PROPACHYNEURON GIRAUT (HYMENOPTERA, CHALCIDIOIDEA).

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In Psyche, volume XXIV, 1917, p. 102, Mr. A. A. Girault has proposed the new generic name Propachyneuron which he states is "based on Encyrtus siphonophorae Ashmead of which Pachys neuron micans Howard, P. aphidivorum Ashmead, and P. maidaphidis Ashmead are synonyms."

It is evident from the material in the U. S. National Museum that Ashmead's Encyrtus siphonophorae was a composite species, the type series having included two species. The true type is an Encyrtid and was correctly placed by Ashmead (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XXII, 1900, p. 399) in the genus Aphidencyrtus. The author of the species, subsequent to the description, apparently discovered that he had included more than one species among the types and removed three of the specimens, one of which he labelled Pachyneuron siphonophorae Ashmead but did not describe the species. Mr. Girault evidently intended to base his genus Propachyneuron on this manuscript species of Ashmead's, being under the impression that these were the true types of Encyrtus siphonophorae.

While Mr. Girault's intention is clear, he has named as type of his genus an apparently valid species entirely different from that which he intended. This raises the complicated nomenclatorial question whether the concept of a genus shall be determined by the species named as type, regardless of the intention of the author, or whether it shall follow the intention of the author. If the former view is adhered to, as the writer believes it should be, then Propachyneuron must fall as a synonym of Aphidencyrtus Ashmead. If the latter view is accepted then Propachyneuron will have as type Pachyneuron aphidivorum Ashmead, the oldest synonym of P. siphonophorae Girault (not Ashmead.)

In his description of Propachyneuron Girault says: "The same as Pachyneuron but the antennae bear three ring-joints." This is true only of the female of aphidivorum. The male has a distinctly 6-jointed funicle and two ring-joints. The other characters given by Girault for Propac'yneuron are all duplicated in Pachyneuron. It is the opinion of the writer, therefore, that the group, if it may even be called a group, is not deserving of a name. The generic name Propachyneuron is, therefore, a synonym, whether of Aphidencyrtus or Pachyneuron makes little difference.