

Two new genera of Agathidinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) with a key to the genera of the New World

MICHAEL SHARKEY

S-225, Dept of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Agric. Sci. Bldg-N., Lexington, KY, 40546, USA. E-mail: msharkey@uky.edu

Abstract

Two new genera of Agathidinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) are described, *Amputoearinus* Sharkey **n. gen.**, and *Austroearinus* Sharkey **n. gen.** Biological information is given for members of both genera. Five new species are described, *Amputoearinus matamata* Sharkey **n. sp.**, *Amputoearinus fernandezi* Sharkey **n. sp.**, *Austroearinus chrysokeras* Sharkey **n. sp.**, and *Austroearinus melanopodes* Sharkey **n. sp.** Two new combinations are made, *Austroearinus rufofemoratus* **n. comb.**, *Austroearinus unicolor* (Schrottkey) **n. comb.** A key to the genera of the New World is presented.

Key words: *Amputoearinus*, *Austroearinus*, taxonomy, parasitoid, wasp

Introduction

The Agathidinae is a moderately large subfamily of Braconidae with approximately 2,000 species, most of which are not described. It has a worldwide distribution and members are found in most terrestrial habitats. Though all known species are koinobiont endoparasitoids of Lepidoptera larvae, life history traits vary considerably. Depending on the species, they may be nocturnal or diurnal, gregarious or solitary, attack exposed or concealed hosts, and attack any larval instar. In general they are solitary, attack first instar Lepidoptera larvae in concealed microhabitats such as leaf-rolls or stems, and emerge from the last larval instar after it has spun its cocoon. Several species of *Zelomorpha* Ashmead are known to be gregarious (Sarmiento et al., [as *Coccygidium*] 2004). Detailed studies of life history have been conducted for a few species (e.g., Simmonds 1947, Dondale 1954, Odebiyi and Ottman 1972, 1977, Janzen et al. 1998) and a few have been used in classical biological control efforts.