



The genus *Amphibolips* Reinhard (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae: Cynipini) in the Neotropics, with description of three new species from Panama

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Abstract

Three new species of *Amphibolips* Reinhard 1865, *Amphibolips castroviejoi*, *A. aliciae*, and *A. salicifoliae* (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae: Cynipini) are described from Panama. The three new species induce galls on *Quercus salicifolia* Née (Fagaceae, sect. Lobatae, Red Oaks). Diagnostic characters, gall descriptions, distribution, and biological data are given. The generic limits of *Amphibolips* are re-established with adding new generic morphological characters. The presence of the genus *Amphibolips* in the Neotropical region is discussed. The new species represent the first record of this genus from Central America.

Key words: Cynipidae, oak gall wasps, *Quercus*, Panama

Introduction

Amphibolips Reinhard is a morphologically and biologically distinctive, well-defined, genus of oak gall wasps (Cynipidae: Cynipini). The genus includes some of the largest known adult gallwasps and “oak apple” galls (female > 6.5 mm; gall 70 mm in diameter) (Beutenmüller 1909). The known range of this genus extends from Canada to Mexico (Dalla Torre & Kieffer 1910; Weld 1952) and is thus classified as Nearctic (Liljeblad *et al.* 2008). Although Melika & Abrahamson (2002) erroneously reported that the genus was also present in Central America, it is certain that one species, *A. dampfi* Kinsey 1937, was observed in Oaxaca (southern Mexico), a geographic area belonging the Neotropical region.

According to Liljeblad *et al.* (2008), there are 40 known species in the Nearctic region: 29 from regions north of Mexico (United States and Canada) (Burks 1979; Melika & Abrahamson 2002) and 11 from Mexico (Bassett 1890; Beutenmüller 1911; Kinsey 1937). Before 1937, only two species of the genus *Amphibolips* were recorded in Mexico (*A. palmeri* Bassett 1890 and *A. nigra* Beutenmüller, 1911). Kinsey (1937) described nine additional species from Mexico; seven species, represented only by asexual forms, which were included in the “*Niger* Complex”: *A. gumia* Kinsey, *A. jubatus* Kinsey, *A. elatus* Kinsey, *A. maturus* Kinsey, *A. nebris* Kinsey, *A. niger* Beutenmüller (= *A. nigra*) and *A. pistrinx* Kinsey, a typical Mexican group with a unique representative in southern Arizona (Kinsey 1937). The other three species present in Mexico are *A. dampfi* Kinsey, *A. nassa* Kinsey and *A. fuscus* Kinsey. Until now, the most recently described species of *Amphibolips* was *Amphibolips murata* Weld 1957, recorded from Florida.

According to Melika & Abrahamson (2002) the morphological characters of adults and their galls are very uniform in *Amphibolips*. These authors stated that the morphology of the sexual and asexual female is identical; however at least the asexual females of the *Niger* complex differ from sexual females of *Amphibolips* species in number of antennal segments (Kinsey 1937). Diagnostic characters of *Amphibolips* include antennae presenting 12–14 segments in females and 15–16 segments in males, very robust and