



Taxonomic status of the bees from French Guiana described by Jules Dominique (Hymenoptera: Apidae, Megachilidae, Halictidae)

In March 1898 Abbé Jules Dominique (1838–1902; Bureau, 1903; Fig. 1) published an account of the bees collected by Constant Bar (1817–1884; Oberthür, 1888) and his family in French Guiana (Dominique, 1898). Jean M. Pérez (1833–1914) had identified both the new and known species reported by Dominique and provided Dominique with manuscript names for the new species. While Pérez never published any of the proposed new species (Anonymous, 1917), Dominique in his account of the collection included both the manuscript names and a brief description in his own words for several of these species. Michener (1987) pointed out the taxonomic implications of this publication, in particular the potential instability to nomenclature when rediscovering names which have not been used for more than a century. While Michener considered several of Dominique's new names valid, Moure (1967) had incorrectly regarded all of Dominique's species of *Euglossa* and *Eulaema* as *nomina nuda*.

As the names proposed by Dominique have not been used as valid since 1898 (except for *Hoplostelis*), they are candidates for a moderation of the principle of priority if necessary (I.C.Z.N., 1999: Art. 23.9.1.). This allows for prevailing usage of names when the junior synonym has been used “in at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors in the immediately preceding 50 years and encompassing a span of not less than 10 years”. Dominique proposed a total of 31 new specific names and two new generic



FIGURE 1. Abbé Jules Dominique (1838–1902).

names. While the I.C.Z.N. (1999) recognizes (Art. 11) the publication of Dominique as valid, 19 of his new specific names are *nomina nuda* (Art. 12), without nomenclatural relevance as no descriptions or definitions were attached to them. We examined the two available generic names and the twelve remaining available specific names and provide suggested synonymy, and designate lectotypes, to stabilize their future use. Dominique (1898) did not state how many specimens he examined and all types are therefore regarded as syntypes. The only name we were unable to determine the identity of was *Euglossa violascens* Dominique. This taxon clearly belonged in drawer 10189 (label still present), but the actual (unique) specimen attached to this name is missing.

Bar's collection was made at Île Portal [5°25'0 N; 54°4'60 W] near Saint Laurent du Maroni on the Maroni River at the border between French Guiana and Suriname. Labels are printed and read “Maroni \ Guyane-Française \ Legs E. Bar” while a few others are hand-written (“Guyane Française”). Dominique (1898) accredited the collection to Messieurs Bar: Constant Bar (Oberthür, 1888) and his family (chiefly E. Bar) in French Guiana. The collection was originally deposited by Bar in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Nantes, France, where it remains today in good condition and in the original drawers of Dominique.