



Revisiting the Brazilian fauna of masarine wasps: new records, an illustrated key to species and a description of the male of *Trimeria rubra* Hermes & Melo (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Masarinae)¹

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Abstract

An overview of the Brazilian fauna of pollen wasps (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Masarinae) is made: an illustrated key for all species recorded or potentially occurring in the country is provided; the male of *Trimeria rubra* Hermes & Melo is described; two species (*Ceramiopsis paraguayensis* Bertoni and *T. bequaerti* Willink) are newly recorded for Brazil; three species (*Paramasaris richardsi* (Giordani Soika), *T. rubra* and *T. robusta* Hermes & Melo) are newly recorded for Brazilian states and flower records are given for *T. rubra* for the first time.

Key words: Brazil, *Ceramiopsis*, New records, Neotropical, *Paramasaris*, pollen wasps, *Trimeria*

Introduction

The vespids are primarily predators but, contrastingly, masarines provide their nests with pollen and nectar (they are commonly known as pollen wasps) (Gess 1996). With approximately 300 described species, the masarines are notorious for their disjunct xeric and mainly austral distribution (Carpenter 1993), with a “hot spot” diversity in the Southern portion of the African continent. In the Neotropics, however, the subfamily is not rich, with 23 species described in four genera (Carpenter *et al.* 2006). Currently two tribes are recognized within the subfamily: the Masarini, with a wide distribution and represented in the Neotropics by the genera *Ceramiopsis* Zavattari and *Trimeria* de Saussure, and the Gayellini, endemic to South America and containing the genera *Gayella* Spinola and *Paramasaris* Cameron.

Recent taxonomic work on the Neotropical fauna has been accomplished by Carpenter (1989), Garcete-Barrett & Carpenter (2000) and Hermes & Melo (2006). Until recently, it was assumed that the Brazilian fauna of Masarinae was composed by no more than five species [Carpenter & Marques (2001) cited six species for Brazil, but Carpenter’s (2001) record of *T. neotropica* Mocsáry was not confirmed]. Hermes & Melo (2006) described two new *Trimeria* for Brazil, and because surveys are lacking for almost all biomas found in the country, it is not surprisingly that the number of species would increase in the intervening years.

We here provide an illustrated key to the identification for all species occurring in Brazil. Also, three additional species are included in the key: *T. rhachiphora* and *T. neotropica*, found in Paraguay not far away from the Brazilian border, and *P. cupreus*, which is known from places in the upper Amazonia of Colombia and Peru and could eventually be found in the Brazilian Amazonia. New records, floral information and the description of the male of *T. rubra* are also provided.