Zootaxa 1229: 33–40 (2006)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

1229

A new species of *Hexantheda* Ogloblin (Hymenoptera, Colletidae), a genus of bees with labial palpi of variable number of segments

ARTURO ROIG-ALSINA

Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia," Av. Angel Gallardo 470, 1405 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Abstract

A new species, *Hexantheda entrerriana*, from the province of Entre Ríos, Argentina, is described. These bees have an unusual labial palp with eight segments. Features distinguishing the new species from the other two species of the genus are presented.

Key words: Colletinae, taxonomy, morphology, Argentina

Introduction

The number of segments of the labial palp is a highly conserved characteristic among hymenopteran insects, as is the case for most insects (Snodgrass, 1935). Although the primitive condition for Insecta is probably three segments, the basic number of segments for the order Hymenoptera is four (Matsuda, 1965). Within Hymenoptera a four-segmented palp is the plesiomorphic and most usual condition for the whole of Aculeata (Brothers, 1975; Brothers & Carpenter, 1993), but one or more segments have been lost in groups such as bethylids, plumariids, bradynobaenids, and some ants and bees. Although reduction in number of segments has occurred in several occasions, a palp with more than four segments is very unusual among hymenopterans, and it is unique to colletine bees of the genera *Hexantheda* Ogloblin and *Albinapis* Urban & Graf. Bees of the monotypic genus *Albinapis* have a five-segmented palp (Urban & Graf, 2000), while the two known species of *Hexantheda* have a variable number of segments, six to seven in the type species *H. missionica* Ogloblin (Ogloblin, 1948; Michener, 1989, 2000), and nine in *H. enneomera* Urban & Graf (2000). A newly discovered species of *Hexantheda*, described herein, has labial palpi with eight segments.

Bees of the genus *Hexantheda* Ogloblin are characterized, among South American

Accepted by L. Packer: 11 May 2006; published: 12 Jun. 2006