

Two new species of the genus *Austrocotesia* Austin & Dangerfield (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) from the Andean region of South America

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Abstract

The microgastrine braconid wasp genus *Austrocotesia* was erected by Austin & Dangerfield as a new, apparently endemic Australasian genus. In the past 8 years a series of specimens clearly belonging to the genus have been collected throughout South America and Mesoamerica. In the present paper, *Austrocotesia croizati* n. sp. and *A. renei* n.sp. are described and illustrated from the Andean region of South America. In addition, a key to the known species is presented, and the relationships and taxonomic status of the genus are briefly discussed.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Microgastrinae, *Austrocotesia*, taxonomy, new species, Neotropics

Introduction

The genus *Austrocotesia* was erected by Austin and Dangerfield (1992), based on the recognition of three species restricted to New Guinea (*A. delicate*) and the adjacent Australian region of North Queensland (*A. exigua* and *A. paradoxa*). At that time the genus was unknown from elsewhere in the world. The presence of the genus in South America became evident during the study of material for the creation of the Microgastrinae key to genera for the Manual of the New World Genera of the family Braconidae (Whitfield 1997). The genus was then recorded in the Manual, but none of the New World species were then described.

Austrocotesia is of special interest phylogenetically because it, along with *Miropotes* Nixon, appears to be among the earliest-diverging lineages of Microgastrinae, at least in