

The description of *Moritiella* Buffington, new genus (Hymenoptera: Figitidae: Eucoilinae)

MATTHEW L. BUFFINGTON

Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521 USA

Present address: Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA, c/o Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, 10th & Constitution Ave., NW, Washington DC 20013, USA

Abstract

The genus *Moritiella* Buffington, n. gen., is described, diagnosed and illustrated (Hymenoptera: Figitidae: Eucoilinae). Two species new to science are described: *M. elegans* n. sp. and *M. astrudae* n. sp. Phylogenetic evidence suggests *Moritiella* is among the *Zaeucoila* group of genera, a group of eucoilines chiefly parasitic upon leaf-mining Agromyzidae (Diptera).

Key words: *Moritiella*, *Zaeucoila* group, Eucoilinae, Figitidae, Cynipoidea, new species, new genus

Introduction

The Eucoilinae (Hymenoptera: Figitidae) are a unique group of parasitic wasps characterized by the possession of a scutellar plate with a glandular release pit situated in the center (Ronquist, 1995; Fontal-Cazalla *et al.*, 2002). No tribal level classification exists at the present for Eucoilinae, ergo genera have been informally grouped according to shared morphological and biological attributes (Nordlander 1982; Buffington, 2002; Fontal-Cazalla *et al.* 2002). Species of one such group of genera, the *Zaeucoila* group, predominately parasitize leaf-mining flies (Diptera: Agromyzidae) and have a stout, compact appearance, often with various carinae and ridges on the mesoscutum as well as projections on the posterior and lateral margins of the scutellum (Nordlander 1982; Buffington, 2002).

In the course of curating the Eucoilinae housed within the Canadian National Collection of Insects (CNC, Ottawa, Canada) and the United States National Museum (USNM, Washington, DC) in Spring 2002, I amassed a small series of what appeared to be