

*A new Genus belonging to the Subfamily Platygasterinæ (Hym., Proctotrupoidea). By G. E. J. NIXON, B.A., Department of Entomology, British Museum of Natural History.*

THE genus described below is of particular interest from a biological point of view. The members of the subfamily of the Proctotrupoidea, to which it belongs, i. e., the Platygasterinæ, are, so far as I am aware, exclusively parasites of Cecidomyid flies; but it seems quite certain from the careful observations of its collector, Mr. J. N. Halbert, that at least the species described first is a parasite of the eggs of a Longicorn beetle. The second species was bred in association with beetles of the family Scolytidæ, but it does not seem to be proven that they were the actual host of the parasite.

PLATYSTASIUS, gen. nov.

*Head* strongly transverse. Antennæ 10-segmented in both sexes. Eyes completely bare. Posterior ocelli much nearer to the eye-margin than to each other. *Thorax* strongly flattened dorso-ventrally. Parapsidal furrows showing as clearly defined, fine grooves which are widely separated and more or less parallel to each other. Scutellum almost flat. Fore wings typical of the Inostemmini, having a clearly defined subcostal vein which is dilated at its apex. *Abdomen* wider than the thorax, strongly flattened dorso-ventrally, with six segments in the ♀. Tergite 1 simple in the ♀, showing no trace of a protuberance at its base.

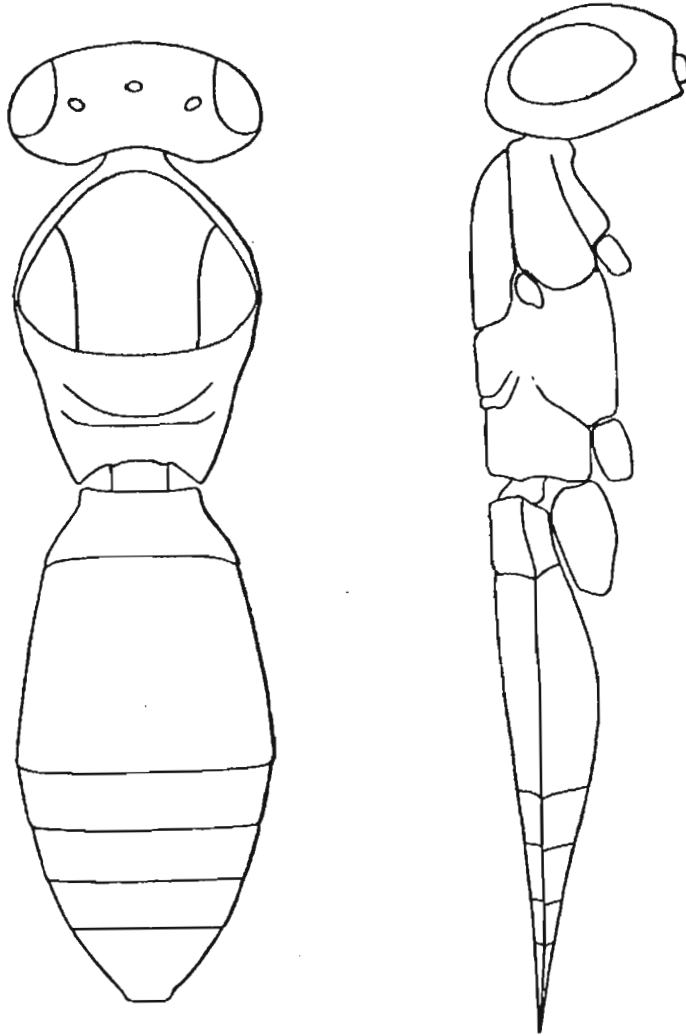
Type of the genus, the following species :—

*Platystasius strangaliophagus*, sp. n. (Fig. 1.)

♀. Brownish black. Antennæ dark brown, with the base of the scape, the pedicel, and sometimes the basal segments of the funicle paler. Legs brown; all the tarsi and base of all the tibiæ (sometimes anterior tibiæ entirely) yellowish.

*Head* seen from in front wider than long, about 10 : 7, evenly elliptical; further, it is very slightly narrower than the thorax, and, seen from above along a line perpendicular to a line between the posterior ocelli, is nearly

Fig. 1.

*Platystasius strangaliophagus*, sp. n., ♀.

two and a half times as wide as its shortest length ; seen from the side it appears somewhat flattened. Frons without a trace of an impression above the antennal insertions, feebly shining, and with only microscopically fine, vague sculpture which is strongest towards the antennal insertions and along the inner eye-margin. Antennæ : scape strongly thickened towards the apex, where it is nearly twice as wide as the pedicel ; scape, further, fully twice as long as its apical width ; funicle segments 3-5, strongly transverse, much narrower on the outer side than on the inner ; last three segments of funicle forming a thick and *completely differentiated* club, the first segment of which is slightly longer than the following.

*Thorax* : mesonotum slightly depressed posteriorly, almost smooth, but towards the front with some very weak scaly reticulation ( $\times 60$ ). Hairs of the mesonotum very short, adpressed, and widely separated. Scutellum entirely smooth, at least over its greater medial part. Propodeum with the usual two carinæ, which, owing to the flattening of the thorax, are almost horizontally placed. Fore wings faintly brownish.

*Abdomen* a little wider than the thorax, less than twice as long as wide, about 28 : 15, conspicuously flattened, especially beyond tergite 2 ; tergite 1 about two and a half times as wide apically as its medial length, longitudinally striated, and with two basal lateral depressions ; 2 slightly shorter than its apical width, about 4 : 5, and more or less equal to the following tergites together ; at each side basally tergite 2 has two short depressions, from which fine striations diverge, the longest of these striations extending slightly beyond the middle of the tergite, which otherwise is entirely smooth ; following tergites (but 3 almost smooth) with some extremely faint scaly-reticulate sculpture ; tergite 6 large, subtriangular, its base about twice as wide as its length, its apex somewhat truncated, and its apical margin much less strongly chitinized than elsewhere.

Length 2.1 mm. approx.

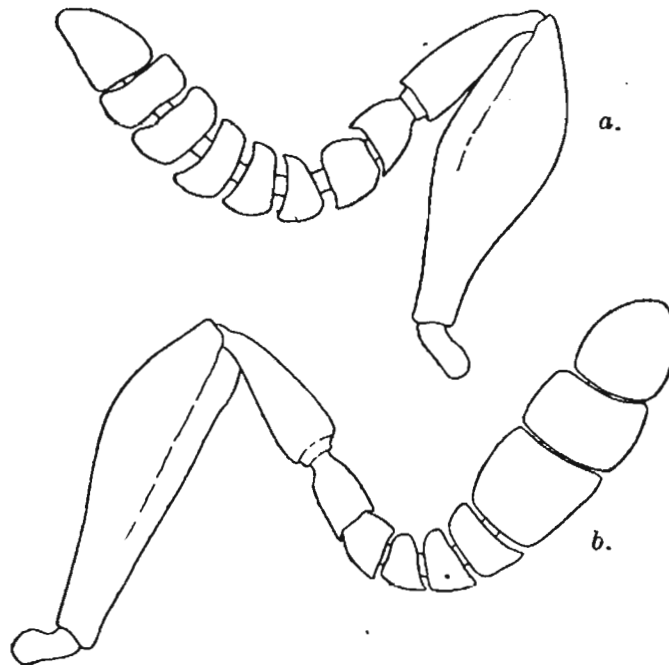
*Type* in B.M.

IRELAND : Co. Cork, Glengarriff (*J. N. Halbert*) : 2 ♀♀, bred 7. vii. 1925 from eggs of *Strangalia aurulenta* F., a Longicorn beetle ; the eggs were found under bark during July of the previous year.

*Platystasius othus*, sp. n. (Fig. 2.)

♀. Differs from the preceding species as follows:— Segments 3–5 of the funicle slightly less transverse (fig. 2 *b*). *Abdomen* slightly larger in proportion to the size of the thorax; tergite 1 more transverse, almost three times as wide apically as long, somewhat swollen

Fig. 2.

Antennæ of *Platystasius othus*, sp. n. *a*, ♂; *b*, ♀.

in the middle, and with its striations less strong; 2 much shorter, quite obviously transverse, about 11 : 7, its lateral striations occupying a relatively shorter and wider area; anteriorly the striations fade into a very feeble striate-reticulate sculpture which extends to the apex of the segment laterally; further, tergite 2 is hardly more than half the length of the following tergites together; 3–6 evenly and more distinctly sculptured, but the sculpture essentially like that of the preceding species; 6 slightly less transverse and more pointed apically.

♂. *Head* less transverse than in the ♀. Funicle of the antennæ gradually thickened from base to apex (fig. 2 a); segment 2 slightly produced beneath at apex; 5-7 markedly transverse. *Abdomen* reddish brown and contrasting quite strongly with the more or less black thorax, considerably less elongate than in the ♀, about 24:15; tergites 3-6 less clearly sculptured, nearly smooth.

*Type* in B.M.

ITALY: Portici (*Dr. G. Russo*); 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, 30. viii. 1935, supposed to have been bred from a species of Scolytid beetle on olive-trees.

I have described this species at the request of Dr. Ch. Ferrière, of the Imperial Institute of Entomology, who handed me the material for examination.

In Kieffer, 'Das Tierreich,' Lief. 48, these two species, which show an obvious and close relationship with each other, run to *Isostasius* Först., but cannot be placed within this genus. *Isostasius* has the posterior ocelli widely distant from the eye-margin and the scutellum strongly arched, cushion-shaped. According to Kieffer tergite 2 in European *Isostasius* is very large and occupies nearly the whole dorsal surface of the abdomen. In *Platystasius* the 3-segmented club of the antenna of the ♀ is probably generic; *Isostasius* has it 4-segmented according to Kieffer. In general facies, too, there is a great difference between the two genera, *Isostasius* not having the thorax and abdomen in the least flattened.

A comparison with the other genera placed by Kieffer within the group Inostemmini seems to establish *Platystasius* beyond doubt as a new genus.