MATERIAL AND METHODS
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The discourse of taxonomic indentifications in the present work is mainly carried out by the author from various districts viz., Pune, Kolhapur and Ahmednagar of Western Maharashtra during 1997-2001. Braconids were collected on grass and weeds, near the crops like sugarcane, groundnut, sorghum, cotton; vegetables like bringale, potatoes. Maximum collections were made during rainy season, collection were made by the use of light traps and additional devices were also used for the collection of huge number of Braconid parasitoids.

The collected specimens were killed in killing bottles and preserved in 70% alcohol. The killed specimens were pinned, dried and kept in the insect store boxes. Antennae, wings and hind legs were mounted on slides in Distrene Plasticizer Xylene.

For the details of morphological peculiarities, the collected specimens were examined under monocular and binocular microscopes for taxonomic studies. Figures were drawn with the help of binocular comeralucida. In some cases, monocular camera lucida was also used. Comparative measurements were taken with micrometer in the monocular microscope. Body length of the specimens were taken with micrometer in the monocular microscope and with bionocular camera lucida. Measurements of figures, drawn by Binocular camera lucida were calculated with
Fig. 1

Light trap
scale and those drawn by monocular camera lucida with stage micrometer and eye piece micrometer. All the measurements are recorded in millimeters.


In addition, recent works on some subfamilies viz., "A phylogenetic study of the subfamilies Meteorinae and Euphorinae (Hymenoptera : Braconidae)" by Shaw (1985), An identification manual for the North American genera of the family Braconidae (Hymenoptera)" by Marsh, Shaw and Wharton (1987) and "Illustrated key to the subfamilies of the Braconidae (Hymenoptera : Ichneumonoidea)" by C. Van Achterberg (1993) were followed for the identification of the species.

Fig. 2

**Head and thorax of Braconid.**

a) Head, front view.
b) Head rear view.
1. Vertex
2. Frons
3. Face
4. Cheek
5. Clypeus
6. Groove between face and clypeus
7. Clypeal fovea
8. Labrum
9. 10, 11 and 12 orbit
9. Vertical orbit

**Thorax, Side View**

Areas of thorax
1. Median lobe of mesoscutum
2. Lateral lobe of mesoscutum
   1 & 2 mesoscutum
3. Scutellum
4. Post scutellum
5. Hind margin of metanotum
6. Tegula
7. Subtegular ridge
8. 9 and 10, Pronotum
10. Hind corner of pronotum
11. 12 & 18 Mesopleurum (Mesepimeron)
12. Speculum
13. Mesepimeron
14. Upper division of metapleureum
15. Metapleurum (lower division of metapleurm)
16. Juxtacoxal area
17. Propleurum
18. Prepectus
19. Mesosternum
20. Front coxa
21. Middle coxa
22. Hind coxa
23.-28 propodeum
24. Second lateral area
25. Third lateral area
26. First pleural area
27. Second pleural area
28. Third pleural area
29. Propodeal spiracle

**Carinae and Grooves of Thorax.**

A. Notaulus
B. Epomia
C. Prepectal carina
D. Mesopleural fovea
E. Mesopleural suture
F. Sternaulus
G. Postpectal carina
H. Juxtacoxal carina
I. Submetapleural carina
K. Lateral longitudinal carina of propodeum
L. Median longitudinal carina of propodeum
M. Basal transverse carina of propodeum
N. Apical transverse carina of propodeum
O. Propodeal apophysis of crest
P. Costula.
Fig. 3

Wings of Braconid.

a) Cells of fore and hind wings.

b) Veins of fore and hind wings.
Fig. 3
Abdomen and Leg of Braconid.

a) Abdomen, side view.
   1. Petiole
   2. Postpetiole
   3. First tergite
   4. First sternite
   5. Tergo-sternal suture
   7. Dorsolateral carina
   8. Median dorsal carina
   9. Clymma
   10. Spiracle
   11. Second tergite
   12. Thyridium
   13. Apical margin
   14. Ovipositor
   15. Ovipositor sheath
   16. Subgenital plate

b) Leg
   1. Coxa
   2. First trochanter
   3. Second trochanter
   4. Femur
   5. Tibia.
   6. Tibial spur
   7. Tarsus
   8. Claw
Fig. 5

Genitalia of Braconid

a) Ovipositor of Braconid.
b) Subgenital plate.
Keys to the Indian species have been made for some genera, those were not provided earlier and the new taxa have been determined accordingly.

The terminology used in the thesis follows that of Townes (1969). Some of the important taxonomic terms pertaining to the present study are expressed in figures (2 to 5).