Material and Methods

Material

The present dissertation is based on the examination of several hundred specimens of nearly all the Indian genera, including types of 90 species and material pertaining to about 60 determined species present in the Insect Collection of the Department of Zoology (ZDAMU). In addition, the author has also examined several hundred specimens of undetermined species present in ZDAMU collections.

Methods

Collection

A majority of the specimens were collected by sweeping with net. The insects collected in the net were sucked in an aspirator and killed in ethyl acetate fumes. Some specimens were directly transferred from the net to 80% alcohol.

Preparation of card and slide mounts

It is generally found difficult to correctly identify these minute-sized trichogrammatids to their correct species or even sometimes to their genus if the specimens are preserved in alcohol. Therefore, freshly collected specimens were mounted on rectangular cards by the technique given by Noyes (1982). Those preserved in alcohol were air-dried and mounted on cards. Because of their soft bodies, trichogrammatids, especially those initially preserved in alcohol, tend to shrivel or get distorted otherwise. Such material becomes almost useless for taxonomic studies. Therefore, it is preferable that trichogrammatids be eventually mounted in Canada balsam on glass slides. The slide mounts of the carded specimens were prepared by the technique given by Noyes (1982).

Photography

Photographs of required part were taken by a digital camera (Leica DFC295) attached to a compound microscope (Leica, DM2500).
Measurements

Absolute measurements in millimeters are given only for body lengths. All other measurements are relative taken directly from the linear scale of an ocular micrometer placed in the eye piece of a compound microscope.

Terminology

The terminology used in the present work for various body parts is evident from the figures 1-4 given here. However, the antennal formula used in describing the number of antennal segments need to be explained. For trichogrammatids, the formula consists of 5 Arabic numerals. The first and the second numerals refer to the scape and the pedicel and are always ‘1’, whereas the number varies for the anneli, funicle segments and the clava. For example, antennal formula, ‘1, 1, (2), 2, 3’ indicates that the antenna is composed of a scape, a pedicel, two anneli, a 2-segmented funicle and a 3-segmented clava.