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Liphanthus Reed, 1894 (Hymenoptera, Andrenidae, Protandrenini): Two new Argentine species and keys to the species of the subgenera *Liphanthus s. str.* and *Melaliphanthus* Ruz & Toro, 1983

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Abstract

In this paper two new species of the bee genus *Liphanthus* are described. One, belongs to the subgenus *Liphanthus s. str.* the other to *Melaliphanthus*. Both were collected in the Province of Mendoza, Argentina. These new species are the first records of members of those subgenera formally known for Argentina. Keys to the species of both subgenera are provided.

En este trabajo se describen dos especies nuevas de abejas del género *Liphanthus*, perteneciendo una de ellas al subgénero *Liphanthus s.str.*, mientras que la otra a *Melaliphanthus*, siendo ambas colectadas en la Provincia de Mendoza, Argentina. Estas nuevas especies corresponden al primer registro publicado de miembros de los subgéneros *Liphanthus s. str.* y *Melaliphanthus* conocidos para Argentina. Se proporcionan claves de identificación para todas las especies conocidas de ambos subgéneros.

Key words: *Liphanthus*, Andrenidae, Panurginae, Protandrenini, Systematics

Introduction

The species of the genus *Liphanthus* Reed are generally small bees (3-7 mm long), with black body and reduced pilosity; they have a narrow pterostigma, slighly broader than the prestigma, with sub-parallel sides, and the majority of species have three submarginal cells (Ruz & Toro, 1983; Tapia & Ruz, 2003). The recognition of *Liphanthus* is also facilitated by the head, which is broader than the mesosoma and by the basal constriction on the surface of the second tergum, which is absent on the other terga (Ruz & Toro, 1983). This group of bees exhibits strong sexual dimorphism (Tapia & Ruz, 2003), where the males have yellow areas on the head and legs, while the females tend to be black, although in some groups, such as in the subgenera *Liphanthus s. str.* and *Xenoliphanthus*, the females of some species have red metasoma.

The phylogenetic relationships among the species groups known at the time were reconstructed by Ruz & Toro (1983) using external morphological characters. Those authors erected seven subgenera, bringing together 25 of the 26 known species. Only *L. friesellus* Ruz & Toro was not included in any subgenus. A few years later, *L. quadrifasciatus* Toro was described (Toro, 1989). Although it shares morphological characteristics with the species of the subgenus *Leptophanthus* Ruz & Toro, *L. quadrifasciatus* was not formally placed in that subgenus because of unique features of this species. Recent descriptions of four additional species of *Liphanthus* were performed by Tapia & Ruz (2003), who included only one (*L. incasicus*) in a subgeneric cat-

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