X.—Notes on fossorial hymenoptera.—XXVI. On the genus *Homonotus*, Dahlb.

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To cite this article: Rowland E. Turner F.Z.S. F.E.S. (1917) X.—Notes on fossorial hymenoptera.—XXVI. On the genus *Homonotus*, Dahlb. , *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 19:109, 147-151, DOI: [10.1080/00222931709486919](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222931709486919)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222931709486919>

Published online: 15 Sep 2009.

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British Museum contains specimens from Bombay, South India, Ceylon, and Java. Lefroy ('Indian Insect-Life,' p. 351) states that this insect is common in India, the larva living in the seeds, and the adult eating the leaves, of the tamarind: he refers also to the description of the life-history by Elditt (1860), who reared the beetle from pods of *Cassia*.

SPERMOPHAGUS, Schönherr.

5. *Spermophagus convolvuli* (Thunberg).

Loc. Aldabra, xi. 1908 (Fryer), sixteen specimens, seven of which are stated to have been bred from fruits of *Evolvulus alsinoides*, Linn. Pic's Catalogue (p. 59) records the species from Ceylon, South Russia (introduced), and doubtfully from South Africa.

X. — *Notes on Fossorial Hymenoptera*. — XXVI. *On the Genus Homonotus, Dahlb.* By ROWLAND E. TURNER, F.Z.S., F.E.S.

Family **Psammocharidæ**.

Genus HOMONOTUS, Dahlb.

Homonotus, Dahlb. Hymen. Europ. i. p. 35 (1843) (nec p. 441, 1845).

Wesmaelmus, Costa, Prosp. Imen. Ital. ii. p. 46 (1887).

Hemisalius, Saussure, Grandidier, Hist. Madagascar, xx. p. 313 (1892).

This genus is poor in species, but has a wide range in the Old World, though apparently absent from America. It may be distinguished by the convex head, strongly hollowed behind; the clypeus prolonged and covering the mandibles; the long and somewhat flattened median segment, emarginate at the apex and with the apical angles produced into stout spine-like processes; by the bifid tarsal unguis; and by the cubitus of the hind wing originating beyond the transverse median nervure. Second and third joints of the flagellum subequal, short. The neuration of the fore wing in the genus is variable, both in the proportion of the second and third cubital cells and in the length of the submedian cell, but the first recurrent nervure is received before the middle of the second cubital cell. As in many genera of the family there is a group of identical structure with only two cubital cells, the second transverse cubital nervure being absent. The species I have not seen are marked *.

Homonotus sanguinolentus, Fabr.

Spheg sanguinolenta, Fabr. Entom. Syst. ii. p. 211 (1793).

Salix dorsalis, Sm. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) xii. p. 255 (1873). ♀.

This is the type of the genus and occurs throughout Europe, also ranging as far as Eastern Siberia. Though the thorax and median segment are usually red in the female, much variation exists in this respect, the female sometimes having the thorax and median segment wholly black.

Homonotus ariadne, Cam.

Pompilus (Ferrea) ariadne, Cam. Mem. Manchester Lit. & Phil. Soc. (4) iv. p. 462 (1891).

Hab. N.E. India; S. India; Ceylon; Tenasserim.

**Homonotus albistylus*, Sauss.

Hemiaspilus albistylus, Saussure, Grandidier, Hist. Madagascar, xx. p. 315 (1892). ♀.

Hab. Madagascar.

Evidently very closely allied to *ariadne*, having the same nervure at the base of the first cubital cell.

Homonotus exulans, Turn.

Pedinaspis exulans, Turn. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 338 (1910). ♀.

I doubt if this is more than a geographical race of the Indian *Homonotus ariadne*, Cam., but the spines at the apical angles of the median segment are distinctly longer and more acute in Australian specimens.

Hab. Mackay and Kuranda, Queensland; February to June.

Homonotus nudiventris, Turn.

Pedinaspis nudiventris, Turn. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 339 (1910). ♀.

This differs from *exulans* in the colour of the wings and nervures, and in the much shorter and blunter spines at the apical angles of the median segment.

Both species and also *H. ariadne*, Cam., have the submedian cell of the fore wing as long as the median, not a little shorter as in the European *H. sanguinolentus*, Fabr. The first cubital cell is also pointed at the base, projecting towards the base of the wing a little beyond the basal nervure, in this also differing from *sanguinolentus*.

Hab. Mackay, Queensland; October.

This may prove to be a seasonal form of *exulans*.

Homonotus ægyptiacus, Rad.

Wesmaelinus ægyptiacus, Rad. Bull. Soc. Natural. Moscou, p. 473 (1888). ♂.

A male in the British Museum from Uganda answers well to the description, but has the greater part of the femora, as well as the tibiæ and tarsi, ferruginous; the apex of the abdomen is red from the middle of the third segment. With this I associate a female from North Rhodesia in which the legs are black, the calcaria whitish, and the abdomen red from the base of the third segment. The submedian cell in this species is slightly longer than the median.

Hab. Mt. Kokanjeru, S.W. of Elgon, 6000 ft., Uganda (S. A. Neave), August; 70 miles west of Kariba Gorge, N. Rhodesia (*Silverlock*), June.

I assume that this is the species described by Radoszkowski, being the only species of the genus with similar colouring known to me. I have, however, seen a species more nearly allied to *Planiceps* in which the three apical segments of the abdomen are red in the female; but this has a short clypeus and the tarsal ungues are bidentate near the base, and I do not think it can have been mistaken for a *Homonotus*. It was taken at Harar.

Homonotus nursei, sp. n.

♀. Nigra; mandibulis fusco-ferrugineis; antennis fuscis, subtus fusco-testaceis; clypeo apice, tegulisque testaceis; pedibus fuscis; tarsis pallide ferrugineis, articulo basali basi, calcaribusque albidis; alis hyalinis, venis basi testaceis, apice fuscis.

Long. 4-6 mm.

♀. Clypeus produced over the mandibles, very broadly rounded at the apex; second and third joints of the flagellum subequal. Front strongly convex, temples very narrow, the eyes nearly reaching the hind margin of the head. Posterior ocelli very far apart, about four times as far from each other as from the eyes. Pronotum scarcely longer than the mesonotum, much broader than long, narrowed anteriorly. Median segment emarginate posteriorly, the apical angles produced into stout and rather blunt spines. First and second abdominal segments about equal in length, the basal half of the second dorsal segment rather thinly covered with very short grey pubescence. The longest calcar of the hind and intermediate tibiæ a little longer than the basal joint of the tarsi. First cubital cell narrowly rounded at the base; submedian cell a little shorter than the median; third abscissa of the radius longer than the second; first recurrent nervure

received at about one-third from the base of the second cubital cell, second just before the middle of the third cubital cell. Cubitus of the hind wing originating beyond the transverse median nervure.

Hab. Deesa, W. India (*Nurse*) ; April.

This is a smaller species than *albocalcaratus*, Rad., and has the third cubital cell longer than the second, not shorter as in that species ; the colour of the antennæ and tarsi is also different.

Homonotus albocalcaratus, Rad.

Wesmaelinus albocalcaratus, Rad. Bull. Soc. Natural. Moscou, p. 472 (1888). ♀ ♂.

A single male in the British Museum from Karachi (*Comber*) corresponds fairly well with the description, but the wings are hyaline, not infusate, and the clypeus is broadly rounded at the apex, not subemarginate ; but I am inclined to look on the latter as a sexual difference.

Hab. Orenburg ; Caucasus ; Siberia.

**Homonotus caucasicus*, Rad.

Wesmaelinus caucasicus, Rad. Bull. Soc. Natural. Moscou, p. 472 (1888). ♀.

Hab. Caucasus.

**Homonotus transcaspicus*, Rad.

Wesmaelinus transcaspicus, Rad. Horæ Soc. Ent. Ross. xxvii. p. 60 (1893). ♀.

Hab. Merv.

**Homonotus steini*, Schulz.

Homonotus affinis, Stein, Berlin. ent. Zeit. iii. p. 63 (1869) (nec *Pompilus affinis*, Ev. = *H. sanguinolentus*, Fab.).
Pompilus steini, Schulz, Spolia Hymen. p. 168 (1906).

Hab. S.E. Hungary.

Doubtfully distinct from *sanguinolentus*.

**Homonotus costæ*, Tourn.

Wesmaelinus costæ, Tourn. Entom. Genev. i. p. 156 (1889). ♀ ♂.
Pompilus wettsteini, D. T., Cat. Hym. viii. p. 336 (1897).

Hab. Sicily.

Subgenus GILBERTELLA, nov.

Differs from *Homonotus* in having only two cubital cells, the second transverse cubital nervure being absent.

Type of the subgenus, *Planiceps umbraticus*, Turn.

Homonotus (Gilbertella) umbraticus, Turn.

Planiceps umbraticus, Turn. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 337 (1910). ♀.

The second cubital cell is very long, receiving the recurrent nervures near the base and near the apex. As in other Australian species of *Homonotus*, the base of the first cubital cell emits the stump of a nervure into the median cell. The submedian cell is a little shorter than the median. Calcaria of the intermediate and hind tibiæ very long, slightly exceeding in length the basal joint of the tarsi.

Hab. Mackay, Queensland; January and February.

Homonotus (Gilbertella) disparilis, sp. n.

♂. Niger; antennis subtus, tibiis anticis intermediisque subtus, tarsisque fusco-ferrugineis; calcaribus albidis; alis fusco-hyalinis, venis nigris.

Long. 5 mm.

♂. Clypeus very broadly rounded at the apex, covering the mandibles; second and third joints of the flagellum subequal; front shining, moderately convex. Posterior ocelli about twice as far from each other as from the eyes; temples very narrow. Pronotum narrowed anteriorly, scarcely as long as the mesonotum; median segment a little longer than broad, emarginate at the apex, the apical angles produced into long stout spines. Second abdominal segment a little longer than the first; the two apical ventral segments strongly compressed laterally. The longest calcar of the hind and intermediate tibiæ not quite as long as the basal joint of the tarsus; hind tibiæ moderately spinose; tarsal unguis rather feebly bifid near the apex. Two cubital cells; the second abscissa of the radius twice as long as the first; the recurrent nervures received at one-quarter from the base and at one-quarter from the apex of the second cubital cell; second transverse cubital nervure received just before the middle of the radius. Submedian cell distinctly longer than the median; cubitus of the hind wing originating far beyond the transverse cubital nervure.

Hab. Mlanje, Nyasaland (*S. A. Neave*); May.

The second cubital cell is much shorter than in *umbraticus* and the recurrent nervures are received much nearer together. In *umbraticus* the second transverse cubital nervure is received just before two-thirds from the base of the radius. The spines at the apical angles of the median segment are longer in this species than in any other known to me.