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Taxonomic notes on *Euglossa (Glossuropoda)* with a key to the known species (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Euglossina)

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Abstract

Euglossa hugonis Moure, 1989, described from the municipality of Tabatinga, state of Amazonas, Brazil, and *Euglossa juremae* Moure, 1989 described from the municipality of Vigia, state of Pará, Brazil, were recently considered to be the same species and synonymized under the former nomen. Through examination of both holotypes, I here show that both forms are distinct species. Additionally, it is strongly suggested that *Euglossa hugonis* and *Euglossa rugilabris* Moure, 1967 are the same species, and *E. hugonis* (**syn. n.**) is here considered a junior synonym of *E. rugilabris*. A synonymic list of all species of *Euglossa (Glossuropoda)* is presented, as well as the first identification key for the species of this subgenus.

Key words: Amazon Basin, orchid bees, taxonomy, systematics

Introduction

Orchid bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Apini: Euglossina) are Neotropical bees that show a strong preference for densely forested environments (*e. g.* Ducke 1902, Braga 1976, Roubik & Ackerman 1987, Oliveira & Campos 1995, Nemésio & Silveira 2006a, b, 2007a, b). These bees are known to be the exclusive pollinators of many orchid species (see Dressler 1982a for a review) and are currently placed in five genera: *Aglae* Lepeletier & Serville, 1825, *Eufriesea* Cockerell, 1908, *Euglossa* Latreille, 1802, *Eulaema* Lepeletier, 1841, and *Exaerete* Hoffmannsegg, 1817. The genus *Euglossa* is, by far, the most speciose in the subtribe, comprising more than 120 recognized valid species (see Nemésio 2009).

Although subgenera were proposed for *Euglossa* (see Cockerell 1917, Moure 1967b, 1989, Dressler 1978, 1982b), these subdivisions have been questioned by Michener (2000, 2007) and Nemésio (2009: 8), although for different reasons. One of these subgenera, *E. (Glossuropoda)*, was erected by Moure (1989) to accommodate one species (*Euglossa intersecta* Audouin, 1824[1]) formerly placed in *E. (Glossura)* Cockerell, 1917 and two species described in the same paper: *Euglossa hugonis* Moure, 1989 and *Euglossa juremae* Moure, 1989. Subsequently, Roubik (2004) re-arranged the subgenera *Glossura* and *Glossuropoda*, moving species from the former to the latter. Besides describing new species in *Glossura* and *Glossuropoda* and taking other nomenclatural acts, Roubik (2004: 250) synonymized *E. juremae* under *E. hugonis*, stating that he "found no differences in male midtibial tufts or other characteristics, although not all bees appeared the same size".

Moure (1989), when describing *E. hugonis* and *E. juremae*, admitted that both species are similar. The two main characters Moure (1989) used to distinguish both species, apparently, were: (i) body length (15.0 mm in *E. hugonis*; 11.6 mm in *E. juremae*) and shape and size of the mesotibial tufts (both tufts approximately the same size in *E. hugonis* and the posterior tuft much smaller than the anterior one in *E. juremae*). Moure (1989) commented on the integument coloration of both species but did not emphasize the differences

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