



***Myrciariamyia admirabilis*, a new species of gall midge (Diptera, Cecidomyiidae) associated with *Erythroxylum suberosum* (Erythroxylaceae)**

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Abstract

Myrciariamyia admirabilis Maia, a new species of Cecidomyiidae (Diptera) that induces leaf galls on *Erythroxylum suberosum* A.St.-Hil. (Erythroxylaceae) is described and illustrated (larva, pupa, male, female and gall) based on material from Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Key words: *Myrciariamyia*, Cecidomyiidae, Diptera, Erythroxylaceae, galls

Introduction

Erythroxylum suberosum St. Hil (Erythroxylaceae) is a widespread plant that has been recorded from Venezuela, Guyana, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay. FERNANDES AND MARTINS (1985) first recorded the presence of a reddish and hairy leaf gall on this host. Later, MAIA AND FERNANDES (2004) tentatively identified the gall maker as *Dasineura* sp.

Upon rearing the adult stage, we identified it as a species of *Myrciariamyia* Maia, 1994 that is described here and compared with the two preexisting species of the genus, *M. bivalva* Maia, 1994 and *M. fernandesi* Maia, 2004.

Material and Methods

Specimens were collected in two localities, Serra do Cipó (19°16'S, 43°35'W) and Serra de São José (21°03–07'S and 44°06–13'W), both in the State of Minas Gerais, SE of Brazil. The main vegetation of these areas is rupestrian, which presents a very high level of endemism and biodiversity. The climate is classified as Cwa (continental with dry winter). Serra do Cipó includes a private reserve, “Reserva Particular Vellozia”, located in the southern portion of the Espinhaço Range at an altitude of 1,190 m above sea level. The climate is characterized by dry winters and rainy summers with an average annual rainfall of 1,300 mm and mean temperature of 17.4–19.8°C (MADEIRA AND FERNANDES 1999). Serra de São José is a 15 Km long mountain range, 900 to 1,430 m above sea level, running from WSW to ENE at the contact zone of two main mountain chains: the Espinhaço Range and the Serra da Mantiqueira (ALVES, 1992).

Samples of galled leaves were collected in both localities and immediately taken to the laboratory. Larvae were obtained by dissection of some galls under a stereoscopic microscope. Pupal exuviae and adults were obtained by keeping samples of the galls in plastic pots layered at the bottom with damp cotton and covered by