MATERIAL AND METHODS

Material.

The present revision is based on the study of a large number of specimens either collected by the author or present in the collection of Dr. M. Hayat. A majority of the specimens were also obtained on loan from other institutions, notably the Natural History Museum, London. In addition, types and determined material of some species obtained on loan from the Queensland Museum, Brisbane; the Natural History Museum, London and the U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. were also studied.

Methodology.

For correct identification of these small-sized specimens, it is necessary to have the specimens mounted on cards and on slides. The latter to see details which otherwise cannot be seen in carded specimens. It is almost impossible to identify copidosomatines (or any other microhymenopteran insect) to species level if the specimens are in alcohol.

Preparation of card mounts.

The methodology for card mounting used was that given in details by Noyes (1982).

Freshly collected specimens were killed in ethyl acetate fumes or smoke fumes and directly mounted on rectangular cards using water-soluble glue. The specimen is placed on the card obliquely and glued via the thorax. If the specimens were initially preserved in alcohol then these were first critical point dried (CPD) and then mounted on cards.
These card mounted specimens were used for the description of body colour, sculpture and for measuring various body parts.

**Preparation of slide mounts.**

For preparation of slide mounts, the procedure given by Noyes (1982) was followed. This procedure consists of clearing the specimen (after removal of wings and arranging them in a small drop of balsam on a slide) in cold 10% potassium hydroxide (KOH) for 48 hours, then passing the specimen through acetic acid (for softening), distilled water (for removal of KOH), and dehydrating it in ascending grades of alcohol, then a mixture of 100% alcohol and oil of cloves, and in only oil of cloves, and finally mounting the specimen/parts on the same slide with the wings. However, the body parts (wings, antenna, head and thorax plus gaster) are placed under 4 coverslips of 6 mm. diameter on a single slide. This arrangement of the body parts allows easy study under a microscope.

**Drawings.**

Drawings of various structures were made from slide preparations with the help of a drawing tube attached to a compound binocular microscope (Nikon - Alphaphot 2).

**Measurements.**

Relative measurements of various body parts were made from the slide preparation with the help of an ocular micrometer having a linear scale of 100 divisions, placed in the eye piece of a compound microscope.