

the presence of a pterostigma excludes it from the Platygasteroidea (Naumann 1991). Also the relatively reduced wing venation (e.g. M + CuA, M, CuA, 1A not tracheate; absence of closed submarginal cells) suggests that the species does not belong in the Stephanoidea, Trigonalioidea, Evanioidea, Sphecoidea or Apoidea. In the absence of better preserved material *C. explicata* cannot be excluded from the Proctotrupoidea, Chrysoidea or Vespoidea. Interestingly, the interpretation of the wing venation depicted in Fig. 1 is similar to that of some proctotrupoids (see Naumann and Masner 1985), in particular some belytine Diapriidae.

However, the following features of *C. explicata* are inconsistent with placement in the Diapriidae:

- (1) forewing with pterostigma (absent in Diapriidae);
- (2) first gastral tergite occupying less than 0.4 of gaster (in Diapriidae the first gastral tergite is reduced to this size only in *Termitopria* Musebeck and several undescribed, feebly sclerotised, termite associates with extremely reduced wing venation);
- (3) frons without antennal shelf (present in all Diapriidae except *Ismarus* Haliday, in which the first gastral tergite occupies more than 0.5 of the gaster);
- (4) anterior gastral tergites with deep, transverse furrows (such furrows absent in Diapriidae).

Until additional material of *C. explicata* becomes available for study its family placement must remain conjectural.

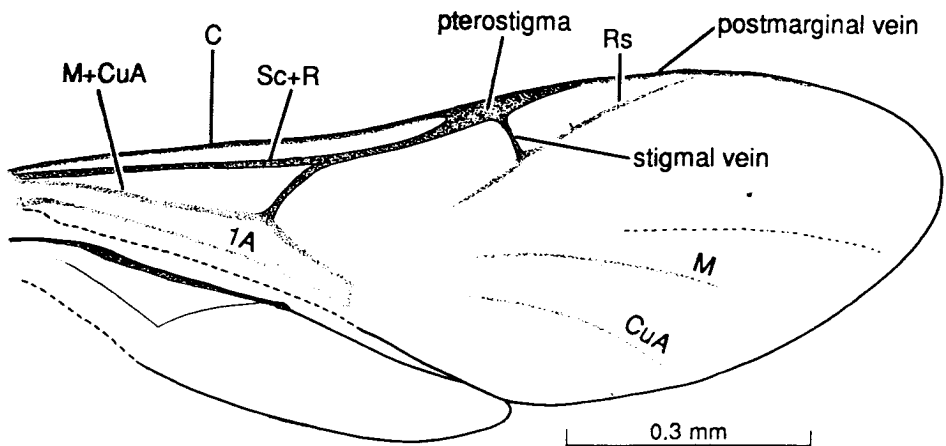


FIG. 1—*Cretacoformica explicata*, interpretation of wing venation. Composite drawing from left and right wings of both counterparts of holotype.

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