

## ***Euglossa natesi* n. sp., a new species of orchid bee from the Chocó region of Colombia and Ecuador (Hymenoptera: Apidae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of orchid bee in the genus *Euglossa* is here described. *Euglossa natesi* n. sp. Parra-H, Ospina-Torres & Ramírez has been collected from the Pacific Andean foothills of Colombia and Ecuador. *Euglossa natesi* n. sp. has no obvious close relatives, and while most morphological characters suggest that it belongs to the subgenus *Glossura*, a few characters indicate that it belongs to the subgenus *Glossurella*.

**Key words:** Orchid bee, Euglossini, Colombia, Ecuador, Andes, Chocó Region, endemism, *Euglossa*, *Glossura*, *Glossurella*, genitalia

### **Introduction**

Orchid bees abound in the lowland wet forests of the Neotropical Region, although a few species also occur in dry, open habitats (Ramírez *et al.* 2002, Roubik & Hanson 2004). Of the five genera that comprise the orchid bee tribe Euglossini, *Euglossa* Latreille 1802 is the most species-rich, with more than 110 described species. The genus *Euglossa* is commonly subdivided into six subgenera (*Dasytilbe*, *Euglossa* s.str., *Euglossella*, *Glossura*, *Glossurella* and *Glossuropoda*), as originally proposed by Dressler (1978) and Moure (1989). However, this classification scheme was rejected by Michener (2000) on the basis of little morphological discontinuity between the groups.

While most of the taxonomic characters typically used to diagnose species are unique to males (Dressler 1978, Bonilla-Gomez & Nates-Parra 1992), conspecific males and females do show similar coloration, punctation, size and form. Male-specific characters