Dahmsia, a New Genus of Mymaridae

(Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea)

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Australia has a remarkably rich Mymarid fauna to which this paper adds the following element:

Dahmsia, new genus

Female.—Body length 0.86 to 1.16 mm. Dark brown, legs light brown, eyes red. Abdomen petiolate, Figs. 1 and 3. Tarsi 4-segmented, Fig. 7. Head, lateral view, Figs. 3 and 6, peculiarly shaped with upper face including toruli projected forward from elongate vertex; lower face slanted posteriorly. Longest axis of compound eye horizontal. Mandibles elongate, Fig. 5. Antennal club a single, large,

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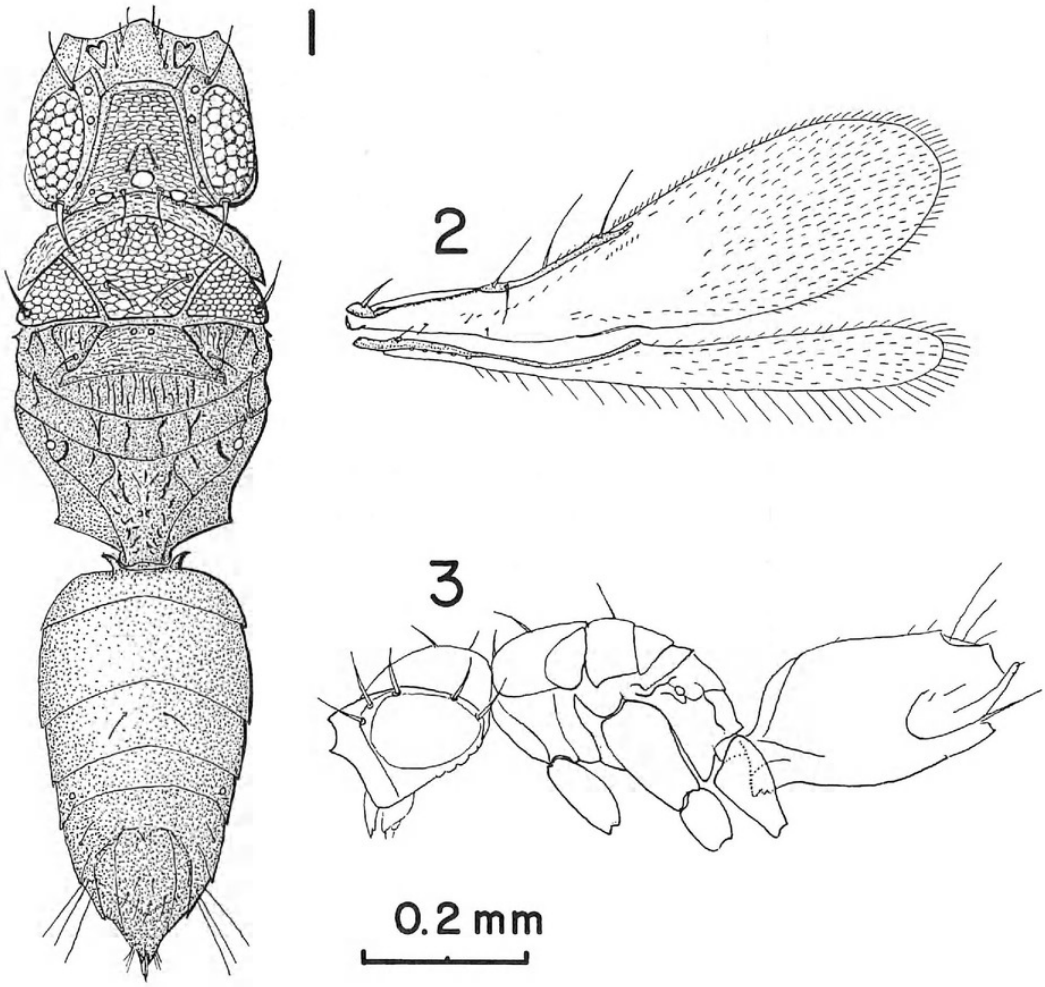
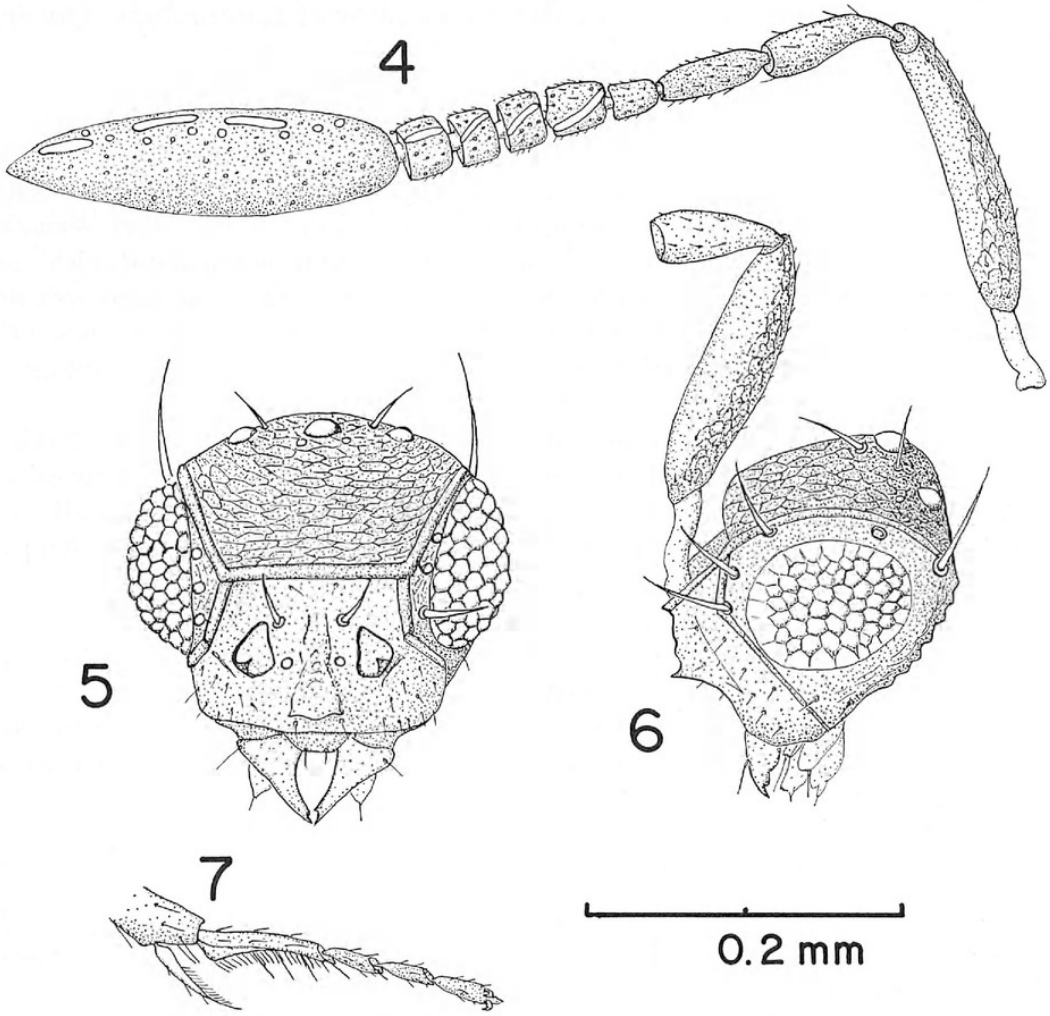


FIGS. 1–3. *Dahmsia australiensis.* Fig. 1. Body, dorsal view. Fig. 2. Wings. Fig. 3. Body, dorsal view.



FIGS. 4–7. *Dahmsia australiensis*. Fig. 4. Antenna. Fig. 5. Face. Fig. 6. Head, lateral view. Fig. 7. Foretarsus.

elongate segment; funicle 6-segmented with funicle segment 1 elongate, equal to pedicel; funicle segments 2 to 6 short, 3 to 6 broad, Fig. 4. Forewings hyaline, marginal vein elongate with distinct radius, Fig. 2. Marginal cilia of hindwing longer than those of forewing. Thorax with distinct sculpturing, abdomen smooth, ovipositor short.

Male.—Unknown.

Certain features of this genus resemble those characteristic of the subfamily Eubrocinae proposed by Yoshimoto, *et al.*, (1972). These are the elongate mandibles, petiolate abdomen, 4-segmented tarsi, and 9-segmented antennae. The genus *Dahmsia* differs significantly in having a short pronotum, differently shaped forewings, and in lacking the acute angle between the planes of fronto-vertex and lower face characteristic of the genera in Eubrocinae, namely *Eubroncus* and *Stomarotrum*.

This genus is named for E. C. Dahms, Curator of Entomology, Queensland Museum. The type species is described as follows:

Dahmsia australiensis, new species

Female.—Antenna, Fig. 4, with massive elongate club equal to combined lengths of scape and radicle. Funicle segment 1 twice length of any other segment; segments 1 and 2 distinctly more slender than following segments; funicle segments 3 to 6 short and wide, each with linear sensoria; these obliquely oriented on segments 3 to 5. Antennal setae very short. Pedicel slightly longer than funicle segment 1. Scape and radicle elongate, scape with reticulate sculpturing on dorsal surface.

Fronto-vertex produced well forward of ocelli; upper face including toruli a shelf-like anterior projection of fronto-vertex. From toruli the face abruptly angles ventrally, then slants posteriorly to clypeus. Compound eyes bordered dorsally and anteriorly by large, prominent spines. Fronto-vertex reticulate. Mandibles elongate. Hind wings broadened apically.

Male.—Unknown.

Holotype female. MINYON FALLS, N. S. W., AUSTRALIA, by sweeping native vegetation, September 9, 1965, R. L. Doutt. Six paratypes, same data.

Holotype to be deposited at Queensland Museum. Paratypes to be distributed to California Academy of Sciences, U.S.N.M., and Division of Biological Control, University of California, Berkeley.

LITERATURE CITED

YOSHIMOTO, K. M., M. A. KOZLOV, and V. A. TRJAPITZIN. 1972. A new subfamily of Mymaridae (Hymenoptera, Chalcidoidea). Rev. Entomol. U.S.S.R., 51(4): 878–885. (In Russian).

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Cage for observing and rearing small arthropods.—In studying the biology of the anystid mite, *Anystis agilis* (Banks) a need arose for a positive restraining cage to contain this hyperactive species. Existing cage designs which utilize both barrier and totally enclosed systems were examined (McMurtry and Scriven 1965, J. Econ. Entomol., 58: 282–4; Hughes *et al.* 1966, J. Econ. Entomol., 59: 1024–5; Horsburgh and Asquith 1968, J. Econ. Entomol., 61: 572–3; Medved and Fleschner 1971, J. Econ. Entomol., 64: 342; Osborn and Laing 1972, J. Econ. Entomol., 65: 1175–6) but all proved unsatisfactory due to one or more of the following reasons: escape; cage complexity or expense; poor observability or access; mortalities associated with desiccation, condensation or barriers. To circumvent these disadvantages, a cage was developed that is constructed of readily available and inexpensive prefabricated components (Fig. 1). The design encompasses a confinement area and a water reservoir, and appears well suited for observing and rearing predatory mites and small insects. Its practicality is enhanced by a reusable main body and easily replaceable, expendable components.