

A remarkable new Genus of Telenominæ (Hym., Proctotrupoidea, Scelionidæ). By G. E. J. NIXON, B.A.,
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NASDIA, gen. nov.

♂, ♀.—Antenna 9-segmented with a well differentiated club in the female, but with a less sharply defined one in the male. Maxillary palpi 2-segmented; labial palpi 1-segmented. Eyes bare. Posterior ocelli touching the eye-margin. No trace of parapsidal furrows. Scutellum separated from the mesonotum by a curved crenate groove. Postscutellum completely concealed when the thorax is seen from above; in a lateral view it is completely overlapped by the posterior end of the scutellum. Propodeum medially with a strongly raised keel which, seen from above, shows as a short tooth (see fig. 3); each posterior corner of the propodeum is produced to form a blunt projection, hooked on its inner side. Venation of fore-wing much reduced, no differentiated marginalis, postmarginalis or stigmalis being present, the subcostalis terminating in a knob as in the *Inostemmini* (subfam. Platygasterinæ). Abdomen of typical Telenomine form.

Type of the genus: *Nasdia prosper*, sp. n.

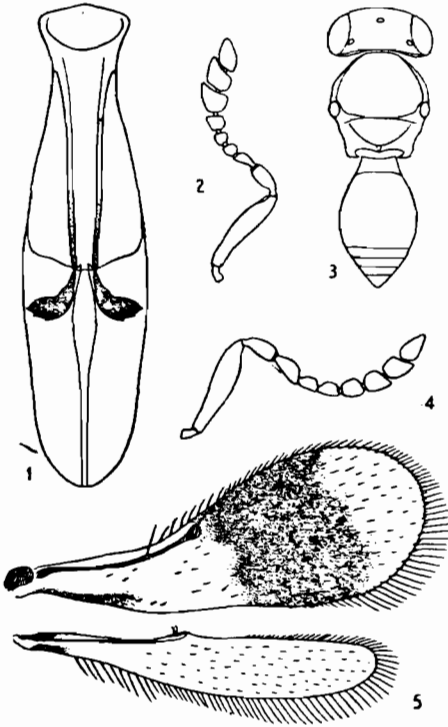
Nasdia prosper, sp. n.

♀.—Head black except for a large testaceous-yellow patch between the eye and the mandible; thorax black; abdomen bright yellow. Antennæ brownish. Front and middle coxæ, front and middle femora brownish; hind legs yellow throughout. Wings with a well-marked brownish-yellow tint.

Head strongly transverse, cut away behind the eyes more or less at right-angles to the long axis of the body, so that the eyes occupy the entire lateral surface of the head. Frons smooth and shining. Postorbital carina extended as a sharp, completely differentiated margin right across the vertex, behind the posterior ocelli; surface of the vertex anterior to the margin not quite smooth, there being traces of scaly-reticulation. Club of the flagellum rather sharply defined, segment 4 being much nearer in size to 3 than to 5 (fig. 2).

Thorax only a trifle longer than wide, 7:6. Mesonotum in front showing a little roughness of surface but in far

greater part smooth and shining; along each side, following more or less the course of the parapsidal furrows, if such were present, is a row of about 8-10 sharply defined, rather large punctures. Scutellum smooth, shining, transverse, separated from the mesonotum by an evenly curved crenate furrow. Postscutellum very



Nasdia prosper, gen. et sp. nov.

- Fig. 1.—Genitalia of ♂.
 Fig. 2.—Antenna of ♀.
 Fig. 3.—Body of ♀.
 Fig. 4.—Antenna of ♂.
 Fig. 5.—Wings of ♂.

narrow, not readily visible and, in a lateral view of the thorax, lying below the scutellum and completely overreached by it. Keel of the propodeum in a lateral view showing as an angular lamella, almost straight above and posteriorly; sides of the propodeum dorsally, finely,

very indistinctly, pubescent. Legs moderately slender, but the hind femur rather strongly swollen.

Abdomen as in figure 3; tergite 2 costate only at extreme base.

♂. Strikingly unlike the female in colour, the abdomen being brown to very dark brown with only tergite 1 and the extreme base of 2 reddish or yellowish red. Hind femora brownish like the other pairs. Fore wings with a large brownish cloud in the middle (fig. 5).

Flagellum thickened towards apex but without a clearly differentiated club (fig. 4). Genitalia (fig. 1).

Length: ♂ ♀, .65 mm. approx.

FIJI Is.: Lami, 10. viii. 1940, 19 ♀♀, one the type, 17 ♂♂, bred from *Pseudococcus* sp. (presumably from the eggs!) (*R. A. Lever*). Type in B.M.

The 9-segmented antenna and the reduced venation, in combination with the simple abdomen, make this a remarkable insect and one about whose subfamily position I have been in much doubt. In order to reach a decision, much depended on the value to be attached to each of these features. I know of no genus in the Telenominæ in which the antenna has less than 10 segments or of one in which the venation shows even an approach to what occurs in *Nasdia*. On the other hand, both these characters occur singly and together in the tribe Incstemmini of the related subfamily Platygasterinæ. Against this has to be considered that the form of the abdomen of *Nasdia* occurs throughout the entire subfamily Telenominæ and is indeed the latter's chief characteristic, whereas the abdomen of the Platygasterinæ is of an entirely different type and in its conformation equally characteristic. I have accordingly preferred to place the emphasis on this last-mentioned feature in placing *Nasdia* among the Telenominæ, but I am by no means sure that this does not involve an unjustifiable extension of the limits of the subfamily. Perhaps it may be found desirable later to place the genus in a new subfamily.

Typical Telenomine features of *Nasdia* are its general facies, the shape of the head, position of the posterior ocelli and the broad fore wing with its long marginal cilia. A unique feature of the genus is the shape of the propodeum.

The genitalia of the male appear to be like those of *Telenomus*.