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(Hymenoptera: Braconidae)**

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## Revision of the Nearctic species of the genus *Pholetesor* Mason (Hymenoptera: Braconidae)

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## Abstract

The nearctic species of the microgastrine braconid wasp genus *Pholetesor* are revised for the first time, based on examination of museum specimens and on the results of a broad rearing survey of leafmining moths (the recorded hosts), especially in the western U. S. Twenty one valid species are recognized, two of which (*P. viminetorum* (Wesmael) and *P. circumscriptus* (Nees) were previously recorded only from the Palearctic Region, and eleven of which are described as new: *P. caloptiliae* n. sp., *P. chiricahuensis* n. sp., *P. dixianus* n. sp., *P. longicoxis* n. sp., *P. masoni* n. sp., *P. pinifoliellae* n. sp., *P. powelli* n. sp., *P. rhygoplitoides* n. sp., *P. thuiellae* n. sp., *P. variabilis* n. sp., and *P. zelleriae* n. sp. *Teremys* Mason is tentatively placed in synonymy with *Pholetesor*, thus transferring *T. masneri* Mason (and the neotropical *T. hanniae* Valerio and Whitfield) into *Pholetesor*. *Pholetesor* is divided into eight species groups, some of which appear to be restricted to the Nearctic Region. All species of the genus are found to attack leafmining or needlemining lepidopteran larvae except *P. powelli*, which attacks concealed lepidopteran leaf skeletonizers.

**Key words:** Hymenoptera, Braconidae, *Pholetesor*, Nearctic species, revision

## Introduction

The assortment of microgastrine Braconidae assembled in this revision under the name *Pholetesor* Mason (tribe Apantelini) has not long been considered a natural group by taxonomists. The included species are a morphologically diverse array of small microgastrine wasps most of which attack leafmining Lepidoptera.

The first species to be described but now referable to *Pholetesor* were given the generic name *Microgaster* Latreille 1804, along with all other Microgastrinae. After Foerster's (1862) erection of the genus *Apanteles* for all species of *Microgaster* lacking