

***XYSTUS TESTACEUS* HARTIG, 1841 AND *SYNERGUS*
VARIABILIS MAYR, 1873 REDEFINED AND REDESCRIBED
(HYMENOPTERA: CYNIPOIDEA)**

By John QUINLAN, London

Synopsis

Xystus testaceus HARTIG is assigned to the genus *Synergus* HARTIG. A lectotype of *Synergus variabilis* MAYR is designated and *Alloxysta pleuralis* CAM. is removed from synonymy. Both species of *Synergus* are redescribed.

Introduction

In 1974 I placed *Xystus testaceus* HARTIG as a senior synonym of *Allotria pleuralis* CAMERON and established a new combination *Alloxysta testacea* (HARTIG). I was unable to locate the type-material of *testaceus* and the new synonymy was based on the descriptions and usage of previous authors. Dr. H. H. EVENHUIS in his research on the subfamily Charipinae questioned the status of *testaceus* and forwarded the type to me for examination. *Xystus testaceus* HARTIG is assignable to the genus *Synergus* HARTIG in the subfamily Cynipinae.

Synergus testaceus (HARTIG, 1841) comb. nov.

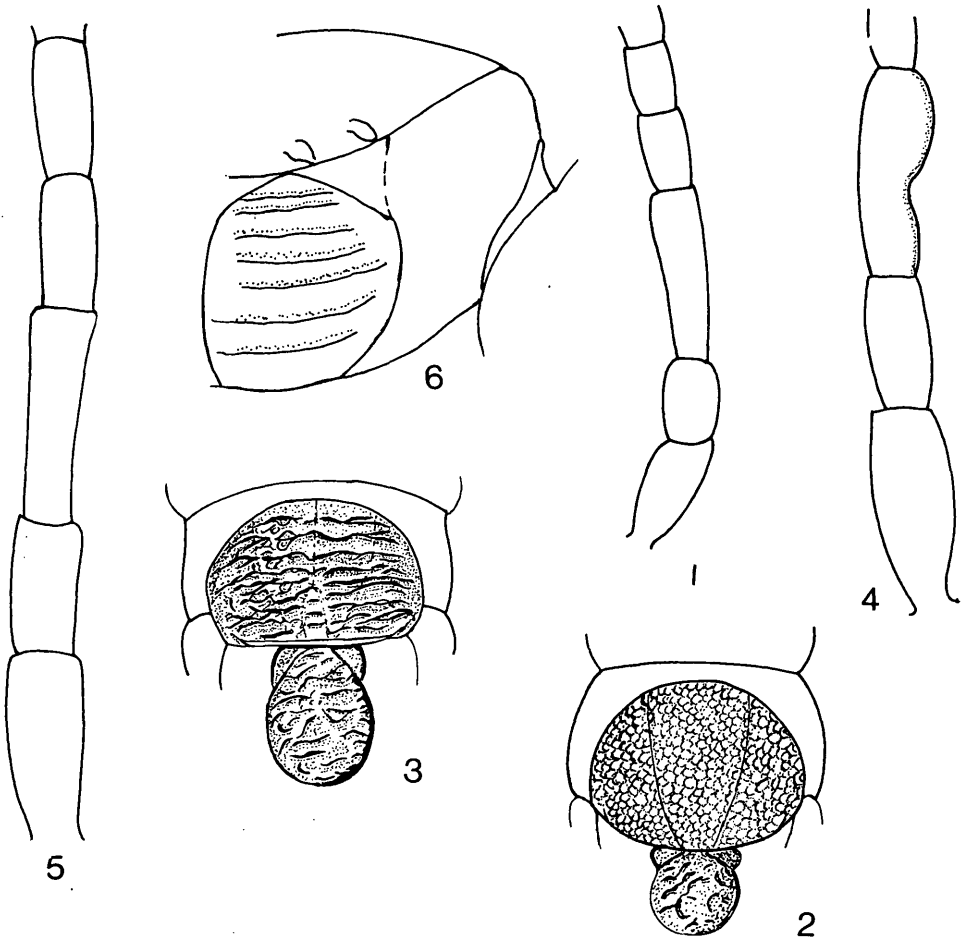
Xystus testaceus HARTIG, 1841:352. Holotype ♀, Austria (Zoologische Sammlung des Bayerischen Staates, Munich) [examined].

Allotria testacea (HARTIG); HARTIG, 1843:415.

♀ antenna 14 segmented, segment 3 longer than 4 + 5 (fig. 1); cheeks of face with radiating striae, frons weakly raised, head widened behind, pronotum longer in median dorsal line with truncation or pits and lateral carinae; mesoscutum with weak fine coriaceous sculpture, notaulices complete, scutellum rugose, scutellar foveae shallow and angular (fig. 2); mesopleuron weakly striated; 1st segment of gaster short and in form of collar with crenulations, segment 2 and 3 fused and covering remainder of gaster, not closely punctate posteriorly, ventral spine projection short with sparse hairs; forewing with elongate closed radial cell, cubitus absent, surface of wing ciliate, apex with hair fringe; tarsal claws simple. Specimen completely pale yellow.

♂ unknown.

Known only from the holotype. The holotype bears a label with "*testaceus*" written on it in HARTIG's handwriting. The label is edged with a pattern.



Figs. 1- 6. *Synergus* species.

1, *testaceus* ♀ 3rd segment of antenna; 2, *testaceus* ♀ mesoscutum; 3, *variabilis* ♀ mesoscutum; 4, *variabilis* ♂ 3rd segment of antenna; 5, *variabilis* ♀ 3rd segment of antenna; 6, *variabilis* ♀ mesopleuron.

Synergus variabilis MAYR, 1872

Synergus variabilis MAYR, 1872: 702. Lectotype ♀, Austria (Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna) [examined].

Synergus variabilis MAYR; KIEFFER, 1910: 620.

♀ antenna 14 segmented, segment 3 shorter than 4 + 5 (fig. 5); face with strong radiating striae, frons raised slightly, back of head finely reticulate, occiput with vertical carinae; pronotum with strong lateral carinae, longer in the median dorsal line; mesoscutum with transverse rugulose sculpture (fig. 3), median scutal furrow and notaulices obsolete, scutellar foveae shallow, scutellum reticulate-rugose, mesopleuron with longitudinal striations (fig. 6); 1st segment of gaster short in form of a collar with crenulations, segments 2 + 3

fused and covering remainder of gaster, not closely punctate posteriorly, ventral spine projection short with sparse hairs; forewing with elongate closed radial cell, cubitus absent, surface of wing ciliate, apex with long hair fringe; tarsal claws simple; antennae orange yellow, head dark orange to light castaneous, pronotum dark orange brown, mesoscutum light brown to brownish black, mesopleuron, propodeum and gaster light reddish brown, legs yellow, hind coxae reddish brown.

♂ antenna 15 segmented, 3rd segment as long as 4+5, distinctly excavate medially, expanded basally and apically (fig.4).

Lectotype ♀, Austria. G. MAYR, 1872 (labelled Bd xxii. p.702), here designated and labelled with a purple edged circular label with the printed word "Lectotype", 3 paralectotypes, 2 ♀'s and 1 ♂, same data as lectotype and labelled with a blue edged circular label with the printed word "Paralectotype". Two ♀'s are mounted separately on card points, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ are mounted on pins on the same polyporous mount. All specimens bear a determination label in MAYR's handwriting "*Syn variabilis* Mayr. det. G. Mayr" and also bear a rectangular red label with the word "type" printed on it.

Discussion

Xystus testaceus HARTIG has been referred to by CAMERON (1890:234,237,250), DALLA TORRE (1893:35), DALLA TORRE and KIEFFER (1910:279), IONESCU (1969:257) and QUINLAN (1974:8). These authors treated *testaceus* as a species belonging to the Charipinae, a subfamily of hyperparasites on Braconidae (Aphidiinae) in Aphididae. After examining the type I have found that *testaceus* does not belong to the Charipinae but to the Cynipinae in the genus *Synergus*, all species of which are known to be inquilines in galls on *Quercus*.

Synergus testaceus (HARTIG) and *S. variabilis* MAYR are closely similar and are distinguished from each other on colour, relative length of antennal segments 3, 4, 5 and by sculpture on the mesoscutum and mesopleura. Both species are typical members of the genus *Synergus* in that they have 14 segmented antennae in the female, a modified 3rd segment in the male (♂ not known for *testaceus*), the pronotum dorsally longer in median dorsal line and with lateral carinae, 1st tergite of gaster in the shape of furrowed ring or collar, segments 2-3 of gaster fused, covering almost entire gaster.

In view of the above placing of the unique holotype of *Xystus testaceus* HARTIG in *Synergus* the synonymy of *testaceus* given in 1974 is incorrect and the synonymy for *pleuralis* CAMERON should be written as follows.

Alloxysta pleuralis (CAMERON, 1879)

Allotria pleuralis CAMERON, 1879:113. Lectotype ♀, Great Britain: Scotland, Lanarkshire (British Museum (Nat. Hist.) [examined].

[*Allotria testacea* (HARTIG); HARTIG, 1843:415. Misidentification].

[*Allotria testacea* (HARTIG); GIRAUD, 1860:129. Misidentification].

[*Allotria testacea* (HARTIG); CAMERON, 1890:234, 237, 250. Misidentification].

[*Charips testaceus* (HARTIG) KIEFFER, 1910:279. Misidentification].

[*Alloxysta testacea* (HARTIG) QUINLAN, 1974:8. Misidentification].

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Address of the author: John QUINLAN,
British Museum (Natural History), Department of Entomology,
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Quinlan John

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