

A new species of *Cryptalyra* (Hymenoptera, Megalyridae) from Brazil with a key to species of the genus

C.O. AZEVEDO¹ & M.T. TAVARES²

Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Av. Marechal Campos 1468, Maruípe, 29.040-090 Vitória, ES, Brazil

Abstract

Cryptalyra depressa sp. nov. is described and illustrated based on a specimen from state of Pará, Brazil. This species is easily recognizable by having a wide longitudinal depression along the propodeum. A key to species based on females is presented.

Key words: Wasps, Neotropical region, Taxonomy, Brazil

Introduction

Cryptalyra aShaw, 1987 belongs to the family Megalyridae, which comprises at least 48 species in eight extant and three extinct genera (Shaw 1990, 2003).

Cryptalyra is a small genus with two previously described species confined to South America. They are *C. plaumann* aShaw, 1987, from Southern Brazil, and *C. colombia* Shaw, 2003, from Colombia; both were described on female holotypes deposited at the American Entomological Institute (U.S.A.) and the Instituto Alexander von Humboldt (Colombia), respectively.

Neotropical Megalyridae are very rare in nature (Shaw, 1987) and in collections. Over the past fifteen years we have visited many collections in Brazil and we were able to find only one specimen of this family while sorting a sample of suspended Malaise trap from Cachoeira do Rio Vermelho Farm in the state of Pará. Given the rarity we have chosen to present this description, which represents the first record of the genus from northern Brazil.