

***Euglossa paisa*, a new species of orchid bee from the Colombian Andes (Hymenoptera: Apidae)**

SANTIAGO RAMÍREZ

Museum of Comparative Zoology and Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, 26 Oxford st., Cambridge, MA 02138, USA
Email: sramirez@oeb.harvard.edu

Abstract

A distinct new species of orchid bee, *Euglossa paisa* Ramírez n. sp., is here described. Various morphological characters suggest that this new taxon belongs to the subgenus *Glossurella*, a group composed of 21 species whose members occur throughout low and mid elevation tropical America. *E. paisa* n. sp. is morphologically closest to *E. oleolucens* Dressler, a species endemic to the montane region of southern Costa Rica, and these two to *E. fuscifrons* Dressler, a species endemic to the lowland wet forests of the northwest Amazon Basin. *E. paisa* is endemic to the Cordillera Central of Colombia, a region of elevated diversity and profuse endemism.

Key words: Apidae, Euglossini, *Glossurella*, *bursigera* species group, northern Andes, Cordillera Central, endemism, Colombia, orchid bee

Introduction

The brightly colored, long-tongued orchid bees (apid tribe Euglossini) inhabit the New World tropics and constitute a relatively well-studied group of animals (Roubik & Hanson 2004). They have received significant attention in the past 150 years, in particular because they are the exclusive pollinators of nearly 700 orchid species. Although by the early 1960s only 90 species of orchid bees had been described (Moure 1967), the discovery of chemical baits that readily attract males to traps allowed much better sampling and promoted a rapid recent advancement in the taxonomy of the group, resulting in 190 currently recognized extant species (Ramírez *et al.* 2002; Moure & Schindewin 2002; Oliveira & Nemésio 2003; Roubik 2004). While the discovery of new taxa appears to have reached a plateau in the well-surveyed countries of Meso-America (Roubik & Hanson 2004), many species continue to be described from poorly studied and/or highly diverse countries like Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.