

Review of the microgastrine braconid wasp genus *Exoryza*, with description of a new species, *E. monocavus*, from Central America

A. A. VALERIO^{1,2}, A. R. DEANS² & J. B. WHITFIELD²

¹ Central American Institute of Biological Research and Conservation (CIBRC). P.O. Box 2398-2050 San Pedro de Montes de Oca, San José, Costa Rica. (AAV) avalerio_13@hotmail.com.

² Department of Entomology, 320 Morrill Hall, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 505 S. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801, U.S.A. (ARD) adeans@life.uiuc.edu, (JBW) jwhitfie@life.uiuc.edu.

Abstract

A new species of the rarely collected microgastrine braconid wasp genus *Exoryza* Mason, *E. monocavus* n. sp., is described and illustrated. With this finding, the geographical range for the genus is extended to Central America in the New World, from a previous known distribution including only North America (*E. minnesota* Mason) and Asia (*E. schoenobii* (Wilkinson)). The two previously described species are redescribed, and an illustrated key for all three species is presented.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Braconidae, *Exoryza*, new species, New World tropics

Introduction

The braconid wasp subfamily Microgastrinae, with approximately 1500 described species and dozens of species employed in the biological control of lepidopteran pest insects (Whitfield, 1997), constitutes one of the most important groups of parasitoids. Despite its economic and ecological importance, the subfamily still is poorly known in many areas of the world, especially in the New World tropics and Southern Hemisphere temperate zones. New genera are still being described in the group periodically, and other genera are known from only a few identified specimens even though it is clear they contain multiple species. One of the most infrequently collected and poorly known microgastrine genera is the genus *Exoryza* Mason.

Mason (1981) described *Exoryza* to include those species in the tribe Apantelini with broad, heavily sculptured metasomal tergites I and II and a coarsely rugose (although apparently areolate) propodeum. He included in the genus two species: *E. schoenobii*