



A new species of the genus *Plumaroides* Brothers (Hymenoptera, Chrysidoidea, Plumariidae) from Santiago del Estero, Argentina: male and female description

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Abstract

This work describes a new species of the genus *Plumaroides* Brothers called *P. tiphlus*, **sp. nov.** This new species was collected in the province of Santiago del Estero, Argentina. Both sexes are described for this species, and this work represents the first association and description of the female for this genus.

Key words: Plumariidae, Argentina, *Plumaroides*, Taxonomy

Introduction

Plumariidae is a small family of Aculeata (Hymenoptera) whose placement was unknown until Brothers (1975) established their affinity with Chrysidoidea. Further studies supported the relationship within Chrysidoidea (Königsmann 1978; Carpenter 1986; Brothers & Carpenter, 1993), as well as the generic relations within the family (Roig-Alsina 1994; Diez et al., 2007; Diez et al., 2007). Plumariidae is represented in South America by four genera: *Plumarius* Philippi, *Plumaroides* Brothers, *Maplurius* Roig-Alsina and *Mapluroides* Diez et al. (Brothers 1974; Roig-Alsina 1994, Diez et al. 2007). *Plumaroides* was originally described from Andalgalá in the province of Catamarca (Argentina), but also has been collected in the provinces of Salta, La Rioja, San Juan and Mendoza. Only the two species *P. andalgalensis* Brothers and *P. brothersi* Diez & Roig-Alsina are currently recognized as member of this genus.

Knowledge of these wasps Plumariidae is mainly based on male descriptions, since females are rarely collected. Only two females have been described; one is from Peru, the other is from Chile, and both are attributed to *Plumarius* (Evans, 1966; Perez D'Angello, 1974). The morphology of the female, which is apterous with a compressed and strongly sclerotized body and fossorial spines on the legs, indicates a subterranean habit (Evans, 1966).

Here we describe a new species of *Plumaroides* collected in the province of Santiago del Estero, Argentina. The description is based on several males and one female collected at night.

Methods

Specimens were collected at night with a camping lantern provided with a fluorescent light ("U" tube, 360 degrees bright light), and placed on a white sheet spread on the ground. Adult males were collected in alcohol and then chemically dried. The female was cleared with sodium hydroxide and placed in glycerine.

Specimens are deposited in: Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", Buenos Aires, Argentina (MACN), Instituto Fundación Miguel Lillo, Tucumán, Argentina (IFML), Museo de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina (MLP), and Florida State Collection of Arthropods, USA (FSCA).