, Watsham, Wiebes (1981) in which a number *Sycophila* species, ecologically associated with *Ficus* spp. fruits in South Africa, were described as new. As pointed out in this paper, described species are characteristic with thickened (sometimes significantly) hind femora. Later on, Bouček (1988) indicated some other specific morphological features in *Sycophila* species associated with *Ficus* spp. hostplants: more flattened sculpture, lack of cellular or reticular pattern common to Holarctic species, previously assigned to *Eudecatoma*. It should be emphasized that in doing so Bouček accepted these differences as of secondary importance only.

However, almost contemporaneously with Bouček (1988), the author have published a generic revision of the world fauna Eurytomidae (Zerova, 1988). Taking into consideration Bouček's opinion on *Eudecatoma* and *Sycophila* identity (Bouček, 1974), a special attention have been paid to the type species examination of these genera.

Examined material. *Sycophila decatomoides* Walker (♀ lectotype, Bouček, 1974), received on loan from the British Museum (Natural History), London (Hym. type 5.14); *Decatoma batatoides* Ashmead (4 ♀, ♂ syntypes), received on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. (Paratype Hym. IV 25497 — U.S.N.M.).

As a result of the examination undertaken, the type species of *Sycophila*, *S. decatomoides*, is found to be characteristic with pronouncedly thickened hind femora in both sexes, slightly enlarged hind coxae, very long petiolus of the abdomen in both sexes and flattened head and thorax covers,

without cellular sculpture (fig.1, 1, 2).

Similar morphological features are also characteristic of other *Sycophila* species developing on *Ficus* spp. fruits mostly as inquilins as judged from published data (Boucek, 1974, Boucek et al., 1981).

The type species of *Eudecatoma* — *E. (Decatoma) batatoides* Ashmead is characteristic with coarse cellular head and dorsal surface of the thorax sculpture, absence of notable incrassation of fore- and, especially hind femora in both sexes, not enlarged hind coxae, and moderately elongated petiolus in both females and males (fig.1, 4). All these peculiarities, emphasized in the original description of *E. (D.) batatoides* Ashmead (1881: 136), are shared with other, inclusive Palaearctic *Eudecatoma* species (*E. mellea* Curtis, *E. biguttata* Swed., *E. submutica* Thomas, *E. concinna* Boh., *E. flavicollis* Walk., *E. variegata* Curt., *E. stagnalis* Erd.). These species have not more thickened hind femora, nor enlarged hind coxa and less elongated petiolus of abdomen than in *S. decatomoides*, and also differ by cellular sculpture of the head and thorax covers (fig.2, 3–5). Furthermore, the species formerly assigned to *Eudecatoma* are parasitoids of the gall-forming Hymenoptera and Diptera.

Giving credit to Dr. Z. Boucek for his highest authority and unique knowledge of tropical chalcidid fauna, the author of this paper can not, however, keep out of recognition of two species groups within genus *Sycophila* (in wide Boucek's sense) as identified upon type species of *Sycophila* Walk. and *Eudecatoma* Ashm. nominal genera. The availability of these two specific groups is out of doubt, the question to solve is to what taxonomic rank they should be assigned. The following fact is worthy of a special attention. The modern students in Eurytomidae biosystematics emphasize a significant role of their trophic connections in the evolution of certain genera (Zerova, 1992). In this respect, the differences not only in morphology, but also in distribution and bionomics between *Sycophila* and *Eudecatoma* species are quite significant. The species of *Sycophila* are distributed over the Oriental, Nearctic and Australian regions but not Palaearctics, developing exclusively in *Ficus* spp. figs as inquilins. The *Eudecatoma* species are of cosmopolitan occurrence, mostly parasitizing gall-forming cynipids.

Taking into account the above, it seems possible to retain the separate, distinct status for genera *Eudecatoma* and *Sycophila* which, though closely related, pronouncedly differ in their morphology, biology and distribution.

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МОРФОЛОГИЯ ЯЙЦЕКЛАДА ТАХИН НЕКОТОРЫХ РОДОВ ТРИБЫ EXORISTINI (DIPTERA, TACHINIDAE)

Морфологія яйцекладу мух-тахин деяких родів триби Exoristini (Diptera, Tachinidae). Фаринець С. І. — Огляд будови яйцекладу представників 7 родів триби, таблиця для визначення родів за ознаками яйцекладу.

Ключові слова: Diptera, Tachinidae, Exoristini, морфологія, яйцеклад, Палеарктика.

Ovipositor Morphology of Certain Tachinid Fly Genera of the Tribe Exoristini (Diptera, Tachinidae). Farinets S. I. — A review of ovipositor structure in representatives of 7 genera of the tribe, a key to genera based on ovipositor characters.

К е у w o r d s: Diptera, Tachinidae, Exoristini, morphology, ovipositor, Palaearctics.