

PROPACHYNEURON GIRAULT (HYMENOPTERA, CHALCIDOIDEA).

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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 *Pachyneuron micans* Howard, *P. aphidivorum* Ashmead, and *P. maida-aphidis* 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 *Propachyneuron* 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.