

Neotropical Meliponini: *Paratrigonoides mayri*, new genus and species from western Colombia (Hymenoptera, Apidae, Apinae) and phylogeny of related genera

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Abstract

Paratrigonoides mayri **gen. nov.**, **sp. nov.**, from the Cauca Valley region of Antioquia, Colombia, is described. It resembles *Paratrigona*, especially species of the *P. lineata* group. The new genus is recognized by a combination of bidentate mandibles, the keirotrichiate area of tibia III not depressed on the posterior edge (plesiomorphies), yellow markings flanking the frontal median line and two spots below the lateral ocelli, supraclypeal area partly covering antennal sockets, and by the upper part of the preoccipital ridge lamellate and bordered by a row of robust hairs (autapomorphies). The result of a cladistic analysis suggests *Paratrigona* + *Aparatrigona* form the sister-group of *Paratrigonoides* **gen. nov.**

Key words: stingless bees, new genus, taxonomy, Neotropics

Introduction

Recently, generic revisions and regional accounts of stingless bees (e.g. Roubik 1992; Camargo & Moure 1994, 1996; Camargo 1996; Roubik *et al.* 1997; Ayala 1999; Camargo & Pedro 2003, 2004, 2005; Pedro & Camargo 2003; Eardley 2004) have significantly increased knowledge about this group and have resulted in the description of four new genera. The new genus proposed here, *Paratrigonoides* **gen. nov.**, comes from the Cauca Valley, NW Colombia, a region where only recently have collecting efforts been intensified. The phylogenetic relationships of this new taxon are studied in relation to the genera of Meliponini that present a broad and flattened keirotrichiate area, these constitute a derived clade, one that is exclusively Neotropical.