



Checklist of Peruvian Ichneumonidae (Insecta, Hymenoptera)

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Abstract

A checklist of the Peruvian Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera) is provided. A total of 391 species, in 134 genera and 20 subfamilies, are reported. Of these, 139 species are only known from Peru, and 48 represent undescribed species. This work reports nearly 53% more taxa than the checklist compiled by Francisco Carrasco (1972), representing a much needed update of that work. The checklist is updated to September 2009.

Key words: Amazonia, Andes, Parasitoids, Peru, South America, Taxonomy

Resumen

En el presente trabajo ofrecemos el catálogo actualizado de las especies de Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera) de Perú. En él se relacionan un total de 391 especies pertenecientes a 134 géneros y 20 subfamilias. Del total de especies, 139 sólo se conocen de Perú y 48 corresponden a nuevas especies no descritas. El catálogo incrementa en casi un 53% la relación de especies citada por Francisco Carrasco (1972). Este trabajo está actualizado hasta Septiembre de 2009.

Palabras clave: Amazonía, America del Sur, Andes, Parasitoides, Perú, Taxonomía

Introduction

The parasitoid wasp family Ichneumonidae is the most species rich family of the order Hymenoptera. There are approximately 24,000 described species of ichneumonids worldwide, but the true global species richness of the family may well exceed 100,000 (Yu & Horstmann 1997; Gauld *et al.* 2002; Yu *et al.* 2005). Almost all species of Ichneumonidae are parasitoids of other arthropods, and a variety of species are relatively abundant in most terrestrial habitats. Many ichneumonid species are large and brightly coloured, which makes them quite a conspicuous group of insects. They are also numerous in most of the largest entomological collections all over the world, but many remain unidentified, since the taxonomy and nomenclature of the family is considered problematic.

Townes & Townes (1966) attempted to revise the taxonomy and nomenclature of Neotropical Ichneumonidae in a catalogue that covered North and South America, South of the United States and islands nearby. They listed and reclassified altogether 1,771 species, but stated that the true species richness might be tenfold. After the work by Townes & Townes (1966), Ichneumonidae fauna of some Neotropical countries, e.g. that of Costa Rica, has become relatively well-known.