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***Belesica madiba* and *Cremastus tutui* (Ichneumonidae: Cremastinae), two entomological gems from South Africa**

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Abstract

The Afrotropical cremastine fauna (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) is characterized by the near absence of the genus *Cremastus*, with a single species reported from Madagascar. The fauna is also characterized by the presence of several endemic genera. Among the latter is the exceptional monotypic genus *Belesica*. We describe two new species from these extremely rare Afrotropical genera, namely *Belesica madiba* **sp. nov.** and *Cremastus tutui* **sp. nov.**. Both are only known from South Africa.

Key words: Africa, Afrotropical region, Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae, Cremastinae, systematics, taxonomy

Introduction

The Afrotropical cremastine diversity shows regional particularities. Similar to the faunal compositional patterns in other regions of the world, *Trathala* Cameron and *Temelucha* Förster are dominant genera (Gauld 2000), and the region is also characterized by high species richness in the genus *Pristomerus* Curtis of which only a very small proportion have been described (Rousse *et al.* 2013; Rousse & van Noort *in prep.*). In contrast the fourth major global cremastine genus, *Cremastus* Gravenhorst, is very rare in the Afrotropical region. Additionally, the Afrotropical fauna includes several endemic genera such as *Pimplomorpha* Cameron, *Fafana* Rousse *et al.* and the uncertain *Ricrena* Cameron. Two of the endemic genera are aberrant among Cremastinae (Quicke *et al.* 2009): *Eurygenys* Townes and *Belesica* Waterston, both of which were first assigned to Ctenopelmatinae (Townes 1971). We describe new species for two genera rarely collected in Africa, *Belesica madiba* **sp. nov.** and *Cremastus tutui* **sp. nov.**. Comparative diagnoses are provided to distinguish each of these species from their single known sibling in Africa.

Material and methods

Photographs. Specimens were point mounted on black, acid-free cards for examination (using a Leica M205C stereomicroscope with LED light source), photography and long-term preservation. Images were taken using the EntoVision® multiple-focus imaging system. This system combines a Leica® M16 microscope with a JVC® KY-75U 3-CCD digital video camera attached that feeds image data to a notebook computer. The program Cartograph®5.6.0 was then used to merge an image series (representing typically 10–15 focal planes) into a single in-focus image. Lighting was achieved using techniques summarized in Buffington *et al.* (2005), Kerr *et al.* (2009) and Buffington and Gates (2009). All images presented in this paper are available at <http://www.waspweb.org>.

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