

A new species of *Protandrena* Cockerell from Brazil (Hymenoptera, Apidae, Andreninae)*

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*Contribution nr. 1640 from the Departamento de Zoologia da Universidade Federal do Paraná

Abstract

Protandrena avulsa **new species**, from Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais (southeastern Brazil) is described and illustrated. This species is unique within *Protandrena* for its well-developed pronotal lamella, similar to what is found in *Pseudopanurgus* and *Parapsaenythia*, and by its protuberant interantennal area. This is the first record of this bee genus in Brazil.

Key words: Andrenidae, Neotropical, Protandrenini, South America, Systematics

Introduction

The Protandrenini is a group of bees restricted to the Americas and abundant in the Nearctic region and temperate South America. According to Michener (2000), this is a diverse tribe but with very homogeneous morphology. However, the current classification is considerably precarious, with many undescribed species which cannot be easily attributed to existing genera, especially in the South American fauna (e.g. Schlindwein & Moure 1998; Silveira *et al.* 2002; Ruz & Chiappa 2004).

Protandrena Cockerell consists of slender bees with black body, rarely metallic, and commonly with yellow markings on the face and pronotum, mainly in the males. The genus is recognized by Michener (2000) in a broader sense, considering many genera treated by Ruz (1986) as subgenera. Currently, *Protandrena* is divided into six subgenera: *Protandrena s. str.*, *Pterosarus*, *Metapsaenythia*, *Heterosarus*, *Parasarus* and *Austropanurgus*. Despite being widely distributed in the Americas, it has not been previously recorded from Brazil. We here describe a new species of *Protandrena* from Espírito Santo and Minas Gerais.