



Contribution to the knowledge of the Neotropical genus *Plagiolabra* von Schulthess (Hymenoptera, Vespidae, Eumeninae)*

MARCEL G. HERMES

Laboratório de Biologia Comparada de Hymenoptera, Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Caixa Postal 19020, 81531-980, Curitiba, PR, Brazil. E-mail: mghermes@gmail.com

*Contribution number 1710 of Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal do Paraná

Abstract

Plagiolabra von Schulthess is a Neotropical eumenine wasp genus that has not received much attention in the last century. Brief redescriptions of the two included species are provided, along with an identification key, illustrations and a distributional map. Male genitalia are illustrated and described for the first time. A discussion of the monophyly of the genus and phylogenetically relevant characters is presented.

Key words: Eumeninae, male genitalia, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Plagiolabra* was proposed by von Schulthess in 1903, based in two specimens from Villa Rica, Paraguay. The genus name refers to the width of the labrum, which is clearly broader than long apically and is one of the main features that allow ready recognition of the taxon (figs. 1, 2, 6 and 7). Von Schulthess compared it to *Nortonia* de Saussure, differentiating the two genera based on the shape of the labial and maxillary palpi and on the shape of the mandibles, which are semi-elliptical and without teeth in *Plagiolabra*. The genus may also be recognized by the broad axillary fossae, tegulae laterally emarginate and the propodeal dorsum nearly horizontal, at about the same level as the metanotum (Carpenter & Cumming 1985; Carpenter & Garcete-Barrett 2002).

Species of *Plagiolabra* are rarely collected and poorly represented in most collections. Besides the original descriptions (von Schulthess 1903; Brèthes 1903; Brèthes 1906), which provided few drawings, and Zavattari's (1912) work, which presented a key to species (despite Zavattari himself examined only exemplars of one species), new locality records and a figure of the wing venation, no other work concerning the genus taxonomy and systematics was ever published. This study presents a catalog of the species of *Plagiolabra*, as well as descriptions of general aspects such as coloration, pilosity and body sculpture, an identification key, illustrations and a distributional map. Structures used in species recognition are presented in the key. Male genitalia of both species are illustrated and described for the first time. A discussion of the monophyly of the genus and phylogenetically relevant characters is also provided, based on a cladistic analysis of *Pseudodynerus* de Saussure (including both species of *Plagiolabra* as outgroup) that was carried by the author and will be addressed elsewhere (Hermes & Melo in prep.).