



Taxonomy of inquilines of oak gall wasps of Panama, with description of eight new species of *Synergus* Hartig (Hymenoptera, Cynipidae, Synergini)

JOSE LUIS NIEVES-ALDREY¹ & ENRIQUE MEDIANERO²

¹Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC), Departamento de Biodiversidad y Biología Evolutiva, C/ José Gutiérrez Abascal 2, ES-28006 Madrid, Spain. E-mail: Nieves-Aldrey <aldrey@mncn.csic.es>

²Programa Centroamericano de Maestría en Entomología, Vicerrectoría de Investigación y Postgrado, Universidad de Panamá, C. P. 0824, Panama. E-mail: <emedianero@ancon.up.ac.pa>

Corresponding Author: Jose Luis Nieves-Aldrey; E-mail: <aldrey@mncn.csic.es>

Table of contents

Abstract	1
Introduction	2
Materials and methods	2
Results	3
The inquilines of Panama	3
<i>Agastoroxenia</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero, 2010	3
<i>Synergus</i> Hartig, 1840	4
List of species from Panama	4
<i>Synergus elegans</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero sp. nov.	4
<i>Synergus laticephalus</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero sp. nov.	6
<i>Synergus mesoamericanus</i> Ritchie & Shorthouse, 1987	7
<i>Synergus ramoni</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero sp. nov.	8
<i>Synergus nicaraguensis</i> Diaz & Gallardo, 1998	9
<i>Synergus rufinotaulis</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero sp. nov.	10
<i>Synergus gabrieli</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero sp. nov.	12
<i>Synergus chiricanus</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero sp. nov.	13
<i>Synergus baruensis</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero sp. nov.	14
<i>Synergus luteus</i> Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero sp. nov.	15
Key to inquiline species of Panama	16
Cluster analysis	17
Discussion	18
Future work	19
Acknowledgements	19
References	19

Abstract

This paper reports the first study of the inquiline oak gall wasp fauna of Panama. Samples were collected at 19 sites in Panama, and inquiline specimens were reared from 63 gall morphotypes, including six species of *Quercus*, mainly *Q. salicifolia* and *Q. bumelioides*. Two genera were found: *Synergus*, represented by 10 species, and the recently described genus *Agastoroxenia* Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero, with a single species, *A. panamensis* Nieves-Aldrey & Medianero. *Synergus* was recorded for the first time in Panama; *Synergus mesoamericanus* and *Synergus nicaraguensis*, which were formerly recorded from Guatemala and Nicaragua, have now been recorded in Panama, and eight new species of *Synergus* are described here: *Synergus elegans*, *S. laticephalus*, *S. ramoni*, *S. rufinotaulis*, *S. luteus*, *S. gabrieli*, *S. baruensis* and *S. chiricanus*. A key for the identification of the studied fauna is provided. An overall similarity cluster analysis of the inquilines of oak gall wasps of Panama, including one Neotropical and two Palaearctic species as outgroups, is included.

Key words: Gall wasps, inquilines, neotropic, *Quercus*, identification key, taxonomy, biology