



Generic redefinition, key and two new species of *Acorystus* Townes (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae: Cryptinae)

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Abstract

The taxonomic limits of *Acorystus* are reviewed. The genus is characterized by a body surface shiny and mostly impunctate, supra-antennal area with a conical horn, epomia and posterior transverse carina of propodeum entirely absent, ovipositor tip very slender, without nodus and with very weak teeth. Two new taxa, *A. albicornis* Scherrer et Santos, **sp. nov.**, and *A. circumflexus* Scherrer et Santos, **sp. nov.**, are described and illustrated. *Acorystus albicornis* is diagnosed mainly by the white band of the female flagellum covering only about five flagellomeres, supra-antennal area with a white central horn, with a very weak and slightly rugose longitudinal swelling, orbital band reaching supra-clypeal and supra-antennal areas, propodeum with anterior transverse carina almost straight, and pleural carina very weak, with short transverse wrinkles. It is recorded from two close localities at Espírito Santo State (19°57'55"S 40°32'25"W and 20°16'21"S 40°28'40"W), in the Atlantic Forest of Southeastern Brazil. *Acorystus circumflexus* is diagnosed mainly by the white band of the female flagellum covering about fifteen flagellomeres, supra-antennal area with a black central horn, with a strong and rugose longitudinal swelling, orbital band absent, propodeum with anterior transverse carina centrally arched forwards, and pleural carina entirely absent. It is recorded only from Caxiuanã (2°4'54"S 51°51'5"W), Eastern Amazon Basin. A key to all three known species of the genus is provided.

Key words: Mesostenina, Cryptini, Phygadeuontinae, Neotropical region

Introduction

Townes (1970) erected *Acorystus* to include a single known species, from Peru, *A. fulvus* Townes. The new genus was placed in Mesostenina, sharing many features with other Neotropical genera of that subtribe, such as *Polycyrtus* Spinola, *Bicristella* Townes, *Hercana* Townes, and *Mecistum* Townes. Such features include the body shiny, notaulus very strongly impressed and supra-antennal area with a distinct conic horn. *Acorystus* was characterized mainly by the propodeum with coarse punctures, without any trace of the posterior transverse carina, and the ovipositor without nodus.

Since the original description, no new species or distribution records were provided. This work aims to provide the first taxonomic reassessment of *Acorystus*, review its generic limits, describe new species and report new distribution records.

Material and methods

This work deals with material acquired through two extensive, 15-day long surveys using both Mörické and Malaise traps at *Reserva Biológica de Duas Bocas* (Brazilian Atlantic Forest, 20°16'21"S 40°28'40"W) and *Floresta Nacional de Caxiuanã* (Amazon forest, 2°4'54"S 51°51'5"W), as well as a small field trip in the *Reserva Biológica de Santa Lúcia* (Brazilian Atlantic Forest, 19°57'55"S 40°32'25"W). Over 23,000 specimens of Neotropical Cryptinae from the following institutions were also sorted for *Acorystus*, but no additional specimens were found: American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Canadian National Collection of Insects (CNCI),