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The relationship and taxonomic position of the genera *Apolophus* and *Scolomus* (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae)

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Abstract

The metopiine genus *Apolophus* Townes is treated as a junior synonym [**syn. nov.**] of the ctenopelmatine genus *Scolomus* Townes & Townes. The distinguishing features of the expanded genus are described and illustrated. The systematic position of *Scolomus* is discussed and it is concluded that the genus belongs to the Metopiinae. The monophyly of the Ctenopelmatinae is open to question and it is suggested that the Metopiinae may have arisen from within the Ctenopelmatinae.

Key words: Ophioniformes, Ctenopelmatinae, classification, paraphyly, Metopiinae, host-relationships

Introduction

As part of the Hymenoptera phylogeny project (HymATOL) funded through the NSF "Assembling the Tree of Life Initiative", little-known Neantarctic (*sensu* Porter, 1998) genera of the ichneumonid subfamily Ctenopelmatinae have been examined. In the course of this work extensive material of *Scolomus magellanicus* Walkley was studied and it was observed that this species has such a distinct similarity to some species of the metopiine genus *Apolophus* Townes that the retention of them both as distinct genera appeared to be doubtful.

Scolomus was originally described in the Tryphoninae by Townes & Townes (1950) and subsequently transferred, without comment, to the ctenopelmatine tribe Pionini by Townes & Townes (1966). Its placement in the Ctenopelmatinae was undoubtedly due to the presence of a distinct apical tooth on the fore tibia, and the very slender ovipositor is a derived feature *Scolomus* shares with other genera of Pionini (Townes, 1969). The systematic position of *Apolophus* is somewhat contentious. Townes (1971) acknowledged

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