Description of two new species of Dryinidae (Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea) from Argentina

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Abstract

The following new species of Dryinidae (Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea) from Argentina are described: Anteon nicolasi and Gonatopus julianae. Changes in the key to the Neotropical Anteon and Gonatopus are proposed.

Key words: Dryinidae, Argentina, Anteon nicolasi, Gonatopus julianae, taxonomy

Introduction

The Dryinidae (Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea) are parasitoids and usually also predators of Hemiptera Cicadomorpha and Fulgoromorpha, mainly Cicadellidae, Delphacidae and Flatidae (Guglielmino & Olmi, 1997). In the Neotropics, they are represented by about 450 species and 22 genera, belonging to 6 subfamilies. Many taxonomic and biological studies have been carried out from 1974 to the date; however, the Neotropical Dryinidae are still insufficiently known; more than 80% of the Neotropical species are known only from one of the sexes, and the relationships with their hosts are practically unknown (Olmi et al., 2000).

Based on the recognized worldwide distribution of Dryinidae genera, it seems that this family has not represented a major biogeographic interest. It is often difficult to determine whether the absence of a species in a region is real or it is due to the absence of collections. As a consequence, more intensive research will be required to seriously test scientific speculations about biogeographical distribution of Dryinidae species. Hitherto, almost all genera seem to exhibit a broad distribution in the Neotropical region.