

## New species and notes on *Apenesia* (Hymenoptera, Bethylinidae) from the Brazilian Amazon

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### Abstract

The following seven new species of bethylid wasps from the Brazilian Amazon are described and illustrated: *Apenesia membranaceus*, *A. auricula*, *A. singularis*, *A. lapsa*, *A. strigulata*, *A. acia*, and *A. curvata*. New geographical records and morphological data on *A. rostrum* Azevedo & Batista, 2002, *A. crenulata* (Kieffer, 1910), *A. laevigata* Evans, 1957, *A. megaventrifera* Azevedo & Batista, 2002, *A. spinipes* (Evans, 1969), *A. inca* Evans, 1963, *A. bugabensis* (Cameron, 1888), *A. concavata* Corrêa & Azevedo, 2001, *A. quadrata* Evans, 1963, *A. truncaticeps* (Kieffer, 1910), *A. paraensis* (Kieffer, 1910), *A. photophila* (Ogloblin, 1930), *A. apicilata* Azevedo & Batista, 2002, and *A. elongata*, Evans, 1963 are provided.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, Hymenoptera, Bethylinidae, *Apenesia*, Brazil, Amazon

### Introduction

*Apenesia* Westwood, 1874 is one of the 84 described genera of the family Bethylinidae. This genus was originally described based upon the female sex only; Evans (1963), however, proposed that the males of *Apenesia* were wrongly classified as *Propristocera* Kieffer, 1905, *Cleistopyris* Kieffer, 1910, and *Dipristocera* Kieffer, 1914. This confusion occurred because sexual dimorphism is strong in *Apenesia*: the males are dark, robust and macropterous, whereas the females are light, slender and apterous. According to Evans (1963), the structure of females suggests that these wasps spend most of their lives in the soil or in wood finding hosts.

The biology and host relationships of *Apenesia* are little known. Curculionidae larvae can serve as hosts (Kieffer 1914) and some species are apparently associated with ants Evans (1963).

*Apenesia* currently contains about 150 species, 97 of them recorded from the Neotropical region. In Brazil, 45 species are recognized, mostly from the Atlantic rain forest.