



Synopsis of *Aspidepyris* Evans, 1964 (Hymenoptera, Bethylidae)

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Abstract

Aspidepyris Evans, 1964 is an Epyrinae genus with two known Neotropical species. The taxonomic knowledge of its species is summarized. *Aspidepyris austrinus* Evans, 1967 and *A. foveolatus* Evans, 1964 are revised and illustrated. Additional taxonomic variations are added and geographic distribution is broadened. *Aspidepyris* is recorded from Trinidad & Tobago, Colombia, and Argentina for the first time. A key for both species is firstly provided.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Bethylidae, *Aspidepyris*, taxonomy, Neotropical region

Introduction

The two living species of *Aspidepyris* Evans, 1964 are hitherto known to be restricted to the Neotropical region. No extinct species of this genus has ever been reported. The genus is promptly recognized within the Epyrini by a conspicuous elevation on the pronotal disc which is wider anteriorly and narrows progressively posterad. That makes the genus easily identifiable. Furthermore the scutellum is without basal groove connecting the pits, the forewings have three closed cells, the radial vein is long and the genital aedeagus is short. As far as known nothing is recorded regarding the hosts of *Aspidepyris*.

Material and methods

While making efforts to study specimens from type series of all valid species, the Neotropical species of several other genera of Epyrini were investigated in order to find possible *Aspidepyris* species. Many collections were visited and requested but only little unsorted material was found. We therefore may conclude that this genus is relatively rare.

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AMNH	American Museum of Natural History, USA (J.M. Carpenter).
CNCI	Canadian National Collection of Insects, Canada (J.T. Huber).
IAVH	Instituto Alexander von Humboldt, Colombia (M. Ospina).
INPA	Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Brazil (J.A. Rafael).
MCZH	Museum of Comparative Zoology, USA (S. Cover & P.D. Perkins).
MZSP	Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil (C.R.F. Brandão).
UCDC	Bohart Museum of Entomology, USA. (S.L. Heydon).
UFES	Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Brazil (author).
UFMG	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil (F. Silveira).
USNM	National Museum of Natural History, USA (D. Furth).