

NEW RECORDS OF *Orasema xanthopus*  
(HYMENOPTERA: EUCHARITIDAE) AND *Solenopsis*  
*daguerrei* (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)  
FROM BRAZIL

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The Eucharitidae *Orasema xanthopus* (Cameron) and the ant *Solenopsis daguerrei* (Santschi) are natural enemies of the fire ants *Solenopsis*. The first species is a parasitoid of *S. invicta* Buren and *Solenopsis* sp. *saevissima*-complex (Heraty, 1994); the other is a social parasite of *S. invicta*, *S. macdonaghi* (Santschi) (Briano *et al.*, 1997), and *S. richteri* Forel (Silveira-Guido *et al.*, 1973). These two species are native to South America and have been considered as potential control agents of the fire ant *S. invicta* introduced 70 years ago into the USA (Wojcik, 1986). The objective of this study is to amplify the knowledge of the geographical distribution of these insects in Brazil, as well as to verify their association with *S. saevissima* (Fr. Smith). Hundreds of fire ant nests were opened in 2001 in *S. saevissima* and *S. invicta* territories (Goiás and São Paulo states) in order to determine whether or not these natural enemies were present. Only adult individuals were considered. Complementary data on geographical distribution were obtained in collection references. Several individuals of *O. xanthopus* and *S. daguerrei* were collected with an aspirator and preserved in 70% alcohol. The fire ant species were identified using Trager's key (1991). *O. xanthopus* and *S. daguerrei* were identified using the key of Heraty *et al.* (1993), and the Briano *et al.* (1997) material comparison, respectively. Six females of *O. xanthopus* were observed attacking two colonies of *S. saevissima* [Goiânia, GO (17°S, 49°W) and Luiz Antônio, SP (21°S, 48°W)]. Reference data of collections show that this species also occurs in Descalvado, SP (22°S, 47°W). Several males and winged queens of *S. daguerrei* were observed in only one *S. invicta* colony in Anhembi, SP (23°S, 48°W). Both species of natural enemies were rare compared with *Pseudacteon* parasitoid occurrence (Pesquero and Penteado-Dias,

unpublished). The inclusion of *S. saevissima* in the host list of *O. xanthopus* extends its distribution into the territory of this fire ant species. Apparently, *S. daguerrei* does not use *S. saevissima* as a host, and is principally limited to *S. invicta* territory.

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