Classification of the family Trichogrammatidae

Earlier, authors divided the family Trichogrammatidae into two or three subfamilies—Trichogrammatinae and Oligositinae (Ashmead, 1904; Girault, 1911). Trichogrammatinae and Chaetostrichinae (Girault, 1912), Chaetostrichinae with two or three tribes, Chaetostrichini, Ophioneurini and Lathromerini (Girault, 1912a, b, c, 1913); and Trichogrammatinae with two tribes, Trichogrammatini and Poropaeini (Girault, 1912c) and Trichogrammatinae and Ophioneurinae (Nowicki, 1933). However, the first major attempt to classify trichogrammatids into subfamilies and tribes based on morphological and male genitalic characters was made by Viggiani (1971). He divided the family into Trichogrammatinae and Oligositinae as earlier done by Ashmead (1904), but he further recognized 4 tribes, namely, Trichogrammatini and Paracentrobini in Trichogrammatinae, and Oligositini and Chaetostrichini in Oligositinae. Yousuf & Shafee (1988) agreed with Viggiani (1971) in dividing the family into subfamilies, Trichogrammatinae and Oligositinae, but recognized 5 tribes within these two subfamilies—Trichogrammatini and Aphelinoidini in Trichogrammatinae; and Lathromerini, Megaphragmini, and Oligositini, in Oligositinae. More recently, Pinto (2006) agreed with the subfamilial classification of Ashmead (1904), Viggiani (1971) and Yousuf & Shafee (1988), but recognized only one tribe Trichogrammatini in Trichogrammatinae, and 3 tribes in the Oligositinae: Oligositini (with subtribes, Oligositina and Eteroligostina). Paracentrobini and Chaetostrichini. This classification is partly supported by molecular evidence (Owen, et al. 2007). It may be said that the suprageneric classification, in spite of the above mentioned studies, remains largely an unsettled problem. It is felt that further phylogenetic (=cladistic) analysis based on morphological and molecular characters may yield better, and a stable classification of the family.