

**NEW SUBFAMILY PLACEMENT FOR THE GENUS  
AWARA BOUČEK (HYMENOPTERA: EULOPHIDAE:  
TETRASTICHINAE)**

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**ABSTRACT.** The genus *Awara* Bouček, 1988 is transferred from the Eulophinae (Euplectrini) to the Tetrastichinae. Diagnostic characters are given to distinguish it from other tetrastichine genera.

**Introduction**

Bouček (1988) described the genus *Awara*, the material of which was acquired only shortly before finishing the book, and placed it in the tribe Euplectrini of the Eulophinae. At that time it was pointed out that the antenna, fore wing venation, and setation of the thorax were not typical for the tribe. However, the genus was placed in the Euplectrini mainly on the form of the hind legs, especially the presence of an enlarged and elongated hind tibial spur, one of the defining apomorphies for this tribe, and on a pattern of scutellar grooves and propodeal carinae similar to that found in many euplectrine species.

Further examination of *Awara oculata* Bouček, the type species and only species of *Awara*, reveals that this genus properly belongs in the Tetrastichinae. Although this genus does possess the previously mentioned features of some Euplectrini, other characters more convincingly place it in the Tetrastichinae.

The tribe Euplectrini has generally been defined on the presence of the following characters: Hind tibia with one or two enlarged spurs, which are distinctly longer than hind basitarsus; head and thorax with distinct, strong, erect or semi-erect setae; hind coxa enlarged and globose; hind femora somewhat swollen (see treatments by Ferrière, 1941; Bouček, 1988; Wijesekara & Schauff, 1994). Other characters which support the placement of the Euplectrini in the Eulophinae are: submarginal vein smoothly joining parastigma; postmarginal vein present and distinct; notauli present, almost straight posteriorly; axilla not strongly advanced; and scutellum without lateral grooves, but often with generally strong sublateral (axillular) grooves.

These morphological features are also supported by a biological character: The larvae develop gregariously as ectoparasitoids of lepidopterous larvae, which pupate in loosely spun cocoons which are attached to the dead host. This behaviour is found in almost all euplectrines, and is unknown in other Eulophidae.

Although the enlarged hind tibial spur(s) is the character most often used to diagnose and identify the Euplectrini, it is not restricted to this tribe. This character is now known to occur in two genera in the Tetrastichinae, *Awara* and *Neohyperteles* De Santis (1957). This is presumably due to convergence, as *Awara* and *Neohyperteles* do not appear to be closely related based on other characters. This character has also arisen (presumably more than once) in the Entedoninae. Certain species in the genera *Pediobius* and *Horismenus* have a somewhat elongated hind tibial spur. Although not as distinctly enlarged as in the Euplectrini, the spur is still longer than the hind basitarsus.

### Genus *Awara* Bouček

*Awara* Bouček, 1988: 636-637. Type species: *Awara oculata* Bouček (original designation).

*Discussion and diagnostic characters:* *Awara* would key to the subfamily Tetrastichinae in Bouček's (1988) key based on the following characters: Notauli visible and complete; scutellum with 4 longitudinal grooves (paired submedian and sublateral lines); submarginal vein with 6 setae on dorsal surface, not smoothly joining parastigma; postmarginal vein rudimentary (about 1/4 the length of stigmal vein). The axilla is somewhat advanced, although not as strongly angulately advanced as in most Tetrastichinae.

Within the Tetrastichinae, *Awara* would key to couplet 93, based on the following characters: Fully winged; scutellum with 2 pairs of setae; malar groove present; pronotum without a transverse carina; female funicle 3-segmented; petiole distinct, about as long as wide, with distinct rugose sculpture dorsally.

From couplet 93, *Awara* differs from all other genera by the following: Hind tibial spur enlarged and elongated; eyes very large, round, separated from each other only by half their diameter, and composed of large facets; malar space about 1/5 the height of eye; mesoscutum uniformly covered with many scattered semi-erect setae, but posteriorly with 2 longer setae which are as long as the 4 setae on the scutellum; propodeum with distinct median carina, and plica which bifurcates posteriorly into an inner branch (plica) and an outer branch (paraspicular carina). The characters of the enlarged hind tibial spur and the unusual eyes will immediately differentiate *Awara* from all other Australasian Tetrastichinae.

It is interesting that in *Awara* the hind coxa is enlarged and globose, and the hind femur is somewhat swollen apically (characters which also appear in

the Euplectrini). Again, there are sufficient subfamily level characters to support the placement of *Awara* in the Tetrastichinae.

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