



Notes on the bee genus *Alloscirtetica* Holmberg, 1909 in northern Chile with the description of two new altiplanic species and a key for the Chilean species of Eucerini (Hymenoptera: Apidae)

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Abstract

In this paper two new species of the bee genus *Alloscirtetica* collected in the altiplanic region of northern Chile are described. The species *Alloscirtetica larocai* Urban, from Rivadavia, Region of Coquimbo is proposed as new junior synonym of *A. lanosa* Urban. The Peruvian species *A. weyrauchi* is reported from northern Chile for the first time extending its known distributional range southward. A compilation of the distributional and floral records of the Chilean species of Eucerini is given, including a key for the identification of all the species of the tribe occurring in Chile.

Key words: *Alloscirtetica*, Eucerini, Apidae, Hymenoptera, Chile

Resumen

En este trabajo se describen dos nuevas especies de abejas del género *Alloscirtetica* colectadas en la región altiplánica del norte de Chile. La especie *Alloscirtetica larocai* Urban, colectada en Rivadavia, Región de Coquimbo, es propuesta como nuevo sinónimo junior de *A. lanosa* Urban. También se reporta por primera vez a la especie peruana *A. weyrauchi* en el norte de Chile, extendiéndose hacia el sur su rango de distribución conocido. Es proporcionada una compilación de los registros florales y de distribución de las especies chilenas de Eucerini, incluyendo una clave para identificar todas las especies de esta tribu presentes en Chile.

Introduction

The species of the bee tribe Eucerini are widely distributed throughout the world except Australia, with its highest diversity in diverse ecosystems of the Western Hemisphere (Michener 1979, 2007; Griswold *et al.* 2006).

Despite significant advances in the knowledge of the taxonomy of several groups of species, subgenera and genera of Eucerini of the Neotropical Region (see Michener 2007 and references therein), the taxonomy of the tribe is, in some cases, still confusing and complex, primarily because of a complete lack of proper systematic treatment. An example of this is that in the Neotropical Region, the 81.9% of the known species are grouped in only eight of the 30 genera described in the Neotropics: *Alloscirtetica* Holmberg (43 spp.), *Florilegus* Robertson (11 spp.), *Gaesischia* Michener, LaBerge & Moure (28 spp.), *Melissodes* Latreille (44 spp.), *Melissoptila* Holmberg (53 spp.), *Peponapis* Robertson (12 spp.), *Tetraloniella* Ashmead (19 spp.) and *Thygater* Holmberg (30 spp.). The 53 remaining species belong to genera low in diversity, being 30% of them (n=9) monospecific. In other words, there are many monospecific genera or genera with few species that may well render larger groups paraphyletic, but this will remain uncertain until a complete systematic study of the