



## Neotropical Meliponini: the genus *Leurotrigona* Moure — two new species (Hymenoptera: Apidae, Apinae)

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### Abstract

Two new species of *Leurotrigona* are described: *L. crispula* **sp. nov.**, from the Magdalena River valley, Antioquia, Colombia, and *L. gracilis* **sp. nov.**, from western Amazon. Additional geographic records and illustrations are provided for *L. muelleri* (Friese) and *L. pusilla* Camargo & Moure, as well as an identification key to the species of the genus. Species can be recognized mainly by pilosity on the face. Morphological characters, including shape of the head and tibia III of the workers, and genitalia and pre-genital sterna of the male are indicative of two distinct groups, one composed of *L. muelleri* and *L. gracilis* **sp. nov.** and the other, of *L. pusilla* and *L. crispula* **sp. nov.**

**Key words:** Stingless bees, taxonomy, identification key, males

### Resumo

Duas novas espécies do gênero *Leurotrigona* são descritas: *L. crispula* **sp. nov.**, do vale do rio Magdalena, Antioquia, Colômbia, e *L. gracilis* **sp. nov.** do oeste da Amazônia. Registros geográficos adicionais e ilustrações são apresentados para *L. muelleri* (Friese) e *L. pusilla* Camargo & Moure, bem como uma chave de identificação para as espécies do gênero. As espécies podem ser reconhecidas principalmente pela pilosidade da face. Caracteres morfológicos, como forma da cabeça e da tibia III das operárias, e genitália e esternos pré-genitais dos machos indicam dois grupos distintos, um composto por *L. muelleri* e *L. gracilis* **sp. nov.** e outro por *L. pusilla* e *L. crispula* **sp. nov.**

**Palavras-chave:** Abelhas-sem-ferrão, taxonomia, chave de identificação, machos

### Introduction

*Leurotrigona* is composed of some of the smallest stingless bees (1.7–3.0 mm), with very smooth and shiny integument. The known species, *L. muelleri* (Friese, 1900) and *L. pusilla* Moure & Camargo, 1988, are restricted to eastern South America, not crossing the Andean cordillera. A new species described here, closely related to *L. pusilla*, extends the distributional limit of *Leurotrigona* to the Magdalena Valley in Colombia. Another new species occurs in occidental Amazonia, from Rio Negro to Acre and Rondônia in Brazil and is related to *L. muelleri*.

The small size, lack of yellow markings on the head and thorax, reduced wing venation, long malar space, the short scutellum and long propodeum were some of the characters used by Schwarz (1938: 498; 1948: 169) and Moure (1950b, 1951), to justify grouping African, Indo-Malayan and South-American species in the subgenus *Trigona* (*Hypotrigona*) Cockerell, 1934. Moure (1950b), however, recognized the lack of “homogeneity” among the species included in *Trigona* (*Hypotrigona*), and elevated *Hypotrigona* to generic rank,