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The Brazilian Amazonian species of *Hymenoepimecis* Viereck, 1912 (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae: Pimplinae)

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Abstract

Six new species of *Hymenoepimecis* Viereck are described from Brazilian Amazonian tropical forest: *H. amazonensis* sp. n., *H. duckensis* sp. n., *H. kleini* sp. n., *H. manauara* sp. n., *H. ribeiroi* sp. n. and *H. uberensis* sp. n., and male genitalia is described for the first time for the genus. In addition, we provide an identification key, diagnosis and distributional records for Brazilian Amazonian species of *Hymenoepimecis*. By describing these new species we aim to draw further attention to the considerable species richness of the genus in Amazonia.

Key words: Koinobiont, neotropic, new species, *Polysphincta* genus-group, parasitoid, rain forest, taxonomy

Resumo

Seis novas espécies de *Hymenoepimecis* Viereck são descritas para a floresta amazônica brasileira: *H. amazonensis* sp. n., *H. duckensis* sp. n., *H. kleini* sp. n., *H. manauara* sp. n., *H. ribeiroi* sp. n. and *H. uberensis* sp. n., e a genitália dos machos é descrita pela primeira vez. Além disso, nós fornecemos uma chave de identificação, diagnoses e registros de distribuição para as espécies de *Hymenoepimecis* na Amazônia brasileira. Descrevendo essas novas espécies, nós pretendemos chamar atenção para a considerável riqueza de espécies do gênero na Amazônia.

Palavras chave: Cenobionte, floresta tropical, grupo de gêneros *Polysphincta*, neotrópico, novas espécies, parasitoide, taxonomia

Introduction

The genus *Hymenoepimecis* belongs to the *Polysphincta* genus-group of pimpline wasps (Wahl & Gauld 1998). The species of the genus are known to be koinobiont ectoparasitoids attacking sub-adult and adult orb-web-spinning spiders of the families Araneidae, Nephilidae and Tetragnathidae (e.g., Fincke *et al.* 1990; Gauld 2000; Gonzaga & Sobczak 2007; Sobczak *et al.* 2014). In some well-documented cases, the larva, before killing the host, induces the spider to perform stereotypical movements leading to the construction of a completely modified web structure, called a “cocoon web” (Eberhard 2000a, b; 2001; Gonzaga & Sobczak 2007; Sobczak *et al.* 2009; Gonzaga *et al.* 2010; Sobczak *et al.* 2014).

Hymenoepimecis is a neotropical genus, occurring from Mexico to southern Brazil and also in Cuba (Gauld 1991; 2000; Loffredo & Pentead-Dias 2009, Sobczak *et al.* 2009). It is closely related to *Acrotaphus* Townes and *Ticapimpla* Gauld. These three New World genera constitute a monophyletic assemblage which may be easily