



New species and new records of *Eriococcus* (Hemiptera, Coccoidea, Eriococcidae) from South America

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Abstract

The adult females of five new species in the genus *Eriococcus* are described and illustrated: *Eriococcus christopherus*, *E. longisetosus*, *E. paranaensis*, from Brazil, and *E. maximus* and *E. venezuelaensis* from Venezuela. In addition, the following are recorded for the first time: *E. dubius* (Cockerell), *E. maximus* and *E. venezuelaensis* from Brazil and Venezuela and *E. rhadinothrix* (Miller & González) from Brazil. The most widespread species was *E. maximus*, which was collected from Brazil, Paraguay and Venezuela. A taxonomic key is provided for the separation of the seven species studied.

Résumé

Espèces nouvelles et nouvelles récoltes du genre *Eriococcus* (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Eriococcidae) de l'Amérique du Sud. Des adultes femelles de cinq espèces nouvelles du genre *Eriococcus* sont décrites et illustrées du Brésil et du Venezuela: *Eriococcus christopherus*, *E. longisetosus* et *E. paranaensis* du Brésil, *E. maximus* et *E. venezuelaensis* du Venezuela. Les espèces *E. dubius* (Cockerell), *E. maximus* and *E. venezuelaensis* au Brésil et au Venezuela et *E. rhadinothrix* (Miller & González) au Brésil sont signalées ici pour la première fois. Parmi ces espèces, *E. maximus* est la plus répandue; elle fut collectée au Brésil, au Paraguay et au Venezuela. Une clé dichotomique est proposée pour séparer les sept espèces étudiées.

Introduction

The family Eriococcidae (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha) is abundant in the Southern Hemisphere, particularly in New Zealand and Australia, but is rather poorly known in South America. Indeed, there are no records from Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Surinam. The computer database ScaleNet (Miller & Gimpel 2007) lists 22 species recorded from Brazil (most of them in gall-forming genera), 15 species from Argentina, 14 from Chile, 3 from Venezuela, 3 species from Colombia, and 1 from Uruguay, giving a grand total of 58 species.

The Eriococcidae of South America was not studied in detail by such early coccidologists as Balachowsky (1959), Cockerell (1900), Hempel (1900, 1932) and Morrison (1919), while several species described by Hempel were not even illustrated. However, interest has increased recently and some new publications have appeared (Kondo *et al.*, 2006; Hodgson *et al.*, 2004 (who provide a key to the genera of the Eriococcidae of the Neotropical Region); Hodgson & Miller, 2002; Gonzales, 2000; Miller & Gonzales, 1975), whilst others are in preparation. Detailed studies are especially important in order to consider the phylogeny of the Neotropical eriococcid fauna and to study the relationships of South American species with those in the