

***Protopolybia aliciae*, a new polistine social wasp from Brazilian Amazonia (Hym.; Vespidae, Polistinae, Epiponini)**

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Abstract

A description and photographs of *Protopolybia aliciae* are presented, a new swarming species of social polistine wasp from the Brazilian state of Pará.

Key words: Vespidae, Polistinae, Epiponini, *Protopolybia aliciae*, new species, Brazilian Amazonia

Introduction

The genus *Protopolybia* Ducke, currently with 31 described species, is a member of the Neotropical polistine tribe Epiponini (Carpenter & Wenzel 1990; Silveira & Carpenter 1995; Carpenter et al. 2001). Wasps in this tribe found new colonies by swarms composed of queens and workers. The species described herein, *Protopolybia aliciae* Silveira, was found during an inventory of the social wasps in the “Ferreira Penna” Research Station (ECFPn; MPEG) in Caxiuanã (PA, Brazil), an area in Eastern Amazonia dominated by typical high “terra firme” forest (Silveira 2002). The new species shares with *Protopolybia scutellaris* Bequaert a remarkable feature, the presence of lateral wing-like processes on the first metasomal segment, but is clearly distinguished from the latter by color and other structural differences which include the presence of an envelope covering the nest.