

***Prasmodon zlotnicki*, a new Neotropical species of the genus *Prasmodon* Nixon (Braconidae: Microgastrinae) from Costa Rica, with the first host records for the genus**

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ABSTRACT

Prasmodon zlotnicki, a new Costa Rican species of the genus *Prasmodon* Nixon, is described and illustrated. In addition, the first host records for the genus are included along with an updated key to differentiate *Prasmodon zlotnicki* from *P. eminens* Nixon. *Prasmodon* is now known to attack several species of leaf-rolling and leaf-webbing Crambidae (Lepidoptera) in rain forest habitats.

Key words: Braconidae, Microgastrinae, *Prasmodon*, Crambidae, Spilomelinae, host records

INTRODUCTION

The monotypic microgastrine braconid wasp genus *Prasmodon* was erected by Nixon (1965), based on the striking neotropical species *Prasmodon eminens* Nixon from Peru. Members of *Prasmodon* are easily recognized by their possession of the following combination of features: yellowish body coloration with brownish wings, reduced vannal lobe of the hind wing, closed areolet of the forewing and clearly defined transverse propodeal carina crossing the medial longitudinal carina (Whitfield 1997). No host data have been previously reported for the genus, but adults have been frequently captured by Malaise traps placed in secondary successional lowland rain forest throughout much of Central America and northern South America (Mason 1981; Valerio & Whitfield pers. obs.)