

Description and biological notes of the first species of *Xenos* (Strepsiptera: Stylopidae) parasitic in *Polistes carnifex* F. (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) in Mexico

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Abstract

A description and biological notes on the first species of *Xenos* (*X. hamiltoni*) (Strepsiptera: Stylopidae) parasitic in *Polistes carnifex* F. from Mexico is given. A list of Strepsiptera and their hosts from Mexico is provided.

Key words: Strepsiptera, *Xenos hamiltoni* sp. n., *Polistes carnifex*, Mexico

Introduction

To date thirteen species of Strepsiptera have been described from Mexico. Kifune & Brailovsky (1988) listed eleven and Kathirithamby & Moya-Raygoza (2000) listed twelve, and since then one subspecies has been added (Kathirithamby & Johnston 2003). Of these, only one species, *Melittostylops vesparapium* Kinzelbach, belongs to the family Stylopidae (Kinzelbach 1971). The eighteen species of *Xenos* described so far from the Neotropics have been found to be parasitic in the eusocial Hymenoptera: Vespidae (*Polistes*, *Mischocyttarus*, *Apoica* and *Polybia*) (Kathirithamby 1992).

Material and Methods

A total of 8 nests of *Polistes carnifex* were collected between 27th April and 13th May 2001