



Taxonomic review of the species of *Neocorynura* (Hymenoptera: Halictidae: Augochlorini) inhabiting Argentina and Paraguay

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Abstract

A review of the species of the bee genus *Neocorynura* occurring in Argentina and Paraguay is provided. Four new species are described: *Neocorynura tangophyla*, *Neocorynura gaucha*, *Neocorynura guarani*, and *Neocorynura sophia*. The name *Neocorynura pseudobaccha* (Cockerell) is resurrected, it had previously been synonymized under *Neocorynura jucunda* (Smith). In total, eight species are known to occur in these two countries. Even though six additional species of *Neocorynura* have been considered to also be distributed in Argentina and Paraguay, their dubious occurrence in these countries may be due to imprecise information in the primary references or to collection data (specimen's deposition). No specimens of such species were available in any of the collections consulted for this taxonomic study. Comments on the systematics and biogeography (including new distribution records), as well as species identification keys, are presented.

Key words: taxonomy, Halictinae, Apoidea, South America

Resumen

Se presenta una revisión de las especies de abejas del género *Neocorynura* presentes en el sur de Sudamérica: Argentina y Paraguay. Se describen cuatro especies nuevas de abejas del género: *Neocorynura tangophyla*, *Neocorynura gaucha*, *Neocorynura guarani* y *Neocorynura sophia*. Se propone resucitar *Neocorynura pseudobaccha* (Cockerell) previamente sinonimizada por Moure y Hurd (1987) con *Neocorynura jucunda* (Smith). En total, ocho especies se conocen para los dos países; pese a que otras seis especies de *Neocorynura* han sido citadas por Moure y Hurd (1987) y Moure (2007) se duda de su presencia en estos países dado que o no existen referencias originales, o datos de colecta, o lugar de deposición de los especímenes y no se encontró ningún espécimen de dichas localidades en las colecciones revisadas para este trabajo. Se presentan descripciones completas para todas las especies presentes en Argentina y Paraguay. Se presentan comentarios acerca de la sistemática y biogeografía de las especies presentes en estos dos países (incluyendo nuevos registros de distribución) y taxonómicas para la identificación de machos y hembras.

Palabras clave: Apoidea, Anthophila, Abejas del sudor, Sur América

Introduction

The genus *Neocorynura* Schrottky is one of the largest, and one of the least studied genera of the tribe Augochlorini (Hymenoptera: Halictidae). The number of described species according to the literature is 72 (Smith-Pardo & Gonzalez 2009), this number can vary due to synonymies on one hand and the names to be resurrected on the other (Smith-Pardo 2005a). The total number of species will be easily over 120, due to a large number of undescribed species (Smith-Pardo 2005b).

In terms of its distribution, the genus extends from northern Argentina and Paraguay to northern Mexico (Eickwort 1969; Michener 2007; Smith-Pardo 2005a); in Mexico, the diversity of species is low and species are mostly restricted to more or less high altitudes in the humid, eastern part of the country (Smith-Pardo