



Identity and synonymy of *Dicroscelio* Kieffer and description of *Axea*, a new genus from tropical Africa and Asia (Hymenoptera: Platygastroidea: Platygastriidae)

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Abstract

Dicroscelio Kieffer is proposed as the senior synonym of *Anteromorpha* Dodd, *Govinda* Nixon, *Aegyptoscelio* Priesner, and *Afroscelio* Risbec, **new synonymies**. Members of the genus are found worldwide, but is most diverse in the Afrotropical and Oriental regions. The generic synonymies result in the following new combinations: *D. abdominalis* (Sundholm), **new comb.**, *D. africanus* (Risbec), **new comb.**, *D. ancillus* (Kozlov & Lê), **new comb.**, *D. cernatus* (Kozlov & Lê), **new comb.**, *D. cuberatus* (Kozlov & Lê), **new comb.**, *D. deccanensis* (Sharma), **new comb.**, *D. depressus* (Galloway), **new comb.**, *D. dubiosus* (Perkins), **new comb.**, *D. ferrierei* (Masner), **new comb.**, *D. frequens* (Priesner), **new comb.**, *D. glaber* (Sharma), **new comb.**, *D. incertus* (Nixon), **new comb.**, *D. latus* (Sundholm), **new comb.**, *D. malabaricus* (Narendran), **new comb.**, *D. nonus* (Nixon), **new comb.**, *D. obscurus* (Sundholm), **new comb.**, *D. poussi* (Risbec), **new comb.**, *D. reus* (Nixon), **new comb.**, *D. rufipes* (Ashmead), **new comb.**, *D. tuberculatus* (Sharma), **new comb.**, *D. ueleensis* (Risbec), **new comb.**, *D. undinus* (Nixon), **new comb.** Lectotypes are designated for *Anteromorpha australica* Dodd and *Afroscelio poussi* Risbec.

The name *Dicroscelio* was misapplied by Masner for an undescribed genus in the tribe Scelionini *s.str.*; *Axea* Masner & Johnson **n.gen.**, is formally described, and 16 species are treated: *A. adro* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. atai* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. atriceps* (Kieffer) **n.comb.**, *A. dorotheae* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. eshu* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. fisherhala* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. kalanoro* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. kilen* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. mena* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. nommo* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. mwari* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. talana* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. yama* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. yasigi* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, *A. yurugu* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**, and *A. zanahary* Valerio & Yoder **n.sp.**

Key words: Scelionidae, Platygastriidae, *Dicroscelio*, *Axea*, tropical Africa, Asia, taxonomy, key

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:36048C9E-A505-44EB-BF7C-5D001B4B1D5A

Introduction

The genus *Anteromorpha* Dodd (*sensu* Masner 1976, 1980) is a widespread group of platygastriid wasps of the subfamily Scelioninae characterized by a flat, platelike metascutellum, the presence of fanlike striae arising from the base of the mandibles, the absence of a skaphion, a *Scelio*-type ovipositor, and, in general, an elongate, depressed body. Member species are found on all continents, save Antarctica, but appear to be most diverse in tropical Africa and Asia.

We recently studied the holotype of the type species of *Dicroscelio* Kieffer, deposited in the collection of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris). This genus was included in the key to world genera of Masner (1976) as a member of the tribe Scelionini *sensu stricto*. We were surprised to discover that the type species *Dicroscelio flavipes* Kieffer does not conform to Masner's concept of *Dicroscelio*. Rather, it belongs to *Anteromorpha*, and because Kieffer's description predates that of Dodd, this discovery precipitates a series of nomenclatural changes. *Dicroscelio sensu* Masner is a new genus, described below, and the species of this group are also described.

This work is a product of the Platygastroidea Planetary Biodiversity Inventory, a project funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (N.F. Johnson and A.D. Austin, University of Adelaide, principal investigators). One of the primary objectives of this project is to use biodiversity informatics tools to accelerate the taxonomic process and to make real-time collaboration possible among the narrow community of researchers with appropriate expertise. The contributions of the individual authors are: A.A. Valerio: species concept development, key development, imaging, databasing of specimen data; M.J. Yoder: species concept development, key development, imaging, databasing of specimen data; L. Masner: character definition, generic concept development, species concept development, development of collection; N.F. Johnson: project coordination, character definition, generic concept development, imaging, manuscript preparation. The authorship of the new taxa reflects the contribution of each individual.