

SYSTEMATICS, MORPHOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Occurrence of the Genus *Caingangia* Marsh (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) in Argentina, with the Description of a New Species

JUAN J. MARTINEZ

Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, Avda. Uruguay 151, L6300CLB Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina, jjmartinez80@hotmail.com

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Ocorrencia del Género *Caingangia* Marsh (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) para la Argentina, con la Descripción de una Nueva Especie

RESUMEN - El género *Caingangia* Marsh se cita por primera vez para la Argentina en base a especímenes de *C. wesa* sp. nov. que se describe e ilustra. Se brinda una clave para identificar las especies del género.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Doryctinae, sistemática, nueva especie, nuevo registro

ABSTRACT - The doryctine braconid wasp genus *Caingangia* Marsh is recorded for the first time from Argentina, based on specimens of *C. wesa* sp. nov. which is described and illustrated. A key to known species of the genus is provided.

KEY WORDS: Doryctinae, systematics, new species, new record

The Doryctinae is one of the most diverse subfamilies in the family Braconidae with an unusually large number of genera, specially in the tropics (Marsh 1997). There are about 140 described genera (Braet *et al.* 2003), although many of them are known from a single or a few species and their biology is poorly understood compared to the diversity of this subfamily (Marsh 1997).

The genus *Caingangia* Marsh was established to include a single species, *C. flavokolos* Marsh, from Santa Catarina, Brazil (Marsh 1993). Recently Braet & van Achterberg (2001) described the second species of the genus, *C. delicata* Braet & van Achterberg, from French Guyana, and Marsh (2002) reports, but does not describe, an additional species from Costa Rica. The aim of this work is to describe *C. wesa* sp. nov., from La Pampa province, which represents the first record of the genus in Argentina.

Material and Methods

The specimens were collected with a net on grasses associated with forests dominated by *Prosopis caldenia* Burkart (Fabaceae), at the southern most district of the *espinal* biogeographical province (Cabrera & Willink 1973).

The specimens examined are housed at Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia" (MACN).

Results and Discussion

Caingangia Marsh

Caingangia Marsh, 1993: 9. Type species: *Caingangia flavokolos* Marsh, 1993: 10 (by original designation)

Distribution. Known only from type localities of *C. delicata* (French Guyana), *C. flavokolos* (Brazil) and *C. wesa* sp. nov. (Argentina), but also apparently present in Costa Rica.

Caingangia wesa sp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 2, 3)

Etymology. The specific name derives from Ranquel, a dialect of Mapuche from La Pampa, and means beautiful, in reference to the appearance of this wasp.

Diagnosis. Second metasomal suture and transverse groove of third tergite widely scrobiculate; basal half of third tergite finely reticulate rugose; ovipositor sheath about 0.9 times body length; scutellum weakly coriaceous; 22 antennomeres; legs yellow with tarsi and mid coxae brown, and hind coxa black; triangular area on metasomal tergite II delimited by two converging yellowish lines.

Female. Body length: 2.82 mm, ovipositor: 2.52 mm, fore wing 2.04 mm.

Colour – Body black; scape, mandibles, mid coxae and tarsi brown; remainder of legs brownish yellow, except hind coxae which are black; wings hyaline; veins brown, lighter basally; metasomal tergite II with two converging yellowish lines that enclose a triangular area pointing to metasomal apex; tergite III with a median yellowish line on basal half (Fig. 1).

Head – Oral opening oval, diameter greater than length of malar space; face strigate except a thin, smooth median line from toruli to clypeus, vertex and temples strigate, frons smooth medially and finely strigate near orbits; eyes large, malar space 0.28 times eye height, temples 0.45 times eye width; ocellular distance about twice diameter of lateral ocellus; occipital carina meeting hypostomal carina; 22 antennomeres.

Mesosoma – Length of mesosoma 1.87 times its maximum height; pronotum smooth with a transverse groove; propleuron convex and smooth; mesopleuron mostly smooth and glabrous, sternaulus distinct, deep in middle; mesonotum strigate-rugose, notauli scrobiculate anteriorly, obscured near scutellum by rugose-costate area; scutellum weakly coriaceous; propodeum rugose areolate, without conspicuous carinae, only median carina weakly defined on basal half.

Wings – Hyaline, membrane completely setose, forewing with vein r-m absent, cell 2CU open at apex, vein 2cu-a absent; hindwing vein CU present (Fig. 2)

Metasoma – Length of first tergite 0.88 times its apical width, rugose areolate, with two strong lateral carinae on basal half; second metasomal tergum rugose-areolate, triangular area poorly defined by two short scrobiculate grooves on basal 1/5 and by coarser sculpture, third metasomal tergite alveolate basally and smooth apically, with scrobiculate groove across basal 1/3; remainder of terga coriaceous

basally, smooth apically.

Male. Essentially as in female, body length: 3.21 mm, fore wing: 2.16 mm, hind wing with a stigma like swelling at junction of veins R1 and Rs (Fig. 3).

Biology. Unknown

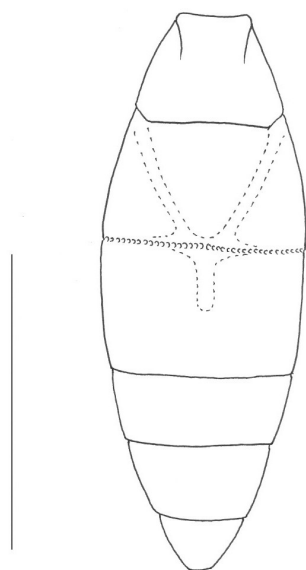
Remarks. *C. wesa* sp. nov. represents the southern most record of the genus (Central Argentina) and is the first species known to occur in a semiarid environment.

Material examined. Holotype female. ARGENTINA, La Pampa, Reserva Provincial “Parque Luro” (Departamento Toay), 15-III-03, Martinez col. (MACN). **Allotype.** 1 male, same data as holotype (MACN).

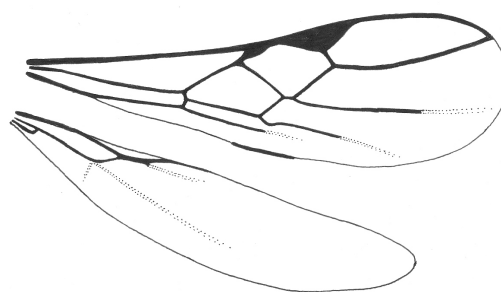
Key to Known Species of *Caingangia*

The key provided by Braet & van Achterberg (2001) should be modified as follows:

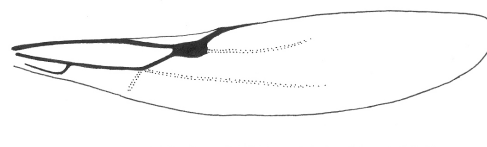
- 1 - Second metasomal suture and transverse groove of third tergite narrowly and finely crenulate; basal two thirds of third tergite smooth and strongly shiny; ovipositor sheath slightly longer than body, scutellum largely smooth and sparsely punctate; French Guyana
 *C. delicata* Braet & van Achterberg, 2001
 1' - Second metasomal suture and transverse groove of third tergite widely crenulate; basal two thirds of third tergite finely reticulate rugose; ovipositor sheath about 0.9 times body length; scutellum weakly coriaceous2



1



2



3

Figure 1 to 3: *Caingangia wesa* sp. nov. Fig. 1. Metasoma, dorsal view showing yellow patterns in tergites II and III (sculpture not shown); Fig. 2. Wings of female; Fig. 3. Hind wing of male. (figs. 1, 2 holotype; fig. 3 allotype). Scale bar: 1 mm.

2 - 24 or 25 antennomeres, triangular area on metasomal tergite II clearly defined by sculpture; metasoma black; legs entirely yellow, except hind coxae which are black; Brazil.....*C. flavokolos* Marsh, 1993
 2' - 22 antennomeres, triangular area on metasomal tergite II poorly defined by sculpture but instead delimited by two converging yellowish lines that continue as a single median line on basal half of tergite III (Fig. 1); legs yellowish, except tarsi and mid coxae which are brown and hind coxae which are black; Argentina.....*C. wesa* sp. nov.

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