SYNOPSIS

Braconidae is one of the important family of parasitic Hymenoptera under the class Insecta. It is distributed all over the world. Braconids are egg larval and larval parasitoids of variety of crop pests and thus play a significant role in supressing the population of noxious crop pests.

Amongst the parasitic Hymenoptera, Braconidae is next to Ichneumonidae, but have been neglected for detailed studies compared to the other. Thus, studies on this family needs special attention. However, in past studies on Braconidae have been attempted from northern and southern area in Maharashtra and the western Maharashtra was neglected so far. In view of this, the present investigation have been attempted.

The thesis deals with the taxonomic studies on parasitic Hymenoptera of family Braconidae. This work is based mainly on collection of Braconid parasites during 1997-2001 from Western Maharashtra. This material was collected from Pune, Kolhapur, and Ahmednagar Districts of Western Maharashtra. Taxonomic study includes 16 species of 11 genera belonging to 9 sub-families of the family Braconidae. Taxonomic studies embodies descriptions of 16 species that are new to Science.
The unique features of the thesis consist of the determination of two new genera viz. *Mahallhorhagus* and *Elliptidepressius*. The genera *Phanerostoma* (Unica) Snoflak, *Phanerostoma* (Phanerostoma) Wesmael and *Allorhagus* Gahan, though recorded from India have been recorded for the first time in Western Maharashtra.

Keys for the identification of Indian species of some genera have been also provided for the first time.

The species studied for the thesis with taxonomic arrangements are as follows:


Under this subfamily a new genus, *Elliptidepressius* is erected and three new species *E. rugosi*, *E. dicubitalis* and *E. convexi* have been described.

II) Subfamily - *Microgasterinae*

Genus - *Protomicroplitis* Ashmead.

Under *Protomicroplitis* a new species, *P. raoi* is described.

III) Subfamily - *Alysiinae*

Genus - *Phaenocarpa* Foerster

This genus is recorded for the first time in Western Maharashtra and *P. odontopetalis*, sp. nov. is described.
IV) Subfamily - *Agathidinae*

Group - *Fuliginosa*

Genus - *Zelomorpha* Ashmead

Species - *tarspectini*

Under this subfamily a new species *Z. tarspectini*, sp. nov. is described and for this the Key (Bhat and Gupta, 1977) has been followed.

V) Subfamily - *Cheloninae*

Genus - *Phanerostoma* Wesmael

Under *Phanerostoma* two new species, *Phanerostoma (Phanerostoma) tibioglobuli, Phanerostoma (Unica) telomelanini* are described. The subgenera *Phanerostoma (Phanerostoma)* and *Phanerostoma (Unica)* are recorded for the first time from Western Maharashtra.

VI) Subfamily - *Macrocentrinae*

Genus - *Macrocentrus* Curtis.

Under this two new species viz., *M. pleuroflangei* and *M. mancharensis* are described. A key to the Indian species of *Macrocentrus* is also included.

VII) Subfamily - *Doryctinae*

Under this subfamily two genera are studied viz., *Allorhogas* and *Mahallorhagus* of which *Mahallorhagus* is a new genus.
1) Genus - *Allorhogas* Gahan

*Allorhogas* is a small genus with only eleven species from world, of which one species is found in Indo-Australian region. This genus is recorded for the first time from Western Maharashtra and *A. gholapi*, sp. nov. is described.

2) Genus - *Mahallorhogas*, gen. nov.

Under this a new species, *Mahallorhogas odontocoxai* is described.

VIII) Subfamily - *Rogadinae*

1) Genus - *Rogas* Nees

Under this genus two new species belonging to the subgenus *Rogas* are described viz., *Rogas (Rogas) ozarensis* and *Rogas (R.) ramkrishnai*. For this, a key to the Indian species of *Rogas (Rogas.)* Kurhade and Nikam (1992) has been followed and new taxa are included in the key.

(2) Genus - *Heterogamus* Wesmael

Under this *H. oturi*, sp. nov. is described

IX) Subfamily - *Spathiinae*

Genus - *Spathius* Nees.

*S. shivnerensis*, sp. nov. is described and for this a key to the species of *Vulnificus* group of *Spathius* by Nixon (1943) has been followed and new species have been included in the key.

(Dr. P. K. Nikam)  
Research Guide

(Shaikh A.A.)  
Teacher Research Fellow