



A new species of *Hexacola* Foerster (Hymenoptera: Figitidae), parasitoid of *Lemnaphila neotropica* Lizarralde de Grosso (Diptera: Ephydriidae)

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Abstract

A new parasitoid wasp species, the eucoilinae *Hexacola lemnaphilae* Gaddi & Díaz, is described. Specimens were reared from pupae of *Lemnaphila neotropica* Lizarralde de Grosso (Diptera: Ephydriidae), a shore fly that mines least duckweed, *Lemna minuta* Kunth (Lemnaceae); the material examined was collected in Berisso (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and is housed in the collection of the División Entomología of the Museo de La Plata, Argentina. Photographs of diagnostic characters and data about the ecological and economic importance of these organisms are included.

Key words: *Hexacola lemnaphilae*, Eucoilinae, parasitoid wasp, miner fly, least duckweed, biological control

Resumen

Nueva especie del género *Hexacola* Foerster (Hymenoptera: Figitidae), parasitoide de *Lemnaphila neotropica* Lizarralde de Grosso (Diptera: Ephydriidae). Se describe una nueva especie de avispa parasitoide, el eucoilino *Hexacola lemnaphilae* Gaddi & Díaz. Los ejemplares fueron obtenidos de pupas de *Lemnaphila neotropica* Lizarralde de Grosso (Diptera: Ephydriidae), una mosca minadora en lentejita de agua *Lemna minuta* Kunth (Lemnaceae); el material examinado fue recolectado en Berisso (Buenos Aires, Argentina) y está depositado en la colección de la División Entomología del Museo de La Plata, Argentina. Se incluyen fotografías de caracteres diagnósticos e información acerca de la importancia ecológica y económica de estos organismos.

Palabras clave: *Hexacola lemnaphilae*, Eucoilinae, avispa parasitoide, díptero minador, lentejita de agua, control biológico

Introduction

The genus *Hexacola* was described by Foerster in 1869 and belongs to the Eucoilinae, the richest and the most diverse subfamily of Figitidae in the Neotropical Region (Díaz *et al.* 2008). This subfamily has 42 species belonging to 26 genera reported for Argentina (Díaz & Gallardo, in press). Eucoilines are all parasitoids of Diptera Muscomorpha (Buffington & Ronquist 2006; Ronquist *et al.* 2006). To date, all known species of *Hexacola* are parasitoids of Chloropidae and Ephydriidae (Diptera) (Quinlan 1978; Beardsley 1989).

Currently, 16 species of *Hexacola sensu* Diamond *et al.* (2002) and Fontal & Nieves-Aldrey (2004) are known. The genus is widespread, and is present in the Neotropical, Holarctic and Ethiopian regions, as well as Oceania. Díaz *et al.* (2008) mention four species of *Hexacola* in the Neotropics, all of them cited for Central America. In spite of this, the only Neotropical species reviewed after Weld (1952) was *Hexacola hexatoma* (Hartig) by Nordlander (1981). Taxonomic studies of *Hexacola* have been carried out by Foerster (1869), Kieffer (1907), Dalla Torre & Kieffer (1910), Weld (1952), Yoshimoto (1963), Yoshimoto & Yasumatsu (1965), Quinlan (1978), and Beardsley (1989). This genus has been included in the *Ganaspis* group (Nordlander 1982; Fontal-Cazalla *et al.* 2002; Buffington *et al.* 2007), at present recognized as Ganaspini in