

PROSPALTELLA ASHMEAD, 1904 (INSECTA, HYMENOPTERA,
CHALCIDOIDEA, APHELINIDAE): DESIGNATION OF A
TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1713

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The generic name *Prospaltella* was published by Ashmead (1904, *Proc. Entom. Soc. Washington* 6 : 126) who substituted it for the name *Prospalta* Howard (1894), preoccupied by Walker (1857). As the type-species of *Prospalta* Howard, Ashmead designated *Prospalta murtfeldtii* Howard, the only species first described in the genus *Prospalta* Howard (1894, *Ins. Life* 7 : 6). When the generic name was changed to *Prospaltella* Ashmead this species became the type-species of the genus automatically (see the paragraphs 67i and 68c of the Code) which is fixed in the list of the type-species of the genera of Chalcidoidea by Gahan and Fagan (1923, *Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 124 : 121).

2. However, Howard himself indicated as the type-species of the genus (1907, *U.S. Dept. Agr., Bur. Entom., Techn. ser.* 12(4) : 79) the species *Prospalta aurantii* (Howard) described by him (1894, *Insect Life* 6 : 231) in the genus *Coccophagus* Westwood and transferred later into the genus *Prospalta* (Howard, 1895, *U.S. Dept. Agr., Div. Entom., Techn. ser.* 1 : 41).

3. In its habitus, structure of antennae, form of the head and stigmal vein of the fore wing (Howard, *loc. cit.* : 39, fig. 12) *Prospaltella murtfeldtii* (Howard) differs much from *Prospaltella aurantii* (Howard) (*ibid.* : 41, fig. 13), and according to the modern classification of Aphelinidae belongs to the genus *Coccophagoides* Girault (1915, *Mem. Queensland Mus.* 4 : 58) together with *Coccophagoides similis* (Masi).

4. Thus, if the type-species of the genus *Prospaltella* Ashmead (1904) is declared to be *Prospalta murtfeldtii* Howard the junior synonym of the genus should be *Coccophagoides* Girault (1915) and to the species of *Prospaltella* as those like *Prospaltella aurantii* (Howard) a new generic name should be given.

5. However, such a change in nomenclature is very inconvenient as many species of the presently used *Prospaltella*, viz. *P. aurantii* (Howard), *P. berlesei* (Howard), *P. perniciosi* Tower are well known to the economic entomologists as the effective parasites of the scale insects used in the biological control. Their names are applied in the world entomological literature. *Prospaltella* became familiar in many European languages giving birth to technical terms like: prospaltelize, prospaltelization.

6. In accordance with the above, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Prospaltella* Ashmead, 1904, made prior to the Ruling now requested, and having done so to designate the nominal species *Coccophagus aurantii* Howard, 1894, to be the type-species of that genus;

- (2) to place the generic name *Prospaltella* Ashmead, 1904, (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Coccophagus aurantii* Howard, 1894, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *aurantii* Howard, 1894, as published in the binomen *Coccophagus aurantii* (type-species of *Prospaltella* Ashmead, 1904) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.