



Spider wasps (Hymenoptera: Pompilidae) of the Dominican Republic

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Abstract

We recorded 33 species in 19 genera of spider wasps from the Dominican Republic, of which four species are newly described here: *Auplopus charlesi* Waichert & Pitts, **sp. nov.**, *Dipogon (Deuteragenia) marlowei* Waichert & Pitts, **sp. nov.**, *Notocyphus anacaona* Rodriguez & Pitts, **sp. nov.**, and *Priocnessus vancei* Waichert & Pitts, **sp. nov.** Eight genera are reported from the Dominican Republic for the first time: *Aporinellus* Banks, 1912, *Caliadurgus* Pate, 1946, *Dipogon* Fox, 1897, *Drepanaporus* Bradley, 1944, *Epipompilus* Kohl, 1884, *Notocyphus* Smith, 1855, *Priocnemis* Schiødte, 1837, and *Priocnessus* Banks, 1925. Nine species are new records for the country: *Ageniella (Ageniella) bruesi* (Banks, 1928), *Ageniella (Ageniella) violaceipes* (Cresson, 1865), *Aporinellus medianus* Banks, 1917, *Auplopus bellus* (Cresson, 1865), *Caliadurgus maestrus* Alayo, 1969, *Drepanaporus antillarum* (Bradley, 1944), *Drepanaporus collaris* (Cresson, 1865), *Epipompilus pulcherrimus* (Evans, 1955), and *Priocnemis cornica* (Say, 1836). *Pompilus flavopictus* Smith, 1862 is a junior synonym of *Poecilopompilus mixtus* (Fabricius, 1794), **syn. nov.** and *Odontaporus simulatrix* (Bradley, 1944) is junior synonym of *Drepanaporus collaris* (Cresson, 1865), **syn. nov.** New combination is proposed for *Aporus (Aporus) antillarum* (Bradley, 1944) which is transferred to *Drepanaporus*. Hitherto unknown males of *Ageniella (Ageniella) domingensis* (Banks, 1944) and *Drepanaporus antillarum* (Bradley, 1944) are described and illustrated. Illustrated keys for subfamilies and species of the Dominican Republic pompilids are provided.

Keywords: Pepsinae, Pompilinae, Ctenocerinae, Ceropalinae, key, new record, new species, Caribbean

Introduction

Pompilidae (spider wasps) is a cosmopolitan family of approximately 5,000 species in more than 230 genera. These wasps are moderate-to-large sized and are predators of spiders in a wide array of habitats. They are found on all continents except Antarctica, but their greatest species diversity occurs in the tropical regions of the World (Wasbauer 1995). Typical coloration tends to be black or blue, sometimes with metallic reflections, although many brightly colored species exist; the latter are often difficult to identify due to convergent color patterns. Sexual dimorphism is slight to moderate, with both sexes usually macropterous; a few brachypterous and apterous species are known (Brothers & Finnamore 1993). Spider wasps are often conspicuous and can be found feeding on flower nectar or searching on the ground for prey.

The Dominican Republic is the largest nation on the Hispaniola Island and the second largest country in Caribbean. In turn, Hispaniola Island is the second largest island in Caribbean; it is marked by mountain chains that are aligned perpendicularly to the trade winds, which is responsible for a great climatic diversity in the island (Izzo *et al.* 2010). The Dominican Republic has several different habitats, where climatic and vegetational conditions gradually change from the extremely humid to the arid (Izzo *et al.* 2010). This has endowed the Dominican Republic with different ecosystems and microclimates, which accounts for a significant numbers of endemic species (Perez-Gelabert 2008).

The spider wasps of the Dominican Republic have never been studied systematically. A general checklist of the Arthropods of Hispaniola was completed by Perez-Gelabert (2008), but this study was based on the literature