Over 100 years ago, the genus Thaumatelia Kirby [type species, Chalcis separata Walker] was established (Kirby. 1883. J. Linn. Soc. Zool. 17: 53–78). Recently, the monotypic genus Thaumateliana Girault [type species T. bicolor Girault] was synonymized into Thaumatelia, Thaumatelia separata (Walker) was redescribed, and three new species of Thaumatelia were described (Narendran and Varghese. 1989. J. Ecobiol. 1: 43–50). Narendran and Varghese (1989) distinguished Thaumatelia from the genus Brachymeria Westwood (1829, in Stephens, Nomencl. Brit. Insects, p. 36) by its deeply excavated or cavity like depression of the mesopleuron, deeply excavated scrobe, strong scrobal margins, coarsely punctate thorax, and its long and pointed gaster. Presently, Thaumatelia contains five neotropical species.

For a forthcoming book on Nearctic genera of the family Chalcididae, I reviewed the genus Thaumatelia. Upon examining Thaumatelia types, I found that the characters used to distinguish Thaumatelia and Brachymeria intergrade into each other, and that they vary considerably among the five Thaumatelia species. The females of most Thaumatelia species have a long ovipositor, but this character is not constant or of generic merit.

The purposes of this note are to formalize a generic synonym prior to a regional, generic treatment, clarify type depositories and locality information, present unreported host data, and to correct generic nomenclature for forthcoming new species descriptions. Hence, Thaumatelia is designated a synonym of Brachymeria, and several taxonomic changes at the species level are proposed.

**Brachymeria bicolor** (Girault),
**New Combination**


*Thaumatelia bicolor* (Girault), Narendran and Varghese (1989: 49–50).

**Type information.**—Holotype female, PARAGUAY, San Bernardino [not examined by author]. The type resides in the Zoologisches Museum at Humboldt–Universitat zu Berlin, is very damaged, and is not available for loans (F. Koch, personal communication).

Additional specimens were identified by Narendran and Varghese (1989): one female and one male, BRAZIL, Mato Grosso, O. W. Richards, IX–X-1968; unreported host information: exit nest of *Brachygaster angusti* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) [examined by author]. The two specimens reside in the United States National Museum.

**Brachymeria grisselli** (Narendran and Varghese),
**New Combination**


**Type information.**—Holotype female, VENEZUELA, Capacho, VIII-7-1970, A. Briceño, exit *Azochis gripulis* (Lepidoptera: Pyraustidae) [examined by author]. The type resides in the United States National Museum.

**Brachymeria kraussi** (Narendran and Varghese),
**New Combination**

Type information. — Holotype female, MEXICO, Veracruz, 1959, N. L. Krauss [examined by author]. The type resides in the United States National Museum.

**Brachymeria separata** (Walker),

New Combination


*Thaumatelia separata* (Walker), Kirby (1883: 60).

Type information. — Holotype female, BRAZIL, Ega [examined by author]. The type resides in the British Museum, Natural History. Two plesiotype females were designated by Narendran and Varghese (1989): BRAZIL, Franca, East of Sao Paulo, O. Dreher Ig., 1902 [one specimen examined by author]. The two specimens reside in the United States National Museum.

**Brachymeria trinidadensis**

(Narendran and Varghese),

New Combination


Acknowledgments. — I thank E. E. Grisell (USDA, % U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.), J. S. Noyes (British Museum, Natural History, London, England), and F. Koch (Humboldt-Universitat zu Berlin, Germany) for loaning and checking for types. I thank also D. J. Burdick (California State University, Fresno) for reviewing this note.

Jeffrey A. Halstead, 296 Burgan, Clovis, California 93612. Correspondence: % Kings River Conservation District, 4886 E. Jensen Avenue, Fresno, California 93725.

View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54815
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/55577

Holding Institution
Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by
Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse
Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.
License: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/
Rights: https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions

This document was created from content at the Biodiversity Heritage Library, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org.