

***IDIOTYPA CLAVATA* (PROVANCHER, 1888) (HYMENOPTERA:
DIAPRIIDAE), NEW GENERIC PLACEMENT FOR A
MISCLASSIFIED SPECIES**

J. T. HUBER

Natural Resources Canada, c/o Canadian National Collection of Insects, AAFC,
960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0C6
email: john.huber@agr.gc.ca

Scientific Note

J. ent. Soc. Ont. 144 : 115–117

In 1888, Provancher (1889) described *Camptoptera* (as “*Camptotera*”) *clavata* from a male and a female collected at Ste. Gertrude, Quebec, though he did not note the actual number of specimens examined. Presumably it was only two. He also did not designate a primary type. Girault (1911) borrowed what was thought to be the unique specimen of *C. clavata*, labelled “*Camptotera clavata* Prov. 1598”, but it arrived badly damaged so he could only state that it definitely did not belong to Mymaridae. Girault remounted the fragments remaining—initially stated to be “a single fore wing and several tarsi”; later in the same description corrected to “these notes are based on a fore wing and tibiae and tarsi of two legs”—in Canada balsam on a slide and described the fore wing venation and leg remnants before returning the specimen to the sender, Abbé V.A. Huard, Musée de l’Instruction Publique, Quebec [City]. Girault’s designation must be construed as a lectotype designation according to ICZN Article 73.1.3 and Recommendation 73F:

“Where no holotype or syntype was fixed for a nominal species-group taxon established before 2000, and when it is possible that the nominal species-group taxon was based on more than one specimen, an author should proceed as though syntypes may exist and, where appropriate, should designate a lectotype rather than assume a holotype.” Gahan and Rohwer (1917) correctly treated Girault’s “type” as a lectotype.

At my request, J. Perron, retired curator of the Provancher Collection, searched for the Girault slide and noted that it had been lost. So nothing at all remains of the lectotype. However, he found another specimen labeled in Provancher’s hand as *C. clavata* (Fig. 1) and sent it to me for study. It is unquestionably one of the syntypes because its label number #616 (Fig. 1) corresponds to catalogue number 1598 of Provancher’s personal collection, which is the number of the lost type seen by Girault (J.-M. Perron, personal communication). It is a species of *Trichopria* (Diapriidae) (Figs. 1–5), similar to *T. virginica* (Ashmead) (L. Masner, personal communication).

Peck (1963) catalogued the literature on *C. clavata*. Both he and Burks (1979) had treated the species as unplaced within Chalcidoidea, even though Girault (1911) had stated “The fore wing . . . has the venation of a Pteromalid”. The question is whether Girault’s brief description of those remnants actually fits that of a North American species of Pteromalidae. If the Code is scrupulously followed, only Girault’s redescription of the lectotype can be used to determine the correct identity of *Camptoptera clavata*. Provancher’s original description must be disregarded, because it did not explicitly include a type designation,

Published December 2013



FIGURES 1–5. *Campoptera clavata*, paralectotype female. 1, habitus, lateral; insert: labels. 2, head, anteroventral. 3, antenna, dorsal. 4, head and thorax, dorsal. Scale for Fig. 1 = 1 mm.

and the second Provancher syntypal specimen of *C. clavata* is not a name-bearing type. Yet, based on Provancher’s original description and the only remaining specimen of the syntype series (the paralectotype) *C. clavata* could also be a species of Diapriidae.

Girault described the fore wing venation as “the costal cell is well developed, the submarginal vein long and slender, eight or more times longer than the short, straight, broad marginal vein, which is twice the length of the stigmal vein, which is distinct but

without a neck; postmarginal vein somewhat shorter than the stigmal and short and broad, subconic. Apex of the submarginal vein just before it joins the submarginal is colorless.” No Nearctic member of Pteromalidae remotely fits Girault’s description of the venation. The only Nearctic pteromalid that has a relatively short, straight and broad marginal vein is *Pachyneuron mucronatum* Girault but in this genus the submarginal vein is much less than eight times the length of the marginal which, in turn, is about as long as the stigmal vein and the postmarginal vein is longer than the stigmal vein. As for the tibia and 5-segmented tarsi, no species of Pteromalidae exactly fits Girault’s description: “The tarsi are 5-jointed, with the spur forked and the strigil well-developed on the cephalic legs. The proximal tarsal joint is long. The tibiae are curved and enlarged distad, almost club-shaped. The proximal tarsal joint of the cephalic legs is curved at the base.” In contrast, Girault’s description fits almost perfectly species of *Idiotypa* (Diapriidae) (Masner, personal communication and my own examination of Nearctic specimens). Thus, both the lectotype and paralectotype are shown to belong to the same family, i.e., Diapriidae, though unfortunately not to the same genus. *Camptoptera clavata* is therefore removed from being an unplaced genus within Chalcidoidea, as catalogued by Peck (1963) and Burks (1979), and is here placed in *Idiotypa* (Diapriidae) as *I. clavata* (Provancher), **comb. n.**

Acknowledgements

I thank J. M. Perron for finding and sending me the only remaining specimen of *Camptoptera clavata*, informing me about the correspondence of catalogue numbers for this species. My retired colleague, L. Masner (Canadian National Collection of Insects, Ottawa), kindly checked the generic placement of the paralectotype and suggested its likely relationships. J. Read is thanked for taking the photographs and preparing the plate.

References

- Burks, B. D. 1979. Family Mymaridae. Pp. 1022–1033 in Krombein, K. V., Hurd, P. D. Jr., Smith, D. R., and Burks, B.D. (eds), *Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico* **1**. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press. 1198 pp.
- Gahan, A. B. and Rohwer, S. A. 1917. Lectotypes of the species of Hymenoptera (except Apoidea) described by Abbé Provancher. *The Canadian Entomologist* **49**: 298–308, 331–336, 391–400.
- Girault, A. A. 1911. Notes on the Hymenoptera Chalcidoidea, with descriptions of several new genera and species. *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* **19**: 175–189.
- Peck, O. 1963. A catalogue of the Nearctic Chalcidoidea (Insecta: Hymenoptera). *The Canadian Entomologist, Supplement* **30**. 1092 pp.
- Provancher, L. 1989. Additions et Corrections au Volume II de la Faune Entomologique du Canada Traitant des Hyménoptères. Québec: C. Darveau. 475 pp + Errata (1 p).