

DISSOLCUS TETARTUS CRAWFORD, A SCELIONID EGG  
PARASITE OF PLATASPIDINAE IN CHINA

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A study of this parasite, which was referred to as an unidentified chalcid, has been published in the Lingnan Science Journal (Wall, '28). The species has since been identified by Mr. A. B. Gahan of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology as *Dissolcus tetartus* Cwfd. family Scelionidae, so that the reference to the species as a chalcid in the above paper is incorrect.

The species was originally described from Sumatra from eggs of an unknown host (Crawford, 11). It has been studied at Canton in South China as an egg parasite of *Bracyplatus subaeneus* Westw., *Coptosoma cribrarium* Fabr, and a second species of *Coptosoma* (Wall, '28), and the writer has obtained specimens from Nanking in Central China taken from the eggs of *Coptosoma cribrarium* Fabr. by Mr. C. C. Wu of the University of Nanking. Hence it appears that the species is widely distributed over the Oriental Region and in order to facilitate its identification by other workers the original description by Crawford is given here as well as drawings by the present writer to illustrate the distinguishing features of the small wasp.

***Dissolcus tetartus*, new species (Crawford, '11)**

"Female.—Length 0.75 mm. Black, the first abdominal segment red; the legs, including most of coxae, and antennae, except club, flavous; first joint of funicle about as long as pedicle; the second shorter, the third quadrate, the fourth transverse; cheeks and face below eyes vertically striate; face with a carina on each side that follows inner orbits of eyes but below continues to mouth; another carina at each side of antennal fossa, these also continuing to mouth parts; space between these two sets of carinae coarsely punctured; mesoscutum strongly reticulated with impressed lines, appearing scaly; scutellum finely rugose; apical margin of scutellum and metathorax at base each with a row of pits separated by strong carinae; base of scutellum, especially laterally, and lateral margin of lateral lobes of mesoscutum with a row of similar pits; first abdominal segment striate at base; second, except laterally where it is smooth, striate almost to apex.

"Male.—Unknown. Habitat.—Medan, Deli, Sumatra. Type.—Cat. No. 13800, U. S. N. M. Sixteen specimens reared from eggs of an unknown host by Dr. L. P. de Bussy."

The material from China, including both males and females, agrees with the original description except apparently for the lack of coarse punctures between the carinae on the face. Since comparison with the type specimen has been made by Mr. Gahan, however, the identity with *Dissolcus tetartus* is assured.

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It has been shown by the present writer that the length of the scelionid may vary from 0.51 mm. to 0.85 mm. depending upon the species of host egg parasitized so that size is apt to be rather variable in this species.

Kieffer's ('26) Scelionidae and Ashmead's (1893) Monograph of the North American Proctotrypidae contain the principal keys for this group.

#### REFERENCES

- ASHMEAD, W. H. A monograph of the North American Proctotrypidae. *U. S. Natl. Museum Bull.* 45, 463 pp. 1893.
- CRAWFORD, J. C. Descriptions of new Hymenoptera. *Proc. U. S. Natl. Museum* 41: 270. 1911.
- KIEFFER, J. J. Scelionidae. *Das Terreich.* 885 pp. 1926.
- WALL, R. E. A comparative study of a chalcid parasite in three species of Plataspidae. *Lingnan Science Journal* 6: 231-239. 1928.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

##### PLATE 20

*Dissolcus tetartus* Cwfd.

- Fig. 1. Antenna of female.
- Fig. 2. Antenna of male.
- Fig. 3. Head of female.
- Fig. 4. Stigmal area of fore wing, female.
- Fig. 5. Mesonotum and scutellum, female.
- Fig. 6. Dorsal view of abdomen, female.
- Fig. 7. Fore-leg of female.

