

A new species of the bee genus *Chlerogella* from Panama (Hymenoptera: Halictidae)

MICHAEL S. ENGEL

*Division of Entomology, Natural History Museum, and Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Snow Hall, 1460 Jayhawk Boulevard, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7523, U.S.A.
msengel@ku.edu*

Abstract

A new species of the Neotropical bee genus *Chlerogella* Michener, 1954 (Halictinae: Augochlorini) is described and figured from San Blas, Panama. *Chlerogella clidemiae* **sp. nov.**, is differentiated from other members of its genus and is the first species with a floral record; captured on flowers of *Clidemia crenulata* Gleason (Melastomataceae).

Key words: Apoidea, bees, Augochlorini, *Chlerogella*, Neotropics, new species, taxonomy

Introduction

Bees of the genus *Chlerogella* Michener, 1954 are uncommon members of the neotropical augochlorine fauna. Two species have hitherto been described, both based on single specimens, *Chlerogella elongaticeps* Michener, 1954 and *C. nasus* (Enderlein, 1903). Species are immediately characteristic for their elongate head structure, similar to the unrelated genus *Chlerogas* (Brooks & Engel, 1999) and some species of the related *Ischnomelissa* (Brooks & Engel, 1998; Engel & Brooks, 2002). From the former genus, *Chlerogella* is noteworthy for its smaller body size, elongate propodeum, inflated dorsal pronotal surface, serrate inner metatibial spurs in males, and normal complement of flagellomeres in both sexes (see also Engel, 2000). The related genus *Ischnomelissa* can be separated by the densely pectinate inner metatibial spur, roughly orthogonal epistomal sulcus, and the absence of a dorsal inflation on the pronotum (Engel, 1997, 2000). In each of these genera, the elongate head is derived from an expansion of the malar space and clypeus, thus the mandibular base is distantly separated from the lower margin of the compound eye. This is in stark contrast to the genus *Chlerogelloides* (Engel et al., 1997; Engel & Brooks, 1999) whereby the malar space is short and a lengthened clypeus is solely responsible for the somewhat elongate head structure. The development of elongate heads in all of these