Euglossa bembei sp. n. (Hymenoptera: Apidae): a new orchid bee from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest belonging to the Euglossa cybelia Moure, 1968 species group

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Abstract

One species of Euglossa, which has been collected in the Atlantic Forest from Pernambuco to São Paulo in low abundance, is here described as a new species, Euglossa bembei sp. n. An updated identification key for the species of Euglossa (Euglossina) occurring in eastern Brazil is provided.

Key words: Atlantic Forest, Euglossa ioprosopa, Euglossina, euglossine bees

Introduction


Recent studies have shown that populations of orchid-bee species formerly believed to occur both in the Amazon Basin and the Atlantic Forest of eastern Brazil belong, in fact, to distinct species (e.g. Nemésio 2008, 2009, 2010a, 2011b, c). In this study, a new species of Euglossa, closely related to the Amazonian Euglossa ioprosopa Dressler, 1982a, is described from the Atlantic Forest. It has been recorded from the state of Pernambuco, in the north, to São Paulo, in the south (Nemésio 2009) and has been treated until now as Euglossa ioprosopa (e.g. Darrault et al. 2006, Nemésio 2009) and Euglossa cybelia Moure, 1968 or Euglossa cf. nigropilosa Moure, 1968 (Tonhasca Jr. et al. 2002).

Material and methods

The studied specimens, including type material, belong to the Entomological Collection of the Taxonomic Collections of the ‘Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais’ (UFMG). Terga and sterma are referred to as T1, T2, T3, etc, and S1, S2, S3, etc. Integument and setae coloration were observed by eye using a Leica MZ12 microscope lit. Measurements were taken from the holotype. Tongue length was measured as indicated by Kimsey (1982:10, for Eufriesea Cockerell, 1908).