

MOUNTING ARRANGEMENT FOR AN ECCENTRIC SHAFT IN A REFRIGERATION COMPRESSOR

Field of the Invention

The present invention refers to a constructive arrangement to provide a more effective bearing of an eccentric shaft in the block which carries the compression mechanisms of a refrigeration compressor, whether small, medium or large, either hermetic or not.

Prior Art

10. In some prior art constructive solutions, as illustrated in figures 1 and 2, the mechanical assembly of the refrigeration compressor is basically formed by a block B comprising a shaft hub 10, in the interior of which is radially journalled an eccentric shaft 20, which is
15 rotatively driven by an electric motor of the compressor, for impelling a compression mechanism.

In the prior art compressor construction, the motor 30 generally comprises a stator 31 attached to the block B, and a rotor 32 formed by a core around which are mounted
20 permanent magnets, said rotor being mounted to a free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 which projects axially outwardly from the shaft hub 10.

In these compressor constructions, the lower end portion of the eccentric shaft 20 generally carries an oil pump
25 40 for pumping oil from an oil sump, defined in a lower portion of a compressor shell, to the movable parts of the latter to be lubricated.

In large refrigeration compressors, as those of the scroll type (figure 2), the eccentric portion 21 of the
30 eccentric shaft 20 drives a compression mechanism in the form of coils 50, mounted against each other and whose relative movement determines the volumes of the compression mechanism.

In reciprocating compressors (figure 5), the eccentric
35 shaft 20 presents an eccentric portion 21 to which is coupled, generally by a connecting rod, a piston (not illustrated) of the compression mechanism and which is

housed in the interior of a piston hub 60 of the block B. For the constructions of refrigeration compressors with higher capacity or larger sizes (generally for commercial use), the loads received by the eccentric shaft are substantially high and result not only from the compression forces, but mainly, from the loads resulting from the electromagnetic force of the motor, which are particularly relevant upon the motor start, before the beginning of the operation of the compression mechanism.

During gas compression, the compression force F , which actuates against the eccentric end portion 21 of the eccentric shaft 20, is transmitted by the latter to a first and to a second end portion 11, 12 of the shaft hub 10 of the block B, applying thereto a first and a second compression derived force F_1 , F_2 . The first and second compression derived forces F_1 , F_2 applied to the shaft hub 10 tend to impart to the latter a highly undesirable angular displacement away from its design nominal position, losing its alignment in relation to the compression mechanism.

In a known compression construction, as exemplarily illustrated in figure 1, in which the block B is in a single piece, the center of gravity CG of the movable assembly, defined by the eccentric shaft and the rotor, is below the points in which the forces resulting from the compression operation of the compressor are applied.

It should be further noted that, besides the angular deformations, there can also occur manufacturing geometric deviations, which increase the misalignment of the eccentric shaft 20 in relation to the associated elements of the compression mechanism, impairing even more the efficiency and durability of the compressor.

Upon motor start, the electromagnetic force is applied to the rotor-shaft assembly, so as to rotate it in high rotation, in an instant in which the eccentric shaft 20 is stationary, with its radial bearings being free from the load resulting from said electromagnetic force upon

energization of the motor. At the motor start, the radial bearings of the eccentric shaft 20 support the whole load of the electromagnetic force applied to the latter. This application of electromagnetic force generates a bending moment on the eccentric shaft 20, which results in a tension force on its structure, tending to cause deformation of said shaft.

There are known some proposals to minimize undesirable deformations in the shaft hub 10 and in the eccentric shaft 20, produced both by the compression load and by the electromagnetic load, at the start of the compressor. A known solution, not illustrated in the drawings, proposes increasing the axial extension of the radial bearing of the eccentric shaft 20, aiming at giving a higher radial support to the latter and to its end portion disposed in cantilever in relation to the shaft hub and in which the electric motor rotor is mounted. However, this solution does not avoid the negative effects regarding the forces resulting from mounting the rotor 32 in an end portion of the eccentric shaft 20, which defines an axial extension in cantilever sufficient for mounting the rotor 32. Other negative aspect of this prior art solution is an undesirable and even unacceptable increase in the compressor height.

Other known solution, also not illustrated, includes the provision of an axial extension of the eccentric shaft, beyond the eccentric portion, for journaling said shaft in a second radial bearing spaced from that or those provided in the interior of the shaft hub. This solution presents some inconveniences, among which the fact that it does not eliminate the bending forces on the eccentric shaft, which still carries the rotor in cantilever in relation to the shaft hub. Other negative aspect of this prior art solution is the fact that it cannot be applied to the scroll-type compressors, since in these compressors the eccentric end portion 21 of the eccentric shaft 20 is mounted internally to the coil assembly.

In order to overcome the problem discussed above, in a compressor which does not permit the bearing to be carried out through the eccentric end portion 21 of the eccentric shaft 20, as it occurs in the scroll-type compressors, it is proposed a solution (figure 2) according to which the eccentric shaft is axially extended beyond the rotor mounting portion, so as to be journalled in another radial bearing, also attached to the block B which, in this case, is required to be mandatorily made in two pieces, for allowing mounting the eccentric shaft 20 already containing the rotor 32 attached thereon.

In the constructive solution mentioned above, the electric motor 30 is positioned between two radial bearing regions of the eccentric shaft 20, axially spaced from each other, avoiding the condition of attaching the rotor to an extension of the eccentric shaft 20 which is mounted in cantilever. With the solution provided by the two-piece block B, the center of gravity CG is positioned between the forces which support the eccentric shaft 20, minimizing displacements.

In this solution (figure 2), each bearing is provided in a respective block portion. Nevertheless, this construction generates several problems related to project, manufacture and assembly.

In hydrodynamic bearings, parameters such as alignment, concentricity and shaping errors are crucial for the adequate operation of the mechanism. In the solution of the two-piece block, since each bearing is provided in separate components, the mounting of the assembly (eccentric shaft and bearings) is a critical process, requiring each component to present excellent manufacturing quality, precise control in the mounting operations, and resistant constructions, with the purpose of accepting the variables inherent to the process, once the two portions which define the two-piece block are affixed to each other during the mounting of the

eccentric shaft 20.

Although providing an adequate bearing for the eccentric shaft and solving the issues regarding the mounting of the motor, the construction in separate pieces and the mounting of said pieces involved in the production of the two-piece block and of the compression assembly generate process complications, since one cannot guarantee the concentricity of the shaft hubs of the two-piece block portions, making critical the alignment of the respective bearings, causing operational problems and consequently compromising the performance, reliability and useful life of the compressor.

Figure 2 shows each component used for mounting the two-piece block B of the compressor and how this mounting can be carried out. In this construction, block B presents a first block portion B1 and a second block portion B2, generally joined to each other by fixation means, such as screws P. The parts which compound block B form bearings M1, M2 which, jointly with the stator 31, constitute the fixed parts of the assembly. The eccentric shaft 20 and the rotor 32 form the movable assembly.

Summary of the Invention

In face of the inconveniences of the known constructive solutions, it is a generic object of the present invention to provide a mounting arrangement for an eccentric shaft in a refrigeration compressor of the type discussed above, which allows improving the bearing of the eccentric shaft with the self-aligned mounting of the radial bearings in a single block.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a constructive arrangement of the type mentioned above, which minimizes the deformations resulting from the electromagnetic force and from the compression force on the assembly formed by the eccentric shaft and by the shaft hub.

It is also another object of the present invention to provide an arrangement as cited above, which allows

reducing the compressor height.

These and other objects are achieved through a mounting arrangement for an eccentric shaft in a refrigeration compressor of the type which includes a block, comprising
5 a shaft hub having a first and a second end portion and housing an eccentric shaft presenting an eccentric end portion, projecting outwardly from the first end portion of the shaft hub, a median portion radially journaled in the shaft hub, and a free end portion carrying the rotor
10 of an electric motor.

In the arrangement of the present invention, the first and the second end portion of the shaft hub define respective radial bearings for the median portion of the eccentric shaft, there being provided a support member
15 which is formed by a coupling portion affixed to the free end portion of the eccentric shaft, and by a mounting portion which projects axially and radially outwardly from the coupling portion towards the first end portion of the shaft hub, said mounting portion being disposed
20 externally to the shaft hub around the median portion of the eccentric shaft, the rotor being affixed to the mounting portion concentrically to the eccentric shaft and surrounding the shaft hub.

In the proposed solution, the block, by being formed in a single piece, presents the already mentioned advantages related to construction, assembly and alignment of the component parts, carrying two radial bearings axially spaced from each other and around which the electric motor rotor is affixed to the eccentric shaft. Thus, the
25 rotor of the electric motor occupies, in the assembly, a height coincident with that of the shaft hub, reducing the vertical dimension of the compressor and allowing the electromagnetic forces produced by the motor to be applied to the eccentric shaft in a region contained
30 between said radial bearings.
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In other words, the construction proposed herein allows, due to the provision of the single block and of the

support member: approximating the force-balancing plane to the loading plane; providing two or more radial bearings in a single block; minimizing the mounting steps and possible mounting misalignments; optimizing the height of the assembly; reducing the number of components; and enabling smaller bearing gaps.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will be described below, with reference to the enclosed drawings, given by way of example and in which:

Figure 1 represents, schematically, a partial longitudinal sectional view of a scroll-type compressor, constructed according to the prior art and having the shaft hub defined in a single-piece block;

Figure 2 represents, schematically, a partial longitudinal sectional view of a scroll-type compressor constructed according to the prior art and comprising a two-piece block carrying a pair of radial bearings and an eccentric shaft, in whose median region is mounted an electric motor rotor;

Figure 3 represents, schematically, a partial longitudinal sectional view of a scroll-type compressor, constructed according to the present invention and comprising a single block which defines a shaft hub provided with two inner radial bearings, in which is journaled an eccentric shaft, having a free end portion in cantilever and carrying the electric motor rotor of the compressor;

Figure 4 represents a longitudinal sectional view of part of the assembly illustrated in figure 3, but illustrating a constructive variant in which an end face of the free end portion of the eccentric shaft is coplanar to the annular end face of the second end portion of the shaft hub; and

Figure 5 represents a partial longitudinal sectional view of a reciprocating-type compressor, constructed according to the present invention, comprising a single block which

defines a shaft hub provided with two inner radial bearings, in which is seated a tubular eccentric shaft to whose free end portion is attached the electric motor rotor of the compressor, an end face of the free end portion of the eccentric shaft being coplanar to the annular end face of the second end portion of the shaft hub.

Detailed Description of the Invention

As illustrated, the present invention is applied to a refrigeration compressor, of any size (small, medium or large), either hermetic or not, of the scroll or reciprocating type and which presents, in the interior of a shell (not illustrated), a single block B which comprises, in a single piece, a shaft hub 10 having a first and a second end portion 11, 12, said shaft hub 10 housing an eccentric shaft 20 which incorporates an eccentric end portion 21 projecting outwardly from the first end portion 11 of the shaft hub 10.

The second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10 presents an annular end face 12a which, in some compressor constructions (figures 4 and 5), is coplanar to an end face 22a of the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20.

As illustrated in figure 3, the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 projects beyond the annular end face 12a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10, whilst as illustrated in the constructive variants of figures 4 and 5, the end face 22a of the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 is provided in a plane parallel in relation to the annular end face 12a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10.

Although not illustrated, the present invention can be also applied to the constructions in which the end face 22a of the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 is provided in a plane spaced back in relation to the annular end face 12a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10.

Said relative positionings permit different constructive arrangements for the present invention, as described ahead.

According to the invention, the eccentric shaft 20 presents its median portion 23 journaled in two radial bearings M1, M2, which are spaced from each other by an axial extension of the eccentric shaft 20, said axial extension being radially spaced back in relation to said radial bearings.

In the illustrated construction, the bearings M1, M2 are defined by respective axial extensions of an inner surface of the shaft hub 10, said axial extensions being respectively defined in the first and in the second end portions 11, 12 of the shaft hub 10.

According to the present invention, the shaft hub 10, formed in a single piece, has the radial bearings M1, M2 actuating against respective annular regions A1, A2 of the median portion 23 of the eccentric shaft 20, axially spaced from each other by a circumferential recess 24, externally provided in the median portion 23 of the eccentric shaft 20. It should be understood that the radial bearings M1, M2 can be spaced from each other by a circumferential recess (not illustrated) provided in the inner surface of the shaft hub 10.

The mounting arrangement of the present invention includes a support member 70, constructed in any material such as, for example, a metallic alloy, which is adequate to support the mechanic forces and the high temperatures to which it is submitted during the operation of the compressor. The support member 70 is formed, preferably in a single piece, by a coupling portion 71, attached to the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20, and by a mounting portion 72 which projects axially and radially outwardly from the coupling portion 71, towards the first end portion 11 of the shaft hub 10. This construction allows that the mounting portion 72 be disposed externally to the shaft hub 10, around the median portion

23 of the eccentric shaft 20, with the rotor 32 being attached to the mounting portion 72, concentrically to the eccentric shaft 20 and surrounding the shaft hub 10.

The coupling portion 71 and the mounting portion 72 are joined to each other by a generally annular shaped connection portion 73 disposed axially spaced from and in front of the annular end face 12a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10, maintaining with said annular end face 12a a short spacing, sufficient to avoid contact between the shaft hub 10, which is stationary, and the support member 70 which rotates with the eccentric shaft 20.

In the type of mounting arrangement illustrated in figure 3 of the enclosed drawings, the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 projects axially outwardly from the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10. In this case, the support member 70 has its coupling portion 72 mounted and retained around said free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20.

In the constructive form illustrated in figure 3, the coupling portion 71 takes the form of a cylindrical sleeve 71a surrounding, with interference, the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 which projects outwardly from the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10. On the other hand, the mounting portion 72 is defined by a cylindrical tubular body 72b, radially spaced from the shaft hub 10 and in whose outer lateral face is attached the rotor 32 of the electric motor 30. Generally, the rotor 32 comprises permanent magnets which are affixed externally to the mounting portion 72 of the support member 70.

Although the support member 70 is illustrated in figures 3, 4 and 5, formed in a single piece, with the coupling portion 71 and mounting portion 72 in the form of cylindrical tubular bodies, it should be understood that the support member 70 can be formed by different structural frames, which allow for the reliable and

correct fixation of the rotor 32 to the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20.

As illustrated in figure 3, the coupling portion 71, in the form of a cylindrical sleeve 71a, of the support member 70, can incorporate, in a single piece, a generally annular end portion 71b which is seated and optionally affixed against the end face 22a of the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20.

With the provision of the support member 70, the rotor 32 of the electric motor can be attached to the eccentric shaft 20, without requiring the latter to project, in cantilever, outwardly from the shaft hub 10, throughout an extension which corresponds to the height of the rotor 32. The rotor 32 can be positioned around both the shaft hub 10 and the median portion of the eccentric shaft 20 which is journalled in the interior of said shaft hub 10. Although the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 is illustrated in the tubular shape, it should be understood that this shape may be massive, in which case the end face 22a may not present an annular configuration, assuming a circular form.

As illustrated in figure 3, the coupling portion 72, in the form of cylindrical sleeve 71a, can incorporate an annular-shaped end portion 72b to be seated and optionally affixed in the also annular end face 22a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10.

It should be understood that, when the eccentric shaft 20 is provided with the free end portion 22 in a cylindrical tubular shape, with its end face 22a presenting an annular shape, the end portion 71b of the coupling portion 71, to be seated against the annular end face 12a of the free end portion 12 of the eccentric shaft 12, can incorporate a tubular projection 71c which is fitted and optionally affixed in the interior of the cylindrical tubular free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20. The tubular projection 71c is illustrated in the embodiment of figure 5, but it can be also applied to the

constructions which present an eccentric shaft 20 with a free end portion 22 of cylindrical tubular shape, as illustrated in figures 3 and 4. In this case, the fixation of the support member 70 to the eccentric shaft 20 is achieved by affixing at least one of the parts defined by the coupling portion 71, by the end portion 71b and by the tubular projection 71c to the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20. The fixation can be made by different adequate means as, for example, welding, gluing, screws, rivets, etc.

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate constructions in which the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 presents an end face 23a spaced from or coplanar to the annular end face 12a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10. In this case, any oscillation of the eccentric shaft 20 is suppressed, allowing the height of the block-shaft-motor assembly to be even more reduced.

In the construction illustrated in figures 4 and 5, the coupling portion 71 takes the form of a radially inner annular extension 71d of the connection portion 73, said annular extension 71d being seated and affixed against the annular end face 12a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10. In the case, not illustrated, in which the end face 22a of the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 is axially spaced back in relation to the annular end face 12a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10, the annular extension 71d is configured to be seated and attached against said annular end face 12a of the second end portion 12 of the shaft hub 10.

As illustrated in figure 5, in which the free end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20 presents a cylindrical tubular shape and its end face 22a has an annular configuration, the coupling portion 71 in the form of an annular extension 71d of the connection portion 73 can further present a tubular projection 71c, as already previously mentioned, which is fitted and optionally attached in the interior of the cylindrical tubular free

end portion 22 of the eccentric shaft 20.

In the solution of the present invention, the provision of the support member 70 and of the single-piece block B carrying two radial bearings M1, M2 to actuate against
5 respective annular regions A1, A2 of the median portion 23 of the eccentric shaft 20, allows minimizing or even eliminating the existence of a cantilevered portion of the eccentric shaft for carrying the rotor 32 of the electric motor. By mounting the rotor 32 with its axial
10 extension completely disposed around the portion of the shaft hub 10 and around the radially supported median portion 23 of the eccentric shaft 20, it is possible to reduce the deforming forces on the eccentric shaft 20 and on the shaft hub 10, as well as the height of the
15 compressor.

The solution proposed herein eliminates the need to increase the axial extension of the bearing region of the eccentric shaft 20, avoiding higher power consumption, by viscous friction, in the radial support of the eccentric
20 shaft.

In the solution of the present invention, the rotor 32, with the permanent magnets, has its axial extension completely disposed around the single-piece block B. This construction allows obtaining a disposition of forces and
25 a positioning of center of gravity CG similar to those obtained with the formation of the two-piece block B, without the inconveniences presented by the known two-piece block construction in terms of manufacture and assembly of the compressor.

30 The proposed concept can be employed for compressors with two-piece bearings and compressors with a single block, bringing benefits for both constructions.

With the arrangement of the present invention, it is possible to obtain an adequate centralization of the
35 motor, dispensing the need of using an eccentric shaft or a too long block. Moreover, the eccentric shaft is journalled in two bearings in a single block, which two

bearings are necessary for large refrigeration compressors in which the load on the eccentric shaft is too high. With the present invention, the rotor is no longer mounted in a cantilevered portion of the eccentric shaft, but between two bearing regions in the shaft hub, whereby the shaft is no longer submitted to the bending moment loads resulting from the electromotive force upon the start of the compressor.

The present solution, when applied to a reciprocating compressor, allows the rotor to be positioned closer to the first end portion 11 of the shaft hub 10 of the block B, thus reducing the dimensions of the compressor, for any of the known compressor constructions having an eccentric shaft. Besides the considerable gain in the compressor size, the present solution also allows reducing the amount of material.

In any of the constructions discussed herein, the support member 70 can be provided incorporating an oil pump 40, for example by stamping, when said support member 70 is made of metallic material.

CLAIMS

1. A mounting arrangement for an eccentric shaft in a refrigeration compressor of the type which includes a block (B) comprising a shaft hub (10) having a first and a second end portion (11, 12) and housing an eccentric shaft (20) which presents an eccentric end portion (21) projecting outwardly from the first end portion (11) of the shaft hub (10), a median portion (23) radially journaled in the shaft hub (10), and a free end portion (22) carrying the rotor (32) of an electric motor (30), said arrangement being characterized in that the first and the second end portions (11, 12) of the shaft hub (10) define respective radial bearings for the median portion (23) of the eccentric shaft (20), there being provided a support member (70) which is formed by a coupling portion (71), affixed to the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20), and by a mounting portion (72) projecting axially and radially outwardly from the coupling portion (71) towards the first end portion (11) of the shaft hub (10), said mounting portion (72) being disposed externally to the shaft hub (10) around the median portion (23) of the eccentric shaft (20), the rotor (32) being affixed to the mounting portion (72), concentrically to the eccentric shaft (20) and surrounding the shaft hub (10).

2. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in claim 1, in which the second end portion (12) of the shaft hub (10) presents an annular end face (12a) and the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20) projects axially outwardly from the second end portion (12) of the shaft hub (10) and presents an end face (23a), the arrangement being characterized in that the coupling portion (71) is mounted and retained around said free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20).

3. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in claim 2, characterized in that the coupling portion (71) takes the form of a cylindrical sleeve (71a) surrounding the free

end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20).

4. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in any of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that the coupling portion (71) incorporates an end portion (71b) seated
5 against the end face (23a) of the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20).

5. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in claim 3, in which the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20) presents a cylindrical tubular shape with its end
10 face (23a) presenting an annular shape, the arrangement being characterized in that the end portion (71b) of the coupling portion (71) presents an annular shape and is seated against the annular-shaped end face (23a) of the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (23), said
15 end portion (71b) incorporating a tubular projection (71c) fitted in the interior of the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20).

6. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in claim 5, characterized in that at least one of the parts defined
20 by the coupling portion (71, 71a), by the end portion (71b) and by the tubular projection (71c), is affixed to the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20).

7. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in claim 1, in which the second end portion (12) of the shaft hub (10)
25 presents an annular end face (12a) and the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20) presents an end face (23a) spaced back or coplanar in relation to said annular end face (12a) of the second end portion (12) of the shaft hub (10), the arrangement being characterized
30 in that the coupling portion (71) is seated and attached against the end face (23a) of the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20).

8. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in claim 7, in which the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft
35 (20) presents a cylindrical tubular shape with its end face (23a) presenting an annular shape, the arrangement being characterized in that the coupling portion (71) is

defined by an annular extension (71d) seated against the end face (23a) of the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20) and incorporating a tubular projection (71c) fitted in the interior of the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20).

9. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in claim 8, characterized in that at least one of the parts defined by the annular extension (71d) and by the tubular projection (71d) of the coupling portion (71) is affixed to the free end portion (22) of the eccentric shaft (20).

10. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in any of claims 2 to 9, characterized in that the mounting portion (72) is attached to the coupling portion (71) by means of a connection portion (73) disposed axially spaced from and in front of the annular end face (12a) of the second end portion (12) of the shaft hub (10).

11. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the mounting portion (72) is defined by a cylindrical tubular body (72b) radially spaced from the shaft hub (10) and to whose outer lateral face is attached the rotor (32) of the electric motor (30).

12. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in any of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the shaft hub (10) is formed in a single piece, having the radial bearings (M1,M2) axially spaced from each other by an extension of the eccentric shaft (20) that is radially spaced back in relation to said radial bearings.

13. The mounting arrangement, as set forth in claim 8, characterized in that the two radial bearings (M1, M2) are defined by respective axial extensions of an inner surface of the shaft hub (10), said axial extensions being respectively defined in the first and in the second end portions (11, 12) of the shaft hub 10, said radial bearings (M1,M2) actuating against respective annular regions (A1,A2) of the median portion (23) of the eccentric shaft (20) that are axially spaced from each

other by a circumferential recess (24) externally provided in the median portion (23) of the eccentric shaft (20).