

A new species of gregarious *Meteorus* (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) reared from caterpillars of *Venadicodia caneti* (Lepidoptera: Limacodidae) in Costa Rica

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Abstract

A new species of parasitoid wasp, *Meteorus oviedo* Shaw and Nishida (Hymenoptera: Braconidae), is described from the Central Valley of Costa Rica. The new species is diagnosed and compared to other species in the genus. It was reared from larvae of *Venadicodia caneti* (Lepidoptera: Limacodidae) on leaves of *Licaria triandra* (Lauraceae). The parasitoid is gregarious and modifies the behavior of its host. This is the first record of a *Meteorus* species attacking Limacodidae in Costa Rica.

Resumen

Una nueva especie, *Meteorus oviedo* Shaw and Nishida (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) es descrita para Valle Central de Costa Rica. La especie es analizada y comparada con otras especies del género. Los especímenes fueron criados de larvas de *Venadicodia caneti* (Lepidoptera: Limacodidae), encontradas en hojas de *Licaria triandra* (Lauraceae). El parasitoide es gregario y modifica comportamiento del hospedero.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Neotropical, parasitoid, Limacodidae, taxonomy, behavior

Introduction

Meteorus Haliday is a large genus with worldwide distribution comprising more than 200 described species (Muesebeck 1923; Nixon 1943; Huddleston 1980, 1983; Maetô 1990;