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A new *Dinapsis* species from the Central African Republic (Hymenoptera, Megalyridae, Dinapsini)

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Abstract

A new species of megalyrid wasp, *Dinapsis centralis* Shaw and van Noort sp. nov. from the Central African Republic is described and illustrated. The new species is contrasted with other described species of *Dinapsis*. An online key to *Dinapsis* species is available at: http://www.waspweb.org/Megalyroidea/Megalyridae/Keys/index.htm. This represents the first record of any megalyrid species from the Central African Republic and the northernmost confirmed distribution of *Dinapsis* in the Afrotropical region. The taxonomic history, distribution, biogeography and biology of Megalyridae are discussed.

Key words, Hymenoptera, Megalyridae, Afrotropical, Parc National de Dzanga-Ndoki, parasitoid, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

The insect family Megalyridae comprises eight known living genera and at least three extinct genera of archaic parasitoid wasps (Shaw 1987, 1988, 1990a, 1990b, 2003, 2005; Poinar & Shaw 2007; Mita *et al*. 2007). Two of these, *Dinapsis* Waterston and *Megalyridia* Hedqvist are indigenous to the Afrotropical region (Waterston 1922; Hedqvist 1959, 1967; Shaw 1990b). *Dinapsis turneri* Waterston from South Africa is the only previously described *Dinapsis* species from the African mainland (Waterston 1922). Hedqvist (1967) described five other *Dinapsis* species from Madagascar. The purpose of this paper is to describe a new species of *Dinapsis* representing the first record of any Megalyridae species from the Central African Republic and the northernmost confirmed distribution of *Dinapsis* in the Afrotropical region. Two species of the megalyrid genus *Carminator* Shaw are known from as far north as Japan (Mita *et al*. 2007), while an extinct species of *Megalyra* Westwood is known from Baltic amber from the Kaliningrad Region of Russia (Poinar & Shaw 2007). This research is a contribution to the Wasps of Africa and Madagascar project (van Noort 2004–2009).

Megalyridae is the sole family of the wasp superfamily Megalyroidea in modern classifications (Shaw 1988, 1990b; Mason 1993; Gauld & Hanson 1995; Grimaldi & Engel 2005). The family Megalyridae is regarded as monophyletic based on the presence of a pronotal spiracle, and uniquely reduced hind wing venation with short RS vein stub (Gibson 1985; Shaw 1988, 1990b; Poinar & Shaw 2007; Mita *et al*. 2007). Another family, Dinapsidae, was proposed by Waterston (1922) for the South African genus *Dinapsis*. Brues (1923) described an extinct genus from Baltic amber, *Prodinapsis*, which he initially assigned to the family Dinapsidae. In the same paper, Brues noted that the differences between Megalyridae and Dinapsidae were "very minor" and that it seemed doubtful that the Dinapsidae could be retained as a distinct family. After

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