

A new subgenus and three new species of leafcutter bees, *Megachile* (*Austrosarus*) (Hymenoptera, Megachilidae) from central Brazil

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Abstract

A new subgenus, *Austrosarus*, and three new species of *Megachile* from central Brazil are described. *Austrosarus* shares some characteristics with the subgenera *Austromegachile*, *Chrysosarus* and *Sayapis*. *M. frankieana* occurs in the Federal District of Brasília, in Goiás and Minas Gerais states and in eastern and southern Mato Grosso, while *M. diasi* and *M. candanga* have been collected only in the Federal District. A key is provided to identify the females.

Key words: Solitary bees; Neotropics; cerrado

Resumo

Um novo subgênero, *Austrosarus* e três novas espécies de *Megachile* do Brasil central são descritas. *Austrosarus* possui alguns característicos dos subgêneros *Austromegachile*, *Chrysosarus* e *Sayapis*. *M. frankieana* ocorre no Distrito Federal, nos estados de Goiás e Minas Gerais e no leste e no sul de Mato Grosso, enquanto *M. candanga* e *M. diasi* foram coletadas somente no Distrito Federal. Uma chave para a identificação das fêmeas está fornecida.

Introduction

Three undescribed species of *Megachile* have been collected in the cerrados of central Brazil which do not belong to any known subgenus. Here, a new subgenus is established and the species are described. This is the 31st subgenus known from the Americas (Raw 2003). To date only one species of *Austrosarus* has proven to be relatively widespread, having been found in the Federal District and in central Goiás, southern Minas Gerais and eastern and southern Mato Grosso states. The two others are known only from the Federal District. All three were found at the flowers of herbaceous cerrado plants.