Zootaxa 2264: 65–68 (2009)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Correspondence

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

First record of the tribe Biastini from the Afrotropical Region (Hymenoptera: Apidae)

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Abstract

Biastini, which are known to be cleptoparasites on Rophitinae (Halictidae), is recorded from Kenya and Tanzania. The genus and species, *Schwarzia emmae* Eardley, are described as new.

Key words: *Schwarzia*, cleptoparasitic, bee, East Africa

Introduction

The Biastini is a very small tribe of cleptoparasitic bees. It was previously known only from the Holarctic Region. Michener (2007) recognized three genera, *Biastes* Panzer, with four Palaearctic species, *Rhopalolemma* Roig-Alsina, with two Nearctic species, and *Neopasites* Ashmead, also Nearctic, has two subgenera with two and three described species. The tribe was recently discovered in East Africa. The Biastini are known to parasitize Rophitinae (Halictidae), and the only rophitine genus in the Afrotropical Region is *Systropha* Illiger. They are most common and most diverse in East Africa. Two female specimens were discovered in the SAMC, soon thereafter a male specimen was located in the NMK, and Max Schwarz had a female and two males. It was concluded that these specimens represented a new genus and species of Biastini.

Methods

In the description, the long axis of the body is always use to describe length, as opposed to width being 90° to the long axis. The metasomal terga and sterna are referred to as T and S, and numbered from front to back.

Schwarzia Eardley, gen. nov.

Type species. *Schwarzia emmae* sp. nov.

Description. Mandible with inner, pre-apical tooth; omaulus carinate; forewing second submarginal cell two and a half times longer than first submarginal cell, first submarginal cross vein interstitial with first recurrent vein; female T5 with subapical, elliptical pseudopygidium, posterolateral region of T5 elongate, curved inwards to form a circular orifice (Fig. 4); S5 narrowly emarginate posteromedially (Fig. 5); S6 spinose and bifid (Fig. 6).

Etymology. This genus is named for Maximillian Schwarz, for his help in establishing that this material belongs to a new genus, for his unfailing support and for his contributions to bee taxonomy. This genus is only known from the type species.

Accepted by E. Almeida: 1 Aug. 2009; published: 14 Oct. 2009