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Catalogue of the type specimens of Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera) in the Jacques F. Aubert collection at the Musée de Zoologie, Lausanne, Switzerland

SERAINA KLOPFSTEIN^{1,2} & HANNES BAUR¹

¹*Department of Invertebrates, Natural History Museum, Bernastrasse 15, CH-3005 Bern, Switzerland*

²*Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Enheten för Entomologi, Box 50007, 104 05 Stockholm, Sweden. E-mail: seraina.klopfstein@nrm.se*



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Seraina Klopstein & Hannes Baur

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Abstract

Jacques F. Aubert described more than 600 ichneumonid taxa, mainly from the Alps and the Mediterranean region. His large collection was furthermore used by other ichneumonid taxonomists, who described additional new taxa. The name-bearing types of 501 of these taxa are deposited at the Musée de Zoologie in Lausanne. In order to make information about these types accessible to future ichneumonid researchers, we here list all taxa and report the original label contents of the name-bearing types. Additionally, we clarify the status of the type specimens and discuss the availability of names in cases where Aubert's descriptions do not conform to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

key words: Ichneumonoidea, holotype, lectotype, neotype, nomenclature, syntype, type catalogue

Introduction

Hymenoptera Parasitica or parasitoid wasps are probably the insect group for which taxonomic research most strongly lags behind the actual diversity (Quicke 1997). These shortcomings in taxonomy impede data acquisition and exchange in other fields of biology, e.g. ecology, evolutionary biology or applied fields such as biocontrol. Among parasitoid wasps, the Ichneumonidae constitute the largest family with more than 23,000 described species (Yu *et al.* 2005), and much of its diversity is probably still unknown (Jones *et al.* 2009). Taxonomic research in this family has relied mostly on a small number of specialists, and Jacques F. Aubert was one of the most productive among them. Between 1957 and 1998, he published more than 120 taxonomic papers in which he described more than 600 taxa. His main region of interest was the Mediterranean, including Southern France, Corsica, Israel, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. Especially in later years, he also extensively studied material from the Swiss and French Alps and from Central France. Aubert did not restrict himself to single subfamilies of ichneumonids, but his work covered more or less the whole family. This is an enormous task given the 37 subfamilies with almost 7,000 species recorded from the Western Palaearctic region (Yu *et al.* 2005). The main interest of Aubert was taxonomy at the species or infra-specific level, but he also described 31 new genera or subgenera (e.g. Aubert 1958a, 1958b, 1961a, 1964a, 1965b, 1970b, 1974b, 1993a). Most of his descriptions do not form part of comprehensive revisions of a group, but rather have a faunistic background (Aubert 1959d, 1960b, 1960c, 1961c, 1964c). Nevertheless, Aubert also published revisions and keys to some genera (Aubert 1957, 1965d, 1966f, 1968d, 1977c, 1978b, 1981b, 1987b) and compiled species catalogues for three subfamilies (Aubert 1969e, 1978a, 2000). Besides taxonomy, Aubert also took an extensive interest in the biology of the group, focussing on host relations and sex determination (Aubert 1954a, 1954b, 1958c, 1959a, 1959c, 1959d, 1960e, 1961b, 1982a, 1991a, 1993d; Aubert & Jourdheuil 1959; Aubert & Labeyrie 1958; Aubert & Shaumar 1962).

The Musée de Zoologie in Lausanne (Switzerland) (MZL) acquired the first part of the private collection of Jacques F. Aubert in 1983. The second part followed between 1991 and 2008. Together with the material in the main collection of the museum, which was mainly collected by Jacques de Beaumont in the Swiss Alps and which was also studied by Aubert, there are currently more than 2,200 name-bearing types of 501 taxa deposited at the MZL. The collection thus among the twenty most important ichneumonid type collections worldwide (Yu *et al.* 2005).

Aubert did not always follow the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999; below referred to simply as the "Code") when describing taxa and fixing type