

***Epsilogaster faviolae*, a new species of Mendesellinae from Colombia (Hymenoptera: Braconidae)**

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Abstract

A new species of mendeselline braconid wasp, *Epsilogaster faviolae* Valerio and Whitfield, **sp. nov.**, is described and illustrated. This is the first record from Colombia for the subfamily and the genus. An update to the previously published key for the *Epsilogaster* species is given to aid in identification.

Key words: Taxonomy, Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Mendesellinae, *Epsilogaster*, Neotropical region

Introduction

The subfamily Mendesellinae was only recently described (Whitfield & Mason, 1994) and its two genera, *Epsilogaster* Whitfield and Mason and *Mendesella* Whitfield and Mason, continue to be rarely collected. Valerio and Whitfield (2000) and Yamada and Pentead-Dias (personal communication) have added two new species of *Mendesella* from Costa Rica and Brazil, respectively, but *Epsilogaster* has remained with its original six described species. Recently, with the intensive malaise trapping regime of the NSF-funded Colombian Insect Biodiversity Project (<http://www.uky.edu/~mjshar0/>), more material of *Epsilogaster* has now been collected and studied. From this material, a new species is described below, and an update to the *Epsilogaster* species key from Whitfield & Mason (1994) is presented. The biology of the new species is unknown; only one rearing record is known for *Epsilogaster*, consisting of a series of *E. bicolor* that was reared from a twig borer (Lepidoptera: Momphidae) on buttonbush (*Cephalanthus*) in Mississippi.