

***Schusterphotopsis*, a new genus of Sphaerophthalminae
(Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) from California, with notes on the
closely related genera *Acrophotopsis* Schuster and *Dilophotopsis*
Schuster**

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Abstract

A new genus of Mutillidae from southern California, *Schusterphotopsis* Pitts, is described and illustrated, including the new species *Schusterphotopsis barghesti* Pitts. The genus can be distinguished from males of other sphaerophthalmine genera by the dilated and deeply emarginated condition of the mandibles, the posterior position and shape of the mesosternal processes, the presence of lateral carinae on the hypopygidium, and the flattened condition of the hypopygidium. A discussion of this new genus's relationship to *Acrophotopsis* and *Dilophotopsis* is given.

Key words: Sphaerophthalmini, parasitoid, velvet ant

Introduction

In a study of Sphaerophthalmini from the southwestern United States, one male specimen of an undescribed species was found. This new species shares several characters in common with *Acrophotopsis* Schuster and *Dilophotopsis* Schuster. Although no phylogenetic hypothesis is available for all the genera of Sphaerophthalminae, this new species is unique in several features considered to be of generic-level importance. This new genus and species are described, illustrated and its relationship to *Acrophotopsis* and *Dilophotopsis* are discussed below.

Materials and methods

I follow the terminology suggested by Menke (1993) for the scutum rather than that of Schuster (1958). The term "tibial spurs" is used instead of "calcaria." I denote the second,