



The validity of *Hexacharis* Kieffer with taxonomic notes on Anacharitinae genera (Hymenoptera: Cynipoidea: Figitidae)

CLAUDIA X. RESTREPO-ORTIZ & JULI PUJADE-VILLAR

University of Barcelona. Faculty of Biology. Department of Animal Biology. Avda. Diagonal 645 - 08028 - Barcelona. Spain.
E-mail: claudiaximenaro@gmail.com, jpujade@ub.edu

Abstract

The status of *Hexacharis* is updated. A diagnosis and redescription of *Hexacharis flavipes* Kieffer, including the first description of the female, is given. *Aegilips neuropterophaga* (Díaz) is synonymized with *Calofigites nitidus* Kieffer. A key to the genera of Anacharitinae is provided.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Figitidae, Anacharitinae, taxonomic status

Introduction

Anacharitinae is a group of Cynipoidea that possess several characteristics that make the subfamily easily distinguishable from the rest of Figitidae (Ros-Farré *et al.* 2000). Anacharitinae includes eight genera and 74 described species (Ronquist 1999, Ros-Farré *et al.* 2003). The biology of anacharitines is unknown for most species; however, some of them have been cited as parasitoids of Aphid-feeding larvae belonging to the families Hemerobiidae and Chrysopidae (Neuroptera) according to Ronquist (1999).

Hexacharis was established by Kieffer (1907) to include a male near to *Aegilips*, collected in Colorado (USA) under the name *H. flavipes* Kieffer. Kieffer (1907) described *Hexacharis* with the following characters: smooth and shiny body, densely setose face, and the pronotum truncated and tilted vertically; the main feature was the antenna showing its third flagellomeres amended, which has not been observed so far in any other genus of Anacharitinae.

Díaz (1979) described a new species of *Hexacharis* from Argentina, *H. neuropterophaga*, based on females only. Later, Díaz (1986) synonymized *Hexacharis* with *Aegilips*. After studying several specimens deposited in CNCI of *Hexacharis*, collected from different U.S. states, in addition to the type material of *H. flavipes* and *H. neuropterophaga*, we feel there is sufficient justification for the reinstatement of this genus. Further, we realized that a complete restructuring of the taxonomy of these species was necessary. Ergo, this study restores and redefines the genus *Hexacharis* and contributes to clarifying the generic taxonomy of Anacharitinae, which has been scarcely studied throughout the last century. In addition, the distinctive morphology of the genera included in this subfamily is defined and illustrated. Weld's (1952) key has proved to be inaccurate in many respects; to address this, we provide a new key to the genera of Anacharitinae.

Material and methods

The material studied comes from the following institutions:

- Canadian National Collections of Insects (CNCI, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada): indeterminate material (Jennifer Read, Gary Gibson, curators)