Zootaxa 3000: 59–65 (2011)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

A new phytophagous *Bracon* Fabricius (Hymenoptera, Braconidae) associated with *Protium ovatum* Engl. (Burseraceae) fruits from Brazilian savannah

NELSON WANDERLEY PERIOTO[1,2], ROGÉRIA INÊS ROSA LARA[1], CLEIDSON SOARES FERREIRA[2], DANIELL RODRIGO RODRIGUES FERNANDES[2], ELIZABETH DO CARMO PEDROSO[2], HAROLDO XAVIER LINHARES VOLPE[2], JULIANA NAIS[2], LILIAN ROBERTA BATISTA CORREA[2] & SILVIO ROGÉRIO VIEL[2]

[1]*Agência Paulista de Tecnologia dos Agronegócios (APTA), Pólo Centro Leste, Ribeirão Preto, Av. Bandeirantes 2419, 14030-670, Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil. E-mail: nperioto2@gmail.com*

[2]*Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho" (UNESP), Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias e Veterinárias, Programa de Pós-graduação em Agronomia (Entomologia Agrícola), Via de Acesso Prof. Paulo Donato Castellane s/n, 14888-900, Jaboticabal, SP, Brazil*

Abstract

Bracon zuleideae Perioto & Lara **sp**. **nov**. (Hymenoptera, Braconidae), a new species of phytophagous braconid associated with fruits of *Protium ovatum* Engl. (Burseraceae) is described and illustrated.

Key words: Braconinae, Brazil, Neotropical, phytophagy, seed predation, taxonomy

Resumo

Bracon zuleideae Perioto & Lara **sp**. **nov**. (Hymenoptera, Braconidae), uma nova espécie de braconídeo fitófago associada a frutos de *Protium ovatum* Engl. (Burseraceae) é descrita e ilustrada.

Palavras chave: Braconinae, Brasil, Neotropical, fitofagia, predação de sementes, taxonomia

Introduction

Here we describe *Bracon zuleideae* Perioto & Lara **sp**. **nov**., a parasitoid of seeds which is phytophagous within fruits of *Protium ovatum* Engl. (Burseraceae). This is the second known phytophagous species of this genus in seeds of *Protium*: the first, *Bracon phytophagous* Quicke, 2005, was obtained from fruits of *P. tovarense* Pittier (Burseraceae) in Venezuela (Flores *et al.*, 2005). "Parasitoids of seeds" refers to Hymenoptera in which a single larva develops on or inside a single seed (Hanson, 2006).

Reports of braconids with phytophagous immature stages are relatively recent in the literature. Macêdo and Monteiro (1989) published the first report of phytophagy in Braconidae and Marsh (1991) described *Allorhogas dyspistus*, the first phytophagous braconid, which causes galls in Fabaceae.

Several species of *Allorhogas* (Doryctinae) act as primary gall formers (Marsh, 2002; Wharton and Hanson, 2005; Chavarria *et al.*, 2009; Centrella and Shaw, 2010). In Doryctinae, phytophagy was also reported in *Monitoriella* (Infante *et al.* 1995) and probably occurs in *Labania* (Wharton and Hanson, 2005), *Mononeuron* (Chavarría *et al.*, 2009), and *Psenobolus* (Ramírez and Marsh, 1996). All of these insects have a neotropical distribution. Outside of the Neotropics phytophagy in braconids has been reported in *Mesostoa* (Mesostoinae) from Australia (Austin and Dangerfield, 1998) and is suspected in *Ficobracon* (Braconinae) from Papua New Guinea (Achterberg and Weiblen, 2000).

Accepted by J. Jennings: 18 Jul. 2011; published: 22 Aug. 2011