

## A new species of *Agathirsia* Westwood (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Agathidinae) from Mexico

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### Abstract

A remarkable new species of *Agathirsia* is described. Unlike all other species of *Agathirsia*, and most other Agathidinae, it lacks pegs or thick spines at the apex of the hind tibia. The only other genus of Agathidinae with this characteristic is *Crassomicrodus*, and the new species' potential affinities with members of *Crassomicrodus* are discussed.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, systematics, parasitic Hymenoptera, Insecta

### Introduction

The recent revision of *Agathirsia* (Pucci and Sharkey 2004) included 31 species, most with one or a few representative specimens. Thus, the discovery of a new species is not surprising. The new species described here, *Agathirsia schlingeri* Sharkey, is unique and interesting because it combines features that were previously thought to be exclusive to members of either *Crassomicrodus* or *Agathirsia*. Unlike other members of *Agathirsia*, *A. schlingeri* lacks pegs or spines at the apex of the hind tibia. This characteristic is exceptionally rare within the Agathidinae and is a synapomorphy for members of *Crassomicrodus*. The presence of flattened pegs is a proposed synapomorphy for members of *Agathirsia*. The reduction in the size of the ventral mandibular tooth is also an autapomorphy for *Agathirsia* as suggested by the analysis of Pucci and Sharkey (2004), however, the ventral tooth is well developed in *A. schlingeri*. There were three synapomorphies posited by Pucci and Sharkey (2004) for *Crassomicrodus*, a short ovipositor (*A. schlingeri* has a very long ovipositor), a vestigial basal lobe on the tarsal claws (*A. schlingeri* has well developed basal lobes on the tarsal claws), and the lack of pegs or enlarged spines near the apex of the lateral surface of the hind tibia (*A. schlingeri* shares this character state).