



Revision of the genus *Paraspicera* Kieffer, 1907 (Hym: Figitidae: Aspicerinae)

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Abstract

Paraspicera Kieffer, 1907 is a genus of Aspicerinae (Hymenoptera: Cynipoidea: Figitidae) of Nearctic distribution that includes a small number of species. The diagnostic characters to differentiate *Paraspicera* from other similar genera are described. From the five known species of *Paraspicera* only *P. bakeri* Kieffer, 1907 belongs to *Paraspicera*; the other species are transferred to the genus *Aspicera* Dahlbom, 1842: *A. clarimontis* Kieffer **rev. status**, *A. uthaensis* Ashmead **rev. status**, *A. foveata* (Belizin) **n. comb.**, and *A. kerzhneri* (Kovalev) **n. comb.** *Paraspicera bakeri* is redescribed and a new species is described: *P. brandaoi* **n. sp.** The diagnostic characters of both species are illustrated. The genus *Heteraspidia* Belizin, 1952 is synonymized with *Aspicera*.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Figitidae, Aspicerinae, *Paraspicera*, revision, new species

Introduction

The Figitidae includes 11 subfamilies (Ros-Farré & Pujade-Villar, 2007; Buffington & Liljebblad, 2008): Parnipinae, Thrasorinae, Charipinae, Figitinae, Anacharitinae, Emarginae, Pycnostigminae, Eucoilinae, Plectocynipinae, Euceroptrinae and Aspicerinae. Eight genera are included in Aspicerinae: *Balna* Cameron, *Prosaspicera* Kieffer, *Aspicera* Dahlbom, *Paraspicera* Kieffer, *Anacharoides* Cameron, *Omalaspis* Giraud *Callaspidia* Dahlbom and *Pujadella* Ros-Farré; morphological differences between these genera are described in Ros-Farré (2007). In the past few years, several studies have been made to resolve the taxonomic chaos on aspicerines and the limited knowledge of their biodiversity. *Prosaspicera* was revised by Ros-Farré & Pujade-Villar (2007), *Anacharoides* by Buffington & Van Noort (2009), *Callaspidia* by Ros-Farré & Pujade-Villar (2009), *Balna* by Ros-Farré & Pujade-Villar (2010); and *Pujadella* is a genus recently described by Ros-Farré (2007). In the present work we provide a revision of *Paraspicera*. The genera *Aspicera* and *Omalaspis* are currently being revised (Ros-Farré & Pujade-Villar, *in prep.*).

Paraspicera is a poorly known genus, currently restricted to the Nearctic region. Previously the distribution of this genus extended to the Holarctic region, but we have transferred the two Asian species included in *Paraspicera*, *P. foveata* Belizin and *P. kerzhneri* Kovalev, to *Aspicera*. Therefore, *Paraspicera* as currently defined includes only two North American species, *P. bakeri* and *P. brandaoi* **n. sp.** *Paraspicera clarimontis* (Kieffer) and *P. uthaensis* (Ashmead) are transferred to the genus *Aspicera*.

The biology of this genus is unknown, but it probably attacks larvae of Diptera: Cyclorrhapha of the family Syrphidae, as do all the other aspicerines where the host is known.

Material and methods

The type material of *Paraspicera bakeri* Kieffer, 1907, *Paraspicera clarimontis* (Kieffer, 1907), *Paraspicera uthaensis* (Ashmead, 1896) and *Paraspicera kerzhneri* Kovalev, 1974 was studied; the type material of *Paraspicera foveata* (Belizin) is likely lost (Kovalev, *pers. com.*).