



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3664.3.8>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:60C67EFB-9C8A-4C70-8F18-1B5A3294215D>

## The genus *Hecabolus* Curtis 1834 (Braconidae: Doryctinae) in South America, with description of six new species

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### Abstract

Six new species of the doryctinae wasp genus *Hecabolus* Curtis 1834 (Braconidae) are described from Brazil and Venezuela: *H. assis* **sp. nov.**, *H. julianoi* **sp. nov.**, *H. robustus* **sp. nov.**, *H. semiaridus* **sp. nov.**, *H. shimborii* **sp. nov.**, and *H. sulmatogrossensis* **sp. nov.** A key to the nine described species of *Hecabolus* is provided.

**Key words:** Insecta, Hymenoptera, parasitoid, Ichneumonoidea

### Introduction

The subfamily Doryctinae is a large, morphologically heterogeneous group of parasitoid wasps and one of the most speciose and frequently collected braconid taxon in the tropics. Currently, more than 1,300 doryctine species have been described for 187 recognised genera (Yu et al., 2012). The doryctine genus *Hecabolus* Curtis was erected in the nineteenth century to contain a single species, *H. sulcatus* Curtis (Curtis, 1834). This species has been recorded to occur along the western part of the Palaearctic region, northern Africa and southern USA (Shenefelt and Marsh, 1976; Zaldívar-Riverón and Belokobylskij, 2009), though specimens from the last region appear to represent an undescribed species (Zaldívar-Riverón unpubl. data). In recent years, two new species of this genus with apparently narrower geographic distributions have been described from the Neotropics; *H. costaricensis* Marsh from Costa Rica (Marsh, 2002), and *H. mexicanus* Zaldívar-Riverón & Belokobylskij from Mexico, the latter based on a single female with imprecise locality (labelled “Mexico; Mendico”) collected a century ago (Zaldívar-Riverón and Belokobylskij, 2009).

Recent collecting carried out by the authors in Brazil and Venezuela, as well as examination of specimens collected by Fritz Plaumann in Brazil during the mid twentieth century and deposited at the Natural History Museum, London, UK, have revealed the existence of various undescribed species of *Hecabolus*. Here, we describe six new species of this genus from the above Brazil and Venezuela. A key to the nine described species of *Hecabolus* is also provided.