

SHORT COMMUNICATION

On the unavailability of species and genera names of parasitoid wasps (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea, Ichneumonoidea, Platygastroidea) attributed to William H. Ashmead

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ABSTRACT. The names of two genera and eleven species belonging to Hymenoptera are unavailable. They were published by Francisco Dias da Rocha in 1908 for species from the state of Ceará (Brazil) and attributed to William H. Ashmead. The genus names proposed here as nomina nuda are: *Mesopteromalus* (Pteromalidae) and *Rochai* (Ichneumonidae). The species names proposed as nomina nuda are *Trichoporus abdominalis*, *Tetrastichus balteativentris* (Eulophidae), *Eupelmus myrtaceae* (Eupelmidae), *Eurytoma cearae* (Eurytomidae), *Mesopteromalus abdominalis* (Pteromalidae), *Syntomaspis loranthaceae* (Torymidae), *Urogaster brasiliensis* (Braconidae), *Rochai achiaemorphia* (Ichneumonidae), *Leptacis myrtaceae*, *Polygnotus brasiliensis*, and *Synopeas rochai* (Platygastridae). The probable relationship between *Mesopteromalus abdominalis* with *Jaliscoa nudipennis* Bouček, and between *Eurytoma cearae* and *Rileyia cearae* Crawford are discussed.

KEY WORDS. Ceará, fauna, nomenclatural act, parasitoid wasps, taxonomic catalog.

During the compilation of data for the Hymenoptera species checklist organized under the framework of the Taxonomic Catalog of the Brazilian Fauna (Catálogo Taxonômico da Fauna do Brasil – CTFB, Boeger et al. 2024), a few nomenclatural issues were found (Fernandes 2015, Araujo and Vivallo 2015, Fernandes et al. 2024). In addition to those, we have identified problems with two genus names and eleven species names listed in previous catalogs (Rocha 1908, 1918, 1950, Silva 1973).

Rocha (1908) assembled all the following genera and species in the item "Himenopteros Parasitas (2)" with the footnote "2 determined by Prof. Will. H. Ashmead from the

United States National Museum" (translated from p. 70). Additionally, Rocha (1908) marked every scientific name with an asterisk and cited as a footnote "*" new species, collected by us" (translated from p. 70). One genus name and every species name were followed by "n. genera" [sic.] and "n. sp.", respectively. Another genus name (*Mesopteromalus*) was not followed by "n. genera", but it was never described. Rocha (1918) listed the same species names followed by "n. sp." again. Based on the mentioned above, it is very likely that Ashmead replied to the identification request by Rocha with the expected new names he intended to propose to the new taxa. However, Ashmead never described these

species and genera once he died in 1908. Thus, the genera and species listed by Rocha (1908) as new do not comply with Article 12 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999) (species published before 1931) and are unavailable names.

Below we present a list of the genera and species names published by Rocha (1908), followed by list of synonymies, combinations, taxonomic notes, and publications they were cited.

To search for the publications that listed Rocha's genera and species names, firstly, every publication authored by Rocha (1908, 1918, 1937, 1950) was checked. Next, it was checked the main catalogs, publications, and databases about Chalcidoidea (Ashmead 1904, De Santis 1980, 1981, 1989, De Santis and Fidalgo 1994, Noyes 2019, UCD Community 2023), Ichneumonoidea (Yu et al. 2016), and Platygastroidea/Platygastridae (Vlug 1995, Johnson 2024). Additionally, Portal Periódicos CAPES (<https://www-periodicos-capes.gov.br/ez43.periodicos.capes.gov.br/index.php?>) and Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>). Each record of Rocha's genera and species names in the literature is cited below in the list of synonymies of genera and species.

Hymenoptera
Chalcidoidea
Eulophidae
Tetrastichinae

***Trichoporus persimilis* Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum**

Irichoporus persimilis Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70, misspelling), not *Trichoporus persimilis* Ashmead, 1904. Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist, misspelling).

Tricophorus perssimilis Ashmead: Rocha (1950: 292, checklist, biology, misspelling).

Tetrastichus (Exurus) perssimilis (Ashmead): Silva (1973: 109, checklist, combination, biology, misspelling).

Remarks. Rocha (1908, 1918) misspelled the generic epithet *Trichoporus* as *Irichoporus*. The change from the letter "T" to an "I" was also done with the common genus *Tetrastichus* (cited as *Ietrastichus*) when the author cited *T. balteativentris* (see below). Rocha (1950) misspelled both generic and specific epithets when citing present species as *Tricophorus perssimilis*. Also, he reported the species as "parasites of cecidomyiid larvae from Myrtaceae and Rutaceae galls" (translated from p. 292). Ashmead (1904) described *Trichoporus persimilis* (now *Galeopsomyia persimilis*, after LaSalle and Shauff 1992) from Chapada (Chapada dos Guimarães, state of Mato Grosso, Brazil), as reported in the original description and on the lectotype labels (available at

USDA/ARS 2016). Except by the same specific epithet, there is no other evidence that the species cited by Rocha (1908) is the same as the species of Ashmead (1904).

***Tetrastichus balteativentris* Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum**

Ietrastichus bateativentris Ashmead (in Rocha 1908: 70, misspelling). Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist, misspelling).

Tetrastichus balteativentris Ashmead: Rocha (1950: 292, checklist, biology); Silva (1973: 109, checklist, biology).

Remarks. Rocha (1908, 1918) misspelled the generic epithet *Tetrastichus* as *Ietrastichus*, changing the letter "T" to an "I", as it was done with *Trichoporus persimilis* (see above). Rocha (1950) cited *T. balteativentris* as "parasites of cecidomyiid larvae from galls on leaves of Manihot spp [sic.]" (translated from p. 292). Silva (1973) cited a similar biology, probably reproducing Rocha's (1950) report.

Eupelmidae
Eupelminae

***Eupelmus myrtaceae* Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum**

Eupelmus myrtaceae Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist; 1950: 292, checklist, biology); Silva (1973: 109, checklist, biology).

Remarks. Rocha (1950) cited *E. myrtaceae* as "parasites of larvae from galls of Myrtaceae spp [sic.]" (translated from p. 292). Silva (1973) cited a similar biology, probably reproducing Rocha's (1950) report.

Eurytomidae
Eurytominae

***Eurytoma cearae* Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum**

Euritoma cearae Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70, nomen nudum, misspelling). Rocha (1918: 21 nomen nudum, checklist).

Eurytoma cearae Ashmead, 1908: Rocha (1950: 292, checklist, biology); Silva (1973: 109, checklist, biology).

Remarks. Rocha (1908) misspelled the generic epithet *Eurytoma* as *Euritoma*. Rocha (1950) cited *E. cearae* as "parasites of larvae of galls of Myrtaceae" (translated from p. 292). Silva (1973) cited "parasites of cecidomyiid larvae of myrtaceae [sic.]" (translated from p. 292), probably reproducing Rocha's (1950) report. This species is likely *Rileya cearae* (Crawford, 1910) described on twelve specimens collected by F. D. da Rocha in Ceará, Brazil. According to the original description, these specimens were "bred from galls of *Mayrellus mirabilis*", also described based on specimens collected by F. D. da Rocha in Ceara, Brazil. Crawford (1910) wrote *M. mirabilis* specimens was "bred from galls of unknow plant". *Mayrellus mirabilis* belongs to Melanosomellidae (formely Ormocer-

inae: Pteromalidae) and, based on information available, it is impossible to associate this species with that cited by Rocha (1908, 1918, 1950).

Pteromalidae

Pteromalinae

Mesopteromalus Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Mesopteromalus Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, checklist); Costa Lima (1956: 91, taxonomy).

Remarks. *Mesopteromalus* was never described, or illustrated, nor its type was designated. Besides this genus name was first published as a combination with the specific name *abdominalis*, the latter is unavailable. Thus, the name *Mesopteromalus* does not satisfy the ICZN's (1999) article 12.2.5. specifically, neither the article 12 as a whole. It is likely that Ashmead (in Rocha 1908) intention was to propose the name *Mesopteromalus* to a taxon now known as *Jaliscoa* Bouček, 1993 (see remarks about *M. abdominalis* below).

Mesopteromalus abdominalis Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Mesopteromalus abdominalis Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist; 1950: 292, checklist, biology), Costa Lima (1956: 90–91, taxonomy).

Pteromalus abdominalis (Ashmead): Silva (1973: 110, checklist, combination, biology), not *Pteromalus abdominalis* Statz, 1938.

Remarks. Rocha (1950) and Costa Lima (1956) reported this species as a parasitoid obtained from *Phelypera schuppeli* (Boheman, 1834) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Hyperinae). Costa Lima (1956) stated that he did not find any description of *Mesopteromalus abdominalis* Ashmead, nor did he know about the existence of the genus *Mesopteromalus*. Silva (1973) cited *Mesopteromalus abdominalis* Ashmead as *Pteromalus abdominalis* and did not indicate who proposed the combination and neither justified it. The name *Mesopteromalus abdominalis* seems to refer to the species known as *Jaliscoa nudipennis* Bouček, 1993, a parasitoid of *Phelypera schuppeli* (Boheman, 1834) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Hyperinae) (Vanin et al. 2012). Costa Lima (1956) described the cocoon of *P. schuppeli* sent to him by F.D. da Rocha and from which the later reared specimens were sent to and identified by W. H. Ashmead as *M. abdominalis*. Costa Lima (1956) described the host cocoons and their contents as “They are ovoid, measuring 9 to 10 mm long by 6 mm wide... The wall is made up of a network of thin threads, forming meshes that resemble gauze fabric [cheesecloth]... Some cocoons are empty, while others, in greater numbers, have inside the mummified body of the larva that built them. In these [into the cocoons] it is also

possible to see, attached to the meshes of the network through a thin stalk, the exuviae of pupae of a microhymenoptera of the superfamily Chalcidoidea...” (translated from p. 90). Vanin et al. (2012) described and illustrated the *P. schuppeli* cocoons attacked by *J. nudipennis* and they are very similar to Costa Lima's descriptions. We (MTT and NWP) have seen cocoons attacked by *J. nudipennis* and we could see the pupal exuvia of this wasp hanging inside the cocoons. Diniz and Moraes (1996) reported a parasitoid wasp emerged from the pupa of *P. schuppeli* belonging to a genus related to *Psilocera* Walker, 1833 (Hymenoptera: Psilochromidae). The later wasp's pupal exuviae were observed attached by a posterior peduncle to the wall of the cocoon, exactly as the pupae of *J. nudipennis*. There are no other parasitoid species reported to *P. schuppeli*. Thus, the name *M. abdominalis* almost certainly refers to *J. nudipennis*. It is necessary to emphasize that *Pteromalus abdominalis* Statz, 1938 is a fossil species of the Tertiary yellow-brown slate, from Germany, and it is a valid name.

Torymidae

Toryminae

Syntomaspis loranthaceae Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Syntomaspis loranthaceae Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist).

Syntomaspis loranthaceae Ashmead: Rocha (1950: 291, nomen nudum, checklist, biology, misspelling).

Torymus loranthaceae Ashmead: Silva (1973: 110, checklist, combination, biology, misspelling).

Remarks. Rocha (1950) cited *T. loranthaceae* as “parasite of Cecidomyiidae larvae, gall inducers of Lauranthaceae and Simaroubaceae” (translated from p. 291). Silva (1973) cited *Torymus loranthaceae* but did not mention who proposed this combination and neither justified it.

Ichneumonoidea

Braconidae

Microgastrinae

Urogaster brasiliensis Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Urogaster brasiliensis Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist; 1950: 290, checklist, biology). *Apanteles brasiliensis* (Ashmead, 1908): Silva (1973: 109, checklist, combination, biology).

Remarks. The genus *Urogaster* Ashmead, 1898 was synonymized under *Apanteles* Foerster, 1863 by Viereck (1914). However, the combination *Apanteles brasiliensis* only appears in Silva (1973). *Urogaster* is no longer available, and besides *Apanteles*, other species described by Ashmead

within *Urogaster* were later transferred to *Alphomelon* Mason, 1981, *Dolichogenidea* Viereck, 1911, *Hypomicrogaster* Ashmead, 1898, and *Rhygoplitis* Mason, 1981 (Fernandez-Triana et al. 2020), making it impossible to assign *U. brasiliensis* to any available genus. The only information given by Rocha (1950) about this species is that it is associated with larvae of Pieridae and other lepidopteran larvae.

Ichneumonidae

Cryptinae [probably]

Rochai Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Rochai Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, checklist; 1950: 292, checklist, biology).

Remarks. *Rochai* was never described, or illustrated, nor its type was designated. Besides this genus name was first published as a combination with the specific name *abdominalis*, the latter is unavailable. Thus, as *Mesopteromalus*, the name *Rochai* does not satisfy the ICZN's (1999) article 12.2.5. specifically, neither article 12 as a whole.

Rochai achiaemorphia Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Rochai achiaemorphia Ashmead, 1908 (in Rocha 1908: 70). Silva (1973: 109, checklist, biology).

Rochai achiacmorphia Ashmead: Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, misspelling, checklist).

Rochai achiaemorphas Ashmead: Rocha (1950: 109, checklist).

Remarks. The genus and species were mentioned for the first time in Rocha (1908) and later cited by Rocha (1950) and Silva (1973). None of the mentions provided any helpful information for identifying the current group to which this species belongs. Recently Cryptinae was divided into three distinct subfamilies, namely Cryptinae, Phygadeuontinae, and Ateleutinae (Santos 2017), thus even the identification at the subfamily level becomes imprecise. The species should be treated as unidentified morphospecies of Ichneumonidae, and the genus is not valid.

Platygastroidea

Platygastridae

Platygastrinae

Leptacis myrtaceae Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Leptacis myrtaceae Ashmead (in Rocha, 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist).

Leptaxis myrtaceae Ashmead: Rocha (1950: 293, checklist, biology, misspelling).

Peptacis myrtaceae Ashmead: Silva (1973: 110, checklist, biology, misspelling).

Remarks. Rocha (1950) cited this species as a parasitoid of larvae of the Myrtaceae galls. None of these citations

provided any helpful information for identifying the current group to which this species belongs.

Polygnotus brasiliensis Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Polygnotus brasiliensis Ashmead (in Rocha 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist; 1950: 293, checklist); Silva (1973: 110, checklist).

Remarks. No records on the biology of this species have been published and no published information allowed us to hypothesize the identity of this species.

Synopeas rochai Ashmead, 1908 nomen nudum

Synopeas rochai Ashmead (in Rocha 1908: 70). Rocha (1918: 21, nomen nudum, checklist; 1950: 293, checklist, biology)

Leptacis rochai (Ashmead): Silva (1973: 110, checklist, biology, combination).

Remarks. Rocha (1950) reported this species is a parasitoid feeding on larva of leaf galls of *Inga ingoides* Wild. (Fabaceae), thus the published information does not allow us to hypothesize the identity of this species. Fernandes et al. (1988) cited Braconidae and Eurytomidae occurring in galls of Cecidomyiidae in leaf and stem of *I. ingoides*, while Platygasteridae (cited as Platigasteridae) occurs in galls of Cecidomyiidae in leaf of *Machaerium aculeatum* Raddi and *Copaifera langsdorffii* Desf. There are also reports of Platygasteridae occurring in galls made by Cecidomyiidae in petiole/vein/stem from *Baccharis reticularia* DC. and in host undetermined in stem *Byrsonima variabilis* A. Juss. (Maia and Fernandes, 2004).

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Competing Interests

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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