

of the remainder of the insect. The colour of these spots is certainly not unlike that of the luminous organs of the Lampyrids, yet it is hard to imagine what possible use a truly diurnal insect would have for luminosity, and how it produces light in a portion so obviously unfitted for the delicate photogenic tissues as a thin, brittle elytron. Some of the related species show an extension of the yellow spot into a band completely crossing the elytra, together with a similar colouration along the front edge and a portion of the sides of the wing-cases, while still others have nearly one-half of the elytra surface taken up with this yellowish, non-metallic colouration.

ON THE IDENTITY OF (*TRICHOGRAMMA*) *NEOTRICHOG-*
GRAMMA JAPONICUM (ASHMEAD).

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In the first pages of the current (1911) volume of the Transactions of the American Entomological Society, I described a new Japanese genus of the family *Trichogrammatidae* based on this species, whose identity at the time was more or less uncertain. The genus was *Neotrichogramma*, and before *japonicum* was definitely known, the type species of the new genus was named *acutiventre* MS.; formerly, also, I identified the species as *N. acutiventre* Girault MS., namely, at the time the species was first seen by me. However, the error was corrected in the original description of the genus before publication, but it is desirable to make a brief explanation concerning the basis for claiming identity. This explanation should be expected, if not demanded, for the reason that we have already taken too much for granted in systematic work.

Trichogrammatids have been especially difficult to identify, mostly for the reason that many of the species were wrongly placed as regards genera and also briefly, or else erroneously, described and the type specimens missing or in bad condition. For this reason it once seemed hopeless to me to attempt to identify more than a small fraction of the described species of these minute parasites. Because of the confusion existing in the literature concerning the definition of *Trichogramma* Westwood, and more especially because a comparatively large number of species of different genera had been described as members of this genus, I was forced to conclude that the position of *japonicum* was uncertain generically; its brief original description gave no generic characters, the author of the species had previously described several common species of the family as members of *Trichogramma*, which subsequently have been shown to be