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The circumscription of the generic concept of *Aximopsis* Ashmead (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Eurytomidae) with the description of seven new species

M. W. GATES[1]*, M. A. METZ[2] & M. E. SCHAUFF[3]

[1,2]Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA, ARS, PSI, c/o National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C. 20013-7012, USA. E-mail:[1]mgates@sel.barc.usda.gov, [2]markmetz@sel.barc.usda.gov
[3]Plant Sciences Institute, Bldg 003, BARC-WEST, 10300 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705. E-mail: schauff@ba.ars.usda.gov
**Corresponding author*

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Abstract

The genus *Aximopsis* is redefined, an hypothesis of its phylogenetic placement within Eurytominae is presented, and seven species are described as new: *A. anubis* Gates, *A. arietinis* Gates, *A. hespenheidei* Gates, *A. hippolytis* Gates, *A. lanceolepis* Gates, *A. pythmenis* Gates, and *A. vogti* Gates. Three new combinations are proposed: *Philolema javensis* (Girault), 1917, **n. comb**., *Philolema tephrosiae* Girault, 1917, **n. comb**., and *Eurytoma tricolor* **n. comb**. *Aximopsis elegans* Masi (1917) is placed *incertae sedis*. *Aximopsis ovi* Girault and *A. tumidiscapi* Girault are *nomina nuda*.

Key words: *Aximopsis*, Chalcidoidea, Eurytomidae, systematics, leafminers, Buprestidae

Introduction

This is the second in a series of papers in which we describe new chalcidoid taxa from the Nearctic and Neotropical regions collected by George B. Vogt. Vogt was an avid student of the biology of leaf-mining Coleoptera and leaf-rolling attelabids (Anderson et al. 1991). He traveled extensively from 1960 until his death in 1991 in the area between the eastern United States and Panama and to Brazil, amassing a collection of thousands of rearing records from a variety of host plants. Vogt was described as being eccentric in his record keeping (Anderson et al. 1991) and he left behind a trail of cryptic notes, but organizational failings aside, his insect collection and associated writings represent a heretofore untapped wealth of biological information, particularly for poorly known insect groups from the Neotropics such as the genus *Aximopsis* Ashmead, 1904.

The genus *Aximopsis* (Fig. 1) was based on a single species, *Aximopsis morio* Ashmead, 1904, described from a single female from Santarem, Brazil that Ashmead found in the H. H. Smith collection. Ashmead named the genus for its assumed tribal relationship with *Axima* Walker, 1862 (*-opsis* = like), but he proposed a new genus for the species based mainly on the difference in the shape of the gaster, elongate and tapered in *Axima* versus shorter and truncate apically in *Aximopsis* (Figs. 2, 3), and the much shorter marginal vein relative to the stigmal vein (Figs. 4, 5). Additional species subsequently described in *Aximopsis* belong in related genera or are *nomina nuda* (see below). Apparently, these species were originally described without reference to the type species, *A. morio* Ashmead. *Philolema javensis* (Girault 1917), **n. comb**., *Philolema tephrosiae* (Girault 1917), **n. comb**., and *Eurytoma tricolor* **(**Girault 1913), **n. comb**., are proposed as new combinations. *Aximopsis ovi* Girault and *A. tumidiscapi* Girault previously have been reported as *nomina nuda* (Farooqi & Subba Rao 1986; Noyes 2003). The type of the final species, *Aximopsis elegans* Masi 1917, was lost and is considered *incertae sedis* (see below).

A hypothesis for the synapomorphies that support *Aximopsis* has never been proposed. Ashmead compared *Aximopsis* to *Axima*, as indicated above, but features purported to define *Aximopsis*, such as marginal vein length hardly twice stigmal vein and the non-

