

A new platygastrid wasp from Florida (Hymenoptera: Platygastridae)

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Abstract

Synopeas russelli MacGown, n. sp. is described and illustrated from specimens collected in Orlando, Florida. Numerous specimens of both sexes were collected in a malaise trap and others swept from coastal plain goldenaster, *Chrysopsis scabrella*, an indicator species for Florida scrub.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Platygastridae, Synopeadini, *Synopeas russelli*, new species, Florida

Introduction

The genus *Synopeas* Foerster 1856 [Platygastridae: Platygastrinae: Synopeadini] consists of 123 species worldwide; of these, 28 species are known from the Nearctic, and 9 species from Florida (Vlug 1995; Johnson 2003). Very little taxonomic research has been published on the New World fauna of the subfamily Platygastrinae since Ashmead (1893) and Fouts (1924). Species of *Synopeas* are only known to parasitize gall midges [Cecidomyiidae: Diptera] and can be distinguished from other platygastrid genera by the following combination of characters: no wing veins present; metasomal tergites I and II fused in both sexes, thus appearing as one very long segment; the scutellum usually terminating in a short to long spine; and the pronotal collar with a ventral pit or depression. The genus is divided into three subgenera based on the shape and length of the metasoma. In the subgenus *Dolichotrypes*, the metasoma is long, narrow and greatly extended; in *Sactogaster*, it is pendulous, or “comma-shaped” with tergite II swollen and tergites III-VI tapering; and in the subgenus *Synopeas*, to which the new species is assigned, the metasoma is normal shaped, neither greatly extended nor pendulous, but gradually tapering to a point as shown in figure 5. Morphological terminology follows that used by Masner and Huggert 1989.