

A SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF SIX NEW SPECIES OF *CALLISCELIO* ASHMEAD (HYMENOPTERA: SCELIONIDAE) OF INDIA WITH A KEY TO INDIAN SPECIES

T. C. NARENDRAN¹ AND M. G. RAMESH BABU²

¹Department of Zoology, University of Calicut, Calicut - 673635, Kerala.

²Department of Zoology, S. N. M. College, Maliankara - 683 516, Kerala.

ABSTRACT

Six new species of *Calliscelio* viz. *Calliscelio agaliensis*, *calliscelio carinatus*, *Calliscelio indicus*, *Calliscelio longicarinatus*, *Calliscelio emarginatus* and *Calliscelio malabaricus* are described and a key to Indian species is given.

Key words: *Calliscelio* (Hymenoptera), new species, key.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Calliscelio* was described by Ashmead (1893) based on the type species *Calliscelio laticintus* Ashmead. Johnson (1992) published a catalogue and listed all the synonyms of *Calliscelio*.

Masner (1976) synonymised *Ceratotelia* Kieffer *Uroscelio* Kieffer, *Mesostelia* Kieffer *Glyptotelia* Kieffer and *Barytelia* Kieffer with *Calliscelio*, *Prosanteris* Kieffer is also a junior synonym of *Calliscelio* since Muesbeck (1958) synonymised it with *Ceratotelia* Kieffer. At present 48 species of *Calliscelio* are known from all over the world and among these only three are known from India. Masner (1998) in one of his personal communications with the senior author informed that *Calliscelio elegans* Perkins is known to him from India. This information reached us very late and for the same reason we could not include this species in the key of this paper. These three species are studied by Saraswat and Sharma (1978), Sharma (1982), and Mani and Sharma (1982). In our systematic investigation on

Scelionidae (Narendran and Ramesh Babu, 1996; Rajmohana and Narendran, 1997) we came across six interesting new species of *Calliscelio* and these are described below. A key for the easy identification of the Indian species of *Calliscelio* is also provided.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Scelionids were collected from different localities in Kerala using triangular nets specially made for the purpose. The observations were made using M 3Z Wild stereozoom (Switzerland made) and Leitz-Wetzler (German made) microscopes. The figures were drawn using the drawing tube of Wild M3Z stereozoom microscope and enlarged using KB enlarger of the model B2M. New species are deposited in the Department of Zoology, University of Calicut.

(Abbreviations Used: OOL = Ocellocular distance; POL = Postocellar distance; DZCU = Department of Zoology, University of Calicut. T1 -T6 = Tergite 1 to Tergite 6. SMV = Submarginal Vein; MV = Marginal Vein;