



Four new species of *Blacus* Nees (Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Blacinae) from Mexico

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Abstract

Four new species of *Blacus* from Mexico are described and illustrated, *B. basitarsis* Sánchez et Wharton, **sp. nov.**, *B. huitepec* Sánchez et Wharton, **sp. nov.**, *B. julianae* Sánchez et Figueroa, **sp. nov.**, and *B. longipetiolatus* Sánchez et Wharton, **sp. nov.**. Male genitalia are illustrated for comparison across all four species.

Key words: Neotropical, Nearctic, parasitoid, taxonomy

Introduction

Several blacine genera have been recorded from Mexico, including *Blacus* Nees (Delfín & Leon 1997, Sanchez *et al.* 1998, Sanchez & Lopez 2000, Wharton & Mercado 2000, Delfin *et al.* 2002, Coronado *et al.* 2004). The species of *Blacus* are cosmopolitan and common in both temperate and tropical regions; they are known to be endoparasites of coleopterous larvae, especially of the families Staphylinidae, Anobiidae, Cryptophagidae, Curculionidae, Nitidulidae, Melyridae and Cerambycidae (Achterberg 1988). *Blacus* is divided into nine subgenera: *Artocrus* Achterberg, *Blacus*, *Contochorus* Achterberg, *Ganychorus* Haliday, *Hysterobolus* Viereck, *Ischnotron* Achterberg, *Leioblacus* Achterberg, *Neoblacus* Ashmead, and *Tarpheion* Achterberg (Achterberg 1988). Of the 175 described species of *Blacus* (Achterberg 1976, 1988; Papp 1993; Belokobylskij 1995, 2000; Ahmad & Shuja 2001; Sánchez *et al.* 2003; Ahmad & Ahmed 2008), 41 are found in the New World (Achterberg 1988, Papp 1993). Eleven species are recorded from Mexico by Sanchez *et al.* (2003), who besides noted that numerous new species await for description. The objective of this study is to describe and illustrate four new species of *Blacus* from Mexico.

Material and methods

Specimens used in this study were borrowed from the following collections: Colección del Instituto de Fitosanidad del Colegio de Postgraduados, Montecillo, Edo. México, México (CEIFIT); Colección de Insectos Benéficos de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, México (UANL); Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias y Forestales, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, Tarímbaro, Michoacán, México (IIAF-UMSNH); Colección del CIIDIR-IPN Unidad Oaxaca, Santa Cruz Xoxocotlán,