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A new scoliid wasp in the Early Cretaceous Crato Formation in Brazil (Hymenoptera: Scoliidae)

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Abstract

The new genus and species of scoliid wasp *Araripescolia magnifica* Nel, Escuillie & Garrouste, **gen. et sp. nov.** is described from the Early Cretaceous Crato formation in Brazil. It seems to be more closely related to the modern Campsomerinae than to the other Cretaceous Scoliidae: Archaeoscoliinae and Proscoliinae.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Scoliidae, *Araripescolia* **gen. et sp. nov.**, phylogenetic relationships

Introduction

Very few Cenozoic fossil wasps can be currently attributed to the Scoliidae. *Myzine madeleineae* Piton, 1940 (Paleocene of Menat, France), and *Paratiphia prae fracta* Cockerell, 1907 plus the two fossil genera *Geotiphia* Cockerell, 1906, and *Lithotiphia* Cockerell, 1906 (all from the Early Oligocene of Florissant, USA) are not Scoliidae, as originally stated, but Tiphidae (Cockerell 1906, 1907, Piton 1940, Rasnitsyn 1986, Argaman & Özbek 1992). Only three fossils remain in Scoliidae, viz. *Floriscolia relict a* Rasnitsyn, 1993 (Florissant USA), an unnamed Scoliidae (Middle Eocene, Tulameen Road, Princeton, British Columbia, Canada), a fossil specimen attributed to the modern species *Campsomeris prismatica* Smith, 1855 and the fossil species *Scolia distincta* Zhang, 1989 (both from the Miocene of Shanwang, Shandong, China) (Zhang 1989, Rasnitsyn 1993, Douglas & Stockey 1996). Much more Mesozoic wasps are currently attributed to the Scoliidae, either in the extinct subfamily Archaeoscoliinae Rasnitsyn, 1993 (*Archaeoscolia senilis* Rasnitsyn, 1993, *A. hispanica* Rasnitsyn & Martínez-Delclòs, 1999, *Protoscolia imperialis* Zhang et al. 2002, *P. normalis* Zhang et al. 2002, *P. sinensis* Zhang et al. 2002, *Cretoscolia patiens* Rasnitsyn, 1993, *C. promissiva* Rasnitsyn, 1993, *C. montsecana* Rasnitsyn & Martínez-Delclòs, 1999, *C. conquensis* Rasnitsyn & Martínez-Delclòs, 2000, *C. formosa* Zhang, 2004, *C. laiyangica* Zhang, 2004, *C. rasnitsyni* Zhang, 2004, *C. brasiliensis* Osten, 2007), or in the modern subfamily Proscoliinae Rasnitsyn, 1977 (*Cretaproscolia asiatica* Zhang 2006, *C. josai* Rasnitsyn & Martínez-Delclòs, 1999).

While the wasp fauna of the Early Cretaceous Crato formation in Brazil is very rich (Darling & Sharkey 1990, Osten 2007), only the two scoliids *Cretaproscolia josai* and *Cretoscolia brasiliensis* are recorded from this paleolake. We study now one new fossil attributable to a new genus and species of this family.

Material and method

Photographs were taken using a Canon 5D Mark II camera attached on a Leica MZ APO stereomicroscope. The abbreviations used for the terminology of the wing venation follow Huber & Sharkey (1993).