The Genus *Oxyscelio* Kieffer, its Synonymy and Species, with a description of one new Genus (Hymenoptera: Proctotrypoidea).

By Alan P. Dodd.

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In the Australian Scelionid fauna there is a homogeneous group of many species, whose generic position has given me considerable cause for thought; several of the species have been described in *Sceliomorpha* Ashmead, two in *Dicroteleia*, and various others in my collection remain unnamed.

*Sceliomorpha* was based on a male of *S. longicornis* Ashmead from Brazil; a second species, *S. bisulca* Ashmead, from the United States, was doubtfully included (Bull. U. S. National Museum, vol. 45, 1893, p. 239). In 1909 and 1910 Kieffer added six new species from Brazil and Peru. Previously that author had described *S. flavipes* from Australia as a doubtful member of the genus, but later (1916) transferred it to his genus *Psilanteris*. Being in doubt as to the Australian species being congeneric with *S. longicornis*, I submitted examples of *S. rugulosa* Dodd to Mr. A. B. Gahan of the U. S. National Museum, who kindly compared them with the type of *longicornis* and supplied me with the following notes:—"In my judgment *S. rugulosa* and *S. longicornis* are not congeneric. In *longicornis* the pronotum is quite different, being partly dorsal and carinately margined in front; the marginal vein is thickened to form a small rounded stigma; the first segment of the abdomen lacks entirely the deep fossae at base and is without an enclosed area; and the entire body, including the eyes, is covered with conspicuous long hairs." A sketch by Mr. Gahan of the thorax and wing venation represents an insect which is clearly not congeneric with the Australian species.

Subsequently the late Professor C. F. Baker, of the Philippine College of Agriculture, loaned me the eotypes of several Philippine Scelionids, including *Camptoteleia carinata* Kieffer and *Xenoteleia flavipennis* Kieffer, genotypes respectively. Examination of the former insect at once proved its generic identity with the Australian species of *Sceliomorpha* and *Dicroteleia*, while *X. flavipennis* possessed no characters which, in my opinion, excluded it from *Camptoteleia*.

Having established the fact that *Camptoteleia* Kieffer and the Australian species of *Sceliomorpha* and *Dicroteleia* were identical generically, that many species of the genus occurred in the Philippines
and in Australia, and that a congeneric species, *Sceliomorpha ceylonensis* Dodd, had been described from Ceylon, I made a careful comparison of the descriptions of other Oriental genera and species erected by Kieffer. This investigation has resulted in my offering the following synonymy of several genera, or of certain authors’ interpretation of genera, in which *Dicroteleia* Kieffer, *Camptoteleia* Kieffer, and *Xenoteleia* Kieffer are regarded as being identical with *Oxyscelio* Kieffer:

**OXYSCELIO** Kieffer.


*Scelio* (not Latreille) Girault, private publication, Brisbane, 1926.

**DISCUSSION OF THE GENERIC CHARACTERS.**

Examination of many Australian species has thrown considerable light on the variability of certain characters that might be regarded of value for generic distinctions, and has made possible an understanding of the limits of the genus. As previously stated, the identity of *Camptoteleia, Xenoteleia*, and the Australian species described in *Sceliomorpha* and *Dicroteleia* has been established from a study of type or cotype material. On the other hand, the genotypes of *Oxyscelio* and *Dicroteleia* have not been seen by me, and, as the proposed sinking of the several genera may be open to question, an attempt is made to justify the suggested changes.

A comparison of Kieffer’s descriptions of *Oxyscelio foveatus*, *Dicroteleia rugosa*, and *Camptoteleia carinata*, genotypes respectively, reveal many striking resemblances but few differences that would warrant separation. In each case, either in the generic diagnosis or in
the description of the species, Kieffer stresses the fact that the submarginal vein is far removed from the costa, the marginal vein is punctate or square, and the postmarginal vein is absent. This combination of venational characters, particularly that of the remoteness of the submarginal vein from the costa, is, in my opinion, an outstanding feature of the segregate. The stigmal vein may branch off a little before the submarginal vein joins the costa, as in **Camptoteleia bifurcata** K. and **Dicroteleia rugosa** K., or from the punctiform or square marginal vein.

It will be observed that in the above three genotypes Kieffer mentions the presence of a median carina on the mesoscutum, a character on which he places considerable generic value. Among an extensive collection of Australian Scelionidae I have met this character in two genera, viz., **Hoploteleia** Ash. and the segregate under discussion, but it may or may not be present in species closely related and clearly congeneric. For example, **Sceliomorpha rugulosa** Dodd can be distinguished with difficulty from a species which appears to be **S. flavipes** Kieffer except that the median carina occurs in the former but not in the latter. Again, Kieffer himself states that the carina is not present in **Camptoteleia spinosiceps** in contradistinction to the various other species that he described in that genus. So much importance did that worker place on the character that he transferred the species originally designated **Hoploteleia carinata** Kieffer (1913) to **Camptoteleia** as **C. perplexa** Kieffer (1926), the specific name being preoccupied by **C. carinata** Kieffer (1913); I have examined a cotype of this species which possesses a long postmarginal vein and is truly a species of **Hoploteleia**, its correct name being **H. serena** Dodd (1919), the name **carinata** being preoccupied by **Hoploteleia carinata** Cameron = **Apegusoneura carinata** Cam. (1912). Here it may be remarked that the Australian **Hoploteleia elevata** Dodd bears the median carina on the mesoscutum.

Another character of the segregate is to be found in the metanotum which bears a prominent plate, usually transverse but subject to some modification. Of **Oxyscelio foveatus**, Kieffer states, “metanotum longitudinally striate, nearly square, narrower and one-third shorter than the scutellum, covering but not projecting beyond the median segment.” This is not the usual form of the metanotum in the Australian species but occurs in **Dicroteleia solitaria** Dodd. Kieffer describes this sclerite in **Camptoteleia carinata** as “with two small pointed teeth nearly contiguous at the base”; my notes on a cotype of **carinata** read “metanotal plate hollowed out, the posterior margin depressed, the lateral margins prominent, the posterior-lateral angles raised and prominent.” The excavated type of the plate with the raised lateral margins and prominent, although usually rounded, posterior-lateral angles is dominant in the Australian forms. In his 1926 description of **Dicroteleia rugosa**, Kieffer does not mention the metanotum, but in the generic diagnosis states “metanotum unarmed, forming a narrow cross-stripe.” Of **Xenoteleia flavipennis**, Kieffer merely mentions that the
metanotum is transversely foveate, whereas my notes made from a cotype state that the metanotal plate is transverse, its posterior-lateral angles rounded.

The propodeal characters are rather different than in most Scelionid genera. The propodeum is short medially, long laterally, and there are long true lateral carinae some distance from the median line. The posterior margin is broadly and rather deeply concave almost to the base of the sclerite, but the concavity ends at the junction of the lateral carinae where the margin is rather strongly angled and blunt projections extend slightly into the depressions on either side of the raised area at the base of the abdomen.

The abdomen varies considerably in length. In its stoutest form it is no longer than the head and thorax united and hardly twice as long as its greatest width, as in Scelionomorpha rugulosa Dodd. At the other extreme it is much longer than the head and thorax united and three to four times as long as its greatest width, as in Oxyscelio foveatus K., Dicroteleia rugosa K., D. solitaria Dodd, and Xenoteleia flavipennis Kieffer. The base is broad and not much narrower than the greatest width of the abdomen; segments 2 and 3 are almost subequal in length, each somewhat longer than 1 and 4. On the basal segment there is a broad raised median area bounded laterally by a carina or strong stria; on either side of this area the surface is depressed and may form a deep fossa against the anterior margin; the raised area is usually flat, but may form a hump or blunt prominence as in Dicroteleia solitaria and Xenoteleia flavipennis (Kieffer erroneously states that there is no basal prominence in this species); this form of the basal segment is found in Psilanteris atriclava Kieffer and the new genus herein described as Bracalba.

THE SPECIES OF OXYSCELIO.

It would seem necessary to give a list of the species that appear to belong in Oxyscelio in accordance with the views expressed in this paper; the species appear in alphabetical order.

   *Dicroteleia acutiventris* Kieffer, Das Tierreich, 1926, p. 388.


20. *O. kiefferi* nom. nov. Philippine Islands.
It will be observed that the genus is confined to the Indo-Malayan and Australian regions. Being well represented by species in the Philippine Islands and Australia, *Oxyscelio* is probably a dominant group throughout the Papuan and East Indian islands. The following four American species, which possess a long postmarginal vein, are excluded and their generic position is uncertain.
THE GENUS *OXYSCELIO* KIEFFER.


THE GENERIC RELATIONS OF *OXYSCELIO* KIEFFER.

*Oxyscelio* contains medium-sized to rather large Scelionids of rather stout form and coarse sculpture. In general appearance the species resemble those of *Scelio* Latreille and *Hoploteleia* Ashmead. The relationship with *Scelio* is mainly superficial, and the two genera may be distinguished by the following characters:

Male antennae 10-jointed; propodeum without true lateral carinae; segment 1 of abdomen without a raised median area, segment 2 transversely depressed at base; forewings with the basal portion distinctly paler and with a more or less distinct stigmal spot . . . *Scelio*.

Male antennae 12-jointed; propodeum with true lateral carinae; segment 1 of abdomen with a raised median area, segment 2 not depressed at base; forewings uniformly stained, not distinctly paler at base, without a stigmal spot . . . . . . . . . . *Oxyscelio*.

The resemblance to *Hoploteleia* is pronounced, but there are several distinguishing features, viz.:

Postmarginal vein long; lateral carinæ of propodeum short; posterior margin of propodeum uniformly gently concave . . . . . . . *Hoploteleia*.

Postmarginal vein absent; lateral carinæ of propodeum long; posterior margin of propodeum deeply concave medially, then with a blunt projection at the junction of the lateral carinæ . . . . . . . *Oxyscelio*.

As more than one species of *Oxyscelio*, namely *O. flavipes* K. and *O. spinosiceps* K., have been placed by Kieffer in *Psilanteris* Kieffer, a discussion of that genus seems appropriate. *Psilanteris* was erected in 1916 with *Anteris bicolor* Kieffer (1908) as the genotype. Kieffer’s description of *bicolor*, which states that the metanotum bears a spine or tooth, that the sub-marginal vein is not remote from the costa, and that segment 3 of the abdomen is as long as 1 and 2 united, represents an insect which is clearly not congeneric with the species of *Oxyscelio*. But *Psilanteris atriclava* Kieffer (1916) from the Philippines does not possess these characters; from an examination of a female cotype of this species I have made the following notes:—"Reminisces a small species of *Camptoteleia*, but the head is much wider than the thorax; the sculpture of the head, scutum, and scutellum is coriaceous and without punctures; the metanotum is transverse, strongly foveate medially but without a produced plate; the propodeum is short, the
lateral carinae wide out from the median line, the posterior margin uniformly gently concave; venation as in *Camptoteleia*, the submarginal vein remote from the costa, the marginal vein punctiform, the post-marginal not developed; abdomen as in *Camptoteleia*, segment 2 a little longer than 1 or 3, 1 with a slightly differentiated broad, flat median area.’ The wide head, sculpture of head and thorax, and shape of the posterior margin of the propodeum exclude this species from *Oxyscelio*, and its generic position, as well as that of *P. atriceps* Kieffer (1913) which from the description appears closely related, is obscure.

Probably the new genus *Bracalba*, described herewith, exhibits closer affinities with *Oxyscelio* than any known genus. In both are found the raised median area on segment 1 of the abdomen, the deep median concavity and lateral projections of the posterior margin of the propodeum, and the venational character of the submarginal vein being distant from the costa. The distinguishing features may be summarised as follows:

Postmarginal vein absent; eyes bare; female antennae with a stout compact club, the sixth antennal joint much smaller than the seventh; metanotal plate usually excavated, its lateral margins not strongly oblique

Postmarginal vein long; eyes hairy; female antennae with the club hardly differentiated, the sixth antennal joint not smaller than the seventh; metanotal plate very large, not excavated, its lateral margins oblique

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**BRACALBA** NEW GENUS.


**Female:** **Male.**—Medium-sized, stout-bodied, coarsely sculptured Scelionids with the habitus of *Hoplateleia* and *Oxyscelio*. Head from dorsal aspect transverse, no wider than the thorax, the vertex moderately long and sloping to the posterior border which is not margined; from lateral aspect the vertex is somewhat convex, the frons strongly convex; lower frons with a rather narrow median depression which is not margined; cheeks narrow dorsally, rather broad ventrally; eyes wide apart, large, with noticeable fine pubescence; ocelli large, wide apart, the lateral pair against the eyes. Antenna 12-jointed; in the female with a loose 7-jointed club which is scarcely wider than and hardly differentiated from the funicle, the first funicle joint long; in the male the flagellar joint except the first sub-quadrate. Thorax stout; pronotum visible laterally, its anterior angles sub-truncate; scutum large, shortly precipitous against the anterior margin which is very broadly rounded; parapsidal furrows complete, foveate; scutellum large, strongly foveate against its margins, the posterior margin rimmed and broadly semi-circular; metanotum armed with a broad, coarsely sculptured lamella, two-thirds as long as the scutellum, projecting over the propodeum and extreme base of abdomen, its lateral margins oblique, its posterior margin
either gently convex or concave; propodeum short medially, long laterally, the posterior margin medially deeply concave to its base, and on either side with a blunt tooth-like projection which juts slightly into the basal depressions of the abdomen; lateral carinae of propodeum complete. Forewings long and broad; submarginal vein well-distant from the costa which it joins in a punctiform or square marginal vein, the stigmal vein very long and oblique, the postmarginal long, gradually vanishing into the costa distally but fully twice as long as the stigmal vein; basal, median, and a long radial vein indicated by brown lines. Legs normal, slender. Abdomen a little longer than the head and thorax united; broadly sessile at base; truncate or almost pointed at apex; segments 2 and 3 slightly longer than 1 or 4: segment 1 at base on either side deeply depressed, so that medially there is a broad, elevated flat or humped area which in the female projects forward slightly into the concavity of the propodeum (this raised area is not bounded laterally by definite striæ or carinae as in most of the species of Oxyscelio).

Type.—Bracalba laminata described herewith.

A genus related to Hoploteleia and Oxyscelio, the characters separating it from the latter having already been discussed; from Hoploteleia it differs in the form of the metanotum, propodeum, and base of the abdomen. Three species are known, two of which are described herewith.

BRACALBA LAMINATA New Species.

Female.—Length, 4.25 mm. Black; legs, including the coxae, bright reddish yellow; antenna black, the scape reddish yellow; tegulae dusky.

Head wholly strongly confluentely punctate including the frontal depression, and with a pubescence of long fine pale hairs. Antennal scape moderately short and stout, twice as long as funicle 1; pedicel twice as long as its greatest width; funicle 1 elongate, two-thirds longer than the pedicel, 2 scarcely one-half as long as 1, 3 somewhat shorter than 2, quadrate; next six joints as long as wide, scarcely widened, gradually tapering to apex, the apical joint one-half longer than wide. Thorax one-fourth longer than its greatest width; pronotum and scutum strongly confluentely or sub-confluentely punctate and with fine pale pubescence; scutellum with large punctures which are not confluent; metanotal lamina strongly reticulate-rugose, without carinae or striæ, its posterior margin gently concave medially; projections on either side of median cavity of the propodeum in the form of stout rounded teeth, the margin deeply concave between the projections and the posterior-lateral angles, the lateral carinae reaching the margin at the base of these concavities. Forewings extending to posterior margin of fourth abdominal segment; lightly stained with brown; venation fuscous. Abdomen one-fifth longer than the head and thorax united, a little more than twice as long as its greatest width; segments 1 and 4 sub-equal,
2 and 3 a little longer, 5 four-fifths as long as 4, 6 three-fifths as long as 5, its dorsal surface excavated apically so that the apical dorsal margin is deeply concave; median area on segment 1 somewhat rounded and projecting forward a little; segment 1 conflently punctate and longitudinally striate, the striae stronger and more regular medially; 2-6 rather strongly conflently punctate with an irregular longitudinal arrangement but without defined striae; abdomen with a short, inconspicuous pubescence which is longer laterally and on the two apical segments.

Male.—Length, 4 mm. Differs from the female as follows:—

- Coxae dusky black; frontal depression deeper; scutellum conflently punctate; abdomen with seven visible segments, broadly truncate or faintly concave at apex, the apical segment short, broad, and transverse; median area of segment 1 not rounded and not projecting forward.
- Antennae black, the scape red at extreme base; scape rather short and stout; pedicel short, slightly longer than its greatest width; funicle 1 twice as long as the pedicel, fully twice as long as its greatest width; 2 a little longer than wide; 3-9 quadrate; apical joint one-half longer than the penultimate.

Habitat.—Queensland; Gogango, 40 miles west of Rockhampton, one female, one male, in March, A. P. Dodd.

Holotype and Allotype in the Queensland Museum (Hy. 4477).

BRACALBA NIGESCENS Dodd.


From the original description it is evident that this species, erected on a male from South-west Australia, is closely related to both laminata and cuneata. No comparison with the other species could be made as the holotype of nigrescens is in the British Museum.

BRACALBA CUNEATA New Species.

Female.—Length, 3.40 mm. Black; legs bright reddish yellow, the coxae dark at base, the tarsi dusky; antennae black, the first three or four joints bright reddish yellow; tegulae dusky yellowish.

Head strongly conflently punctate and with pale pubescence, the frontal depression smooth medially. Antennal scape over twice as long as funicle 1 which is a little longer than the pedicel, the latter twice as long as its greatest width; funicle 2 as wide as long, 3 a little wider than long; next six joints a little yet distinctly wider than long, the apical joint not much longer than its greatest width. Thorax one-fifth longer than its greatest width; pronotum, scutum, and scutellum strongly conflently punctate and with fine pubescence; metanotal lamina strongly reticulate-punctate and with several obscure irregular longitudinal striae, of which the median one projects a little at the posterior margin; posterior projections of propodeum less tooth-like
than in *laminata* and broader at apex, the posterior margin not deeply concave between the projections and the posterior-lateral angles, the lateral carinae reaching the margin at the apex of the projections. Forewings extending to posterior margin of fifth abdominal segment; lightly stained with brown; venation thick, fuscous. Abdomen one-fifth longer than the head and thorax united, somewhat more than twice as long as its greatest width; relative length of segments about as in *laminata*; segment 6 not excavated, its apical margin rounded and a little depressed; median area on segment 1 very broad, scarcely rounded; sculpture as in *laminata* except that the punctuation on segments 2-6 has a more pronounced tendency toward longitudinal arrangement and there are numerous irregular striae.

**Male.**—Unknown.

**Habitat.**—South Queensland; Chinchilla, three females in February and March, A. P. Dodd.

*Holotype* in the Queensland Museum (*Hy. 1478*); *Paratypes* in the author’s collection.

Closely related to the genotype but differing in antennal and propodeal characters.

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