



***Charmon ramagei* sp. nov., a new Charmontinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) from Reunion, with a synopsis of world species**

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Abstract

Charmon ramagei sp. nov. is described from Reunion. The small subfamily Charmontinae now comprises nine extant and one fossil species. This new species is readily distinguishable from other *Charmon* spp. due to the presence of a Y-shaped mid-longitudinal propodeal carina. The key to the world species of the subfamily is updated, and a synoptic table provided to compare their critical morphological features.

Key words: Parasitic wasps, koinobiont endoparasitoids, hot spot volcanic island, Indian Ocean

Introduction

Charmontinae form a small subfamily of non-cyclostome Braconidae, with only two extant genera: *Charmon* Haliday, 1833 (seven species) and *Charmontia* van Achterberg, 1979 (one species). The fossil genus *Paleocharmon* Belokobylskij *et al.*, 2010, with one extinct species, has recently been described from the amber of the Paris Basin. Charmontinae are nevertheless widespread, being reported from all biogeographical regions except Antarctica (Yu *et al.*, 2012). Morphologically, they are characterized by a unique combination of features: occipital carina present, fore wing with vein r-m absent, hind wing with anal cross vein present (Fig. 2D), ovipositor very long and longitudinally ridged. They used to be considered as a tribe of Homolobinae (van Achterberg, 1979), but were later raised to subfamily rank (Quicke and van Achterberg, 1990). They show some similarities with Macrocentrinae: the longitudinally ridged ovipositor strongly resembles that of *Macrocentrus* Curtis (Quicke and van Achterberg, 1990). They are larvo-pupal koinobiont endoparasitoids of concealed caterpillars; their recorded hosts belong to 16 families of Lepidoptera (Yu *et al.*, 2012).

A new species belonging to the genus *Charmon* is described, bringing the total number of species in the genus to eight. I also provide an updated key to the world species of Charmontinae, and a comparison of the critical features differentiating the extant species of the subfamily.

Material and methods

Biogeography of Reunion. The origin of the Reunion entomofauna was discussed by Martiré and Rochat (2008) for Lepidoptera, stressing the strong influence of the Afrotropical region and the weaker contribution of the Indo-Pacific fauna. Endemism is also noticeable in Reunion, a small island of 2 500 km² with large areas of primary habitats still conserved. Granger (1949) pinpointed that the non-endemic braconid fauna in the Madagascar subregion mainly comes from continental Africa, though the influence of a Gondwanan origin has not to be neglected.