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## Three new species of *Kerevata* (Braconidae: Rogadinae: Clinocentrini) from mainland Papua New Guinea

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### Abstract

Three new species of the distinctive, cyclostome, braconid wasp genus *Kerevata* (viz. *Kerevata jamesmayi* **sp. nov.**, *K. clarksoni* **sp. nov.** and *K. hammondi* **sp. nov.**) from Mt Wilhelm, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea are described and illustrated, and a key provided to enable their identification and separation from the only other species described to date, *K. pacifica*, from New Britain in the Bismark Archipelago off the S. E. coast of New Guinea. Characters used to differentiate *Kerevata* from the related *Confusocentrus* are modified.

**Key words:** *Confusocentrus*, species discovery, Top Gear, cyclostome braconid, new taxa

### Introduction

The taxonomy of the world Rogadinae both at genus and species levels has only started to receive serious attention over the past 20 or so years. Despite having few described species, recent studies hint that this braconid subfamily may well be one of the largest. Quite a few new genera have been described from the Old World tropics where they appear to show by far the greatest genus level diversity. The braconid fauna of Papua New Guinea is particularly poorly known, with most of those species known from there having been described in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in a number of disparate papers (e.g. Cameron 1907). In the last few years, large numbers of parasitic wasps have been reared or collected as parts of food web and other ecological investigations (e.g. Hreck *et al.* 2011) and the taxonomy of some of the groups is starting to be tackled (Quicke *et al.* 2012a,b, 2013).

The genus *Kerevata* was described by Belokobylskij (1999) based on a single species from the island of New Britain in the Bismark Archipelago off the S. E. coast of New Guinea. It belongs to the rogadine tribe Clinocentrini and although the biology is unknown, they are almost certainly parasitoids of weakly concealed Lepidoptera caterpillars such as leaf-tiers and leaf-rollers. No further species were discovered until the three species described here were found in Malaise trap samples collected by the *Our Planet Reviewed—IBISCA Niugini 2012-2013* on Mt Wilhelm, Madang Province, mainland Papua New Guinea. The present specimens were collectively widely distributed over an altitudinal range of over 1500 m, yet none were recovered from the caterpillar rearing programme carried out in lowland forests of Madang or East Sepik (Novitny *et al.* 2004, 2007, 2010, Hreck *et al.* 2011), perhaps suggesting that their hosts are not so apparent or readily collected.

### Material and methods

All specimens were collected with Malaise traps in PNG during the project *Our Planet Reviewed—IBISCA Niugini 2012-2013*, and type material is deposited in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris. Wing vein terminology follows Sharkey & Wharton (1997); other terminology follows van Achterberg (1988). Inkeeping with the turbo-taxonomic approach to rapid species description used by Butcher *et al.* (2012), important features of all species are shown in photographs and textual description kept relatively brief and largely used to emphasise features or give relative measurements that can not be so accurately made from the micrographs, often because of the difficulty of viewing a part.

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