

Two new Eastern North American species of the *Aleiodes coxalis* (Spinola) species-group (Hymenoptera: Braconidae, Rogadinae) reared from Geometridae

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Abstract

Two new species in the *Aleiodes coxalis* species-group are described from eastern North America: *Aleiodes itamevorus* and *Aleiodes maritimus*. Both are primary koinobiont parasitoids of Geometridae caterpillars, utilizing hosts from the genera *Itame* and *Semiothisa*.

Key words: Taxonomy, descriptions, new species, *Aleiodes*, Braconidae

Introduction

The rogadine braconid genus *Aleiodes* Wesmael is worldwide in distribution, but is particularly species-rich in the Holarctic Region. *Aleiodes* is well diversified in North America, with at least 90 species in the United States and Canada (S. Shaw *et al.* 1997). This study is a contribution to a series of revisionary papers on *Aleiodes* species-groups for North America (see S. Shaw *et al.* 1997, 1998a, 1998b; Marsh & S. Shaw 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003). The *coxalis* species-group, as treated in this paper, is a large monophyletic group distinguished by the rugose vertex (Figs. 1–2) and sculptured fourth metasomal tergum (Figs 5–6) (Fortier & Shaw 1999). In a broad sense, the *coxalis* species-group includes at least 18 named species (Fortier & Shaw 1999), four of which are now known from North America. Further it should be defined as including the “genus” *Tetrasphaeropyx* Ashmead, which is derived from within this lineage (Fortier & Shaw 1999). The species of the *Tetrasphaeropyx* lineage are excluded from this paper because they are currently being revised by Joseph Fortier at St. Louis University. The two new species described here are