



A new genus and species of Plumariidae (Hymenoptera, Chrysidoidea) from western xeric Argentina

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Abstract

Mapluroides ogloblini, a new genus and species from the provinces of San Juan and La Rioja in western Argentina, are described. Descriptions, drawings and a discussion of its relationships to other genera of plumariids are provided. The new taxon is closely related to *Plumaroides* Brothers and *Maplurius* Roig-Alsina.

Key words: Plumariidae, taxonomy, morphology, Argentina

Introduction

This contribution is a result of studies that are being carried out on the family Plumariidae in the western xeric areas of Argentina. Plumariid wasps are represented by three genera in South America, *Plumarius* Philippi, *Plumaroides* Brothers, and *Maplurius* Roig-Alsina, and by two genera in South Africa, *Myrmecopterina* Bischoff and *Myrmecopterina* Day (Brues, 1924; Bradley, 1972; Brothers, 1974; Day, 1977; Roig-Alsina, 1994). The phylogenetic relationships of these chrysidoid wasps have been studied by Brothers (1975), Königsmann (1978), Brothers & Carpenter (1993), and Carpenter (1986, 1999), and the generic relationships within the family by Roig-Alsina (1994), who also presented a key to the genera.

Knowledge of these wasps is based mainly on males, since females have been rarely collected. Only two females have been described, one from Peru (Evans, 1966) and another from Chile (Perez D'Angello, 1974), both attributed to *Plumarius*. The sexual dimorphism is extreme. The morphology of the female, which is apterous, with a flattened body and strong, spiny fossorial legs, indicates a subterranean habit (Evans, 1966). Males are winged and are frequently collected at light but they disappear by day and nothing is known of their living place.

We describe in the present contribution a new genus and species collected in the provinces of San Juan and La Rioja, in western Argentina. The description is based on males. The new taxon is closely related to *Maplurius* and *Plumaroides*. The former genus, with a single described species, ranges from the provinces of Salta to Chubut in Argentina (Roig-Alsina, 1994). *Plumaroides* includes to date a single species described from Andalgalá, in the province of Catamarca (Brothers, 1974), but current studies have discovered new species with a broad geographic range from the province of Salta in the north to Mendoza in the south.