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Report of a novel biological association for Paracrias huberi Gumovsky (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) with redescription of the female and description of the unknown male

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Abstract

The female of Paracrias huberi Gumovsky (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) is redescribed and the previously unknown male described from material collected by George B. Vogt near Plummers Island, Maryland. The species is diagnosed and placed within the current phylogenetic concept for the genus Paracrias. Collection records indicate this species was reared from Homoeolabus analis Illiger (Coleoptera: Attelabidae), which is a leaf-rolling herbivore of Quercus spp. and Castanea spp. (Fagales: Fagaceae), thus expanding the potential host guild range of the genus Paracrias and the known biology of the species. In addition, these records report an association with Q. prinus L., a species native to the eastern United States. The implications of these discoveries in relation to the biology of the plant, host, and wasp parasite are reviewed and discussed.

Key words: Chalcidoidea, Entedoninae, systematics, host, parasitoid, gregarious, Quercus montana, chestnut oak, George B. Vogt

Introduction

This is the first in a series of several papers in which we describe new chalcidoid taxa from the Nearctic and Neotropical regions collected by George B. Vogt. Vogt was an avid student of the biology of leaf-mining Coleoptera and leaf-rolling attelabids (Anderson et al. 1991). He traveled extensively from 1960 until his death in 1990 in the area between the eastern United States and Panama, and Brazil, amassing a collection of thousands of rearing records from a variety of host plants. Vogt was described as being eccentric in his record keeping (Anderson et al. 1991) and he left behind a trail of cryptic notes, but orga-