INTRODUCTION

The tribe Thripini belongs to the subfamily Thripinae of the family Thripidae, and derives its special importance from the fact that many of its members are serious pests of crops and of ornamental plants; there are some that carry potentialities of becoming pests (RAMAKRISHNA, 1919, 1929, 1932, 1941; ANANTHAKRISHNAN, 1956a). To mention a few, *Baliotrips biformis* (BAGNALL) is a serious pest of paddy. *Anaphothrips sudanensis* (TRYBOM) damages wheat and other Gramineae, *Mysterothrips activentris* (BAGNALL) has been found doing appreciable damage to tea and *Mezalurothrips distalis* (KARNY) infests leguminous and other flowers. *Thrips tabaci* LIND. and *Frankliniella schultzei* (TRYBOM) are well known agents for the spread of tomato spotted wilt virus (SAKIMURA, 1947, 1963).

The tribe Thripini was instituted by PRIESNER (1949a) for genera related to *Thrips* and at present includes about 125 genera comprising about 1100 species from all over the world. SCHMUTZ (1913) described several species from Ceylon. WATSON (1923) dealt with the North American species, whereas the European species were monographed by PRIESNER (1926–28, 1964a). STEINWEIDEN (1933) gave a key to the known species of *Taeniothrips*. KELLY & MAYNE (1934) monographed the Australian species. A revision of the dark Indo-Malayan species of *Thrips* was published by PRIESNER (1924c), and later in 1938 he published a key to the Indo-malayan species of *Taeniothrips*. MORISON (1947–49) dealt with the systematics of London Thysanoptera.
MOULTON (1948) gave a key for the world species of *Frankliniella*, whereas keys to the known genera were provided by PRIESNER (1949a). MOULTON (1932–33) and HOOD (1949–54) worked out the South American species. ZUR STRASSEN (1960) catalogued the South African species. Recently SCHLIEPFAKE (1964) wrote out an extensive review of the males of the European species of *Thripa*. PRIESNER (1964b) monographed the Egyptian forms. MOUND (1968) reviewed BAGNALL's species of Thysanoptera. The Illinois species were monographed by STANNARD (1968).

The earliest contribution to the taxonomy of Indian Thripini was made by BAGNALL (1913a) who described two new species. He subsequently published more papers (1916a, 1918a,b, 1919, 1921, 1923b, 1924, 1926a). WILLIAMS (1916) described a new species *Thripa oryzae* from rice in Orissa. Another early contribution was by HOOD (1919a). The first Indian thysanopterist was RAMAKRISHNA, who himself published a series of papers (RAMAKRISHNA, 1919–1941), and in collaboration with MARGABANDHU (RAMAKRISHNA & MARGABANDHU, 1931–1940). MOULTON (1929a) reported on a small collection sent to him from the Indian Museum, Calcutta. Two major contributions of the late twenties describing several new species were by KARNY (1926), and by RAMAKRISHNA (1928). The latter work was the first complete Indian list of the known species and genera, followed by a catalogue later by RAMAKRISHNA & MARGABANDHU (1940). Thereafter SHUMSHER (1942, 1944, 1949) described and reported upon several species, and in 1946 published keys of the Terebrantia. Important contributions on Indian Thripini were made also by PRIESNER (1934c, 1938e, 1950b, 1952), by
PRIEGER & SESHADRI (1952) and by PATEL & PATEL (1953a,b). MARGABANDHU & ANANTHAKRISHNAN (1953) gave a supplement to the earlier catalogue. ANANTHAKRISHNAN (1953-1969) has made the largest amount of contribution to the Indian Thripini, and in 1963 gave keys of the genera and the species. PATEL & PATEL (1955), ARORA & BHATTI (1960), BHATTI (1961-1969b), and ANANTHAKRISHNAN & JAGADISH (1966a-1969) are the other contributors on the subject.

The taxonomy of the Indian Thripini has reached such a state today that a large number of genera and species need revisionary work. The general trend has been to describe new species and genera without ascertaining the correct taxonomic position of the known forms or defining their limits properly. The problems presented by the taxonomy of this group are quite challenging when we find so many species difficult to separate, or several described genera rather closely allied and without special merits of their own.

In order to grasp fully the scope of the present work and the difficulties involved, it would be useful to look at some figures. Among those taxa here treated under the tribe Thripini, MAHAKRISHNA & MARGABANDHU (1940), when they catalogued the Indian Thysanoptera, included 70 species belonging to 25 genera. In his latest review ANANTHAKRISHNAN (1963) referred to 97 species in 33 genera. Since the last review, many new genera and species have been added. The present revision includes a total of 156 species assigned to 57 genera, of which 8 genera and 27 species are regarded as
new. Out of 129 described species, type specimens of 75 species, recognised as valid here, have been studied, in addition to those of 28 others considered synonymous. Authentic specimens were available in most of the other cases.

As a result of the present study it has been found necessary to make large scale reallocations of species. In the present work 25 generic names, 5 subgeneric names, and 38 species names are relegated to synonymy. Three generic names, Amblythrips Bagnall, Keratothriinae Bagnall and Cricothrips Trybom, have been taken back from synonymy and raised to generic status; whereas one subgeneric name Erythrothrips Bhatti is elevated to the generic rank. As many as 46 species from the Indian region have been reallocated their genera.

Several morphological features have now been found useful in determining the relationships among genera and species. Of these the structure of the prosternum, and the male genitalia have been taken into account for the first time.

Although a detailed analysis of the genitalia has been made in many species, satisfactory material has not been available in other cases so as to make proper studies. It may, however, be pointed out that the shape, the structure, and the armature of the genitalia afford useful criteria for separating some of the genera and species of this group and for understanding their relationships, earlier opinion to the contrary notwithstanding.

The present work is an attempt at reassessing the status
of the described genera and species, to analyse critically some of our known yardsticks to determine the status of the specific and the generic taxa, to describe new species and genera, and to present some characters which appear to promise a greater degree to stability.