

On the morphology of the juvenile stages of *Ampulex compressa* (Fabricius 1781) (Hymenoptera, Ampulicidae)

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Abstract

Ampulex compressa is a cockroach-hunting ampulicid wasp. In this survey we describe its egg, mature larva, along with the 1st and 2nd larval instars and cocoon, with emphasis on the characters considered important to the phylogeny of apoïd wasps. It shares the following traits with the Sphecidae: reduced head setae, absence of antennal papilla, three antennal sensilla on antennal orbit, broad and strongly emarginate labrum, and spinneret with prominent raised lips. In common with other Ampulicidae, it has integument of the body granulate and without setae, mandibles with four or five teeth and lacking basal setae, maxillary palp larger than galea and discrete parietal bands. Distinct from the other Ampulicidae, it has a deep median longitudinal groove in the area above the salivary lips, a distinct group of five sensilla on the subgenal area, and lacks spines on the spiracular peritreme.

Key words: Hymenoptera; Sphecidae; Ampulicidae; larval description; phylogeny

Introduction

The Ampulicidae is a mainly tropical family of solitary cockroach-hunting wasps with six recognised genera and nearly 200 species (Gayubo *et al.* 1998; Ohl 2002). They are believed to have a comparatively basal position within the Apoidea although their exact parentage is still unclear (Ohl and Bleidorn, 2006; Alexander 1992; Melo 1999).