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A taxonomic review of Cuban *Eiphosoma* Cresson (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae), with biogeographical notes

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Abstract

We revise the Cuban species of *Eiphosoma* Cresson (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae: Cremastinae). Three new species are described: *E. bioeco* **sp. nov.**, *E. dearmasi* **sp. nov.** and *E. nelitae* **sp. nov.** All species are assigned to species-groups as defined by Gauld (2000) for the Mesoamerican fauna, and a key to Cuban species is provided. A preliminary analysis of the distribution and faunal similarity for species within the Cuban archipelago is discussed; the Cuban fauna is compared to that of the Caribbean Islands, Florida (USA) and Costa Rica.

Key words: *Eiphosoma*, Ichneumonidae, taxonomy, biogeography, Cuba, Caribbean

Resumen

Se revisan las especies del género *Eiphosoma* (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae: Cremastinae) en Cuba. Se describen tres nuevas especies: *E. bioeco* **sp. nov.**, *E. dearmasi* **sp. nov.** y *E. nelitae* **sp. nov.** Todas las especies se asignan a los grupos de especies definidos por Gauld (2000) para la fauna de Mesoamérica y se proporciona una clave para separar las especies cubanas. Se analiza preliminarmente la distribución y similitud faunística del género en el archipiélago cubano, y sus relaciones con el Caribe insular, Florida (USA) y Costa Rica.

Palabras clave: *Eiphosoma*, Ichneumonidae, taxonomía, biogeografía, Cuba, Caribe

Introduction

Eiphosoma Cresson is a New World genus of Cremastinae (Ichneumonidae) comprising about 50 described species (Gauld 2000). However, this figure is far from complete because numerous species, mostly in South America (Gauld 2000), remain undescribed. The overwhelming majority of species of *Eiphosoma* occur in lowland habitats, and the genus includes some of the most common ichneumonid wasps likely to be seen and collected in open and degraded habitats. Several species are important natural enemies of lepidopterous pests in agroecosystems (Ashley *et al.* 1982; Gauld 2000; Pozo 2000).

There have been three taxonomic reviews in the last century that treated *Eiphosoma* species of the New World tropics: Cockerel (1913), Costa Lima (1953) and Gauld (2000). The last study focused on the Costa Rican fauna and relied mostly on structural features instead of colour (as in earlier works); the known species were assigned to nine more or less distinct species-groups.

The number of *Eiphosoma* species in Cuba has remained at six during the last 30 years. Alayo (1973)

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