



New species of *Tobantilla* Casal, 1965 and a new genus and species, *Gogoltilla chichikovi* gen. et sp. nov., from Argentina (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae)

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Abstract

Seven new species of *Tobantilla* Casal are described: *T. aleatrix* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **sp. nov.** (Argentina), *T. andrikos* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **sp. nov.** (Colombia), *T. drosos* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **sp. nov.** (Argentina), *T. ephemeros* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **sp. nov.** (Argentina, Uruguay), *T. kolasma* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **sp. nov.** (Venezuela), *T. krima* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **sp. nov.** (Colombia), and *T. xouthos* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **sp. nov.** (Venezuela). Four of these species represent the first males described in *Tobantilla*. *Tobantilla frigidula* (Cresson), **comb. nov.** and the two original members of *Tobantilla*, *T. charrasca* Casal and *T. montonera* Casal, are redescribed. A new genus that is apparently closely related to *Pseudomethoca* Ashmead, but closely resembles *Tobantilla*, is described: *Gogoltilla* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **gen. nov.**, based on both sexes of *Gogoltilla chichikovi* Williams, Brothers & Pitts, **sp. nov.** (Argentina).

Key words: Sphaerophthalminae, Sphaerophthalmini, Pseudomethocina, velvet ants, Neotropics

Introduction

The genus *Tobantilla* Casal, 1965 was erected to include a single new species, *T. montonera*, which was known from females only (Casal 1965a). Casal (1969) described a second species, *T. charrasca*, which was also known only from females. In this same paper, Casal discussed males that had been collected in the same locality as *T. charrasca* and generally resembled the putative relatives of *Tobantilla*: *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901, *Reedomutilla* Mickel, 1964 and *Suarezitilla* Casal, 1968. When *Tobantilla* was listed in a phylogeny of mutillid higher taxa, Brothers (1975) recorded that the genus was known from both sexes and included four species, indicating that the male was known to him and he had seen a further two undescribed species. In a recent catalog of mutillid genera (Lelej & Brothers 2008), however, the *Tobantilla* male indicated by Brothers (1975) was said to have been based on a misidentification (it is described as a new genus below).

Although they have been discussed in the literature briefly, males of *Tobantilla* remain undescribed and the genus is still recorded only from Argentina (Nonveiller 1990). In this study, we describe seven new species of *Tobantilla*, including males, from Argentina, Colombia and Venezuela, transfer one Brazilian species into *Tobantilla* (from *Mutilla* Linnaeus), redescribe the previously known species to provide a consolidated account, and describe a new Argentinean genus and species that closely resembles *Tobantilla*.

Materials and terminology

The following codens are used for institutions housing the material discussed in the current study:

AMNH American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, USA.