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SYNONYMICAL AND OTHER NOTES ON PROTAPHIDIUS WISSMANNII (RATZEBURG)

(Hymenoptera, Braconidae: Aphidiinae)

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The present author has revised in 1958 the genus Protaphidius Ashmead. According to the revision of the type of Coelonotus rufus Förster, which is the synonym of Protaphidius wissmannii (Ratz.), it was stated that it represents the genotype of the separate genus Protaphidius Ashmead (for preocc. Coelonotus Förster; see Starý, 1958). The latter was described in 1934 from Italy as Menozzia Goidanich. 

Protaphidius Ashm., however, was generally accepted as the subgenus of Aphidius Nees and a series of species from the Palaearctic and Nearctic regions are now included in it. The quoted series of species represents, of course, a well-characterized subgenus of Aphidius (i.e. Paraphidius Starý, 1958; subgenotype: Aphidius californicus Ashm.); it was included in Protaphidius Ashm. on the base of the very incomplete and unsatisfactory description of Förster based especially on the character “excavated propodeum”. It must be added that also Watanabe (1957) had included “Aclitus nawai” in the subgenus Protaphidius Ashm. auct.

In the same year the present author has revised the genotype of the genus Aclitus Förster (i.e. Aclitus obscuripennis Förster) and other species included in this genus by various authors. As the species Aclitus nawai was described from Japan by Ashmead in 1906, the author took part of his interest in this species, too. The accurate study of Aclitus nawai Ashm. was enabled by the kindness of Dr. C. F. W. Muesebeck who sent the female-paratype of this species with some private notes to me for the purpose to revise it. When examining this paratype I found out that it is Protaphidius wissmannii (Ratz). The Japanese specimen (i.e. “Aclitus nawai”) differs from the European specimens known to the author especially in having parapsidal furrows punctate

till praescutellar groove and in having first tergite of abdomen slightly slender. In my opinion these characters are not of specific value and therefore it seems to be necessary to take into consideration that *Aclitus nawaii* is a new synonym of *Protaphidius wissmannii*. *Protaphidius Ashmead* represents therefore a monotypic genus of the subfamily Aphidiinae.

The synonymy of *Protaphidius wissmannii* is as follows:

**Protaphidius wissmannii** (RATZEBURG)


Bionomics: Goidanich (1934) gives comparatively precise description of bionomics of Protaphidius wissmannii. Larvae of this species were found in a nest of Lasius fuliginosus in a Salix and pupated inside globular cocoons which are described and figured in the cited paper. The short description of a cocoon from which the female-specimen was reared was given by Starý (1956) from Czechoslovakia, too; this cocoon is of globular shape but slightly depressed laterally—the depression was evidently caused by the pupation of the larva in the restricted space under the rind of a stump where the cocoon had been found. Ratzeburg (1848), however, reports Protaphidius (i.e. Aphidius of Ratzeburg) wissmannii to be reared from the aphid Stomaphis quercus. Ashmead also remarks the following on his Aclitus nawai: “One male and two female specimens were sent, bred from a large Aphis, which, judging from the dry pupa skins, I identified as a species of Lachmus, or certainly a genus in the subfamily Lachninae”. The host aphid species was later identified as Stomaphis yanonis by Watanabe (1957).

According to the data given above bionomics of Protaphidius wissmannii seems to be not known satisfactorily for the present. The data can be divided into two groups:—

1. Protaphidius wissmannii pupates inside the parasitized aphid (Stomaphis). (Ratzeburg, 1848; Ashmead, 1906).

2. Protaphidius wissmannii pupates at a distance from the parasitized aphid in a separate cocoon (Goidanich, 1934; Starý, 1956, 1958).

A more detailed research on bionomics of this species is necessary.

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