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A new species of *Centris* (*Xanthemisia*) Moure, 1945 from South America with a synopsis of the known species of the subgenus in Colombia (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Centridini)

FELIPE VIVALLO¹, DANNY VÉLEZ^{2,3} & FERNANDO FERNÁNDEZ³

¹Laboratório de Hymenoptera, Departamento de Entomologia, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Quinta da Boa Vista, São Cristóvão, 20940-040, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. E-mail: fvivallo@yahoo.com

²Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos “Alexander von Humboldt”, Calle 28A N°15-09 Bogotá, Colombia. E-mail: dannyvelezv@gmail.com

³Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Carrera 30 N°45-3 Bogotá, Colombia. E-mail: ffernandezca@unal.edu.co

Abstract

A synopsis of the species of *Centris* subgenus *Xanthemisia* Moure in Colombia is presented. The species identified are *Centris ferruginea* Lepelletier, *C. lutea* Friese and *C. aureiventris*, a **new species** from the Colombian Andes. Morphological characters of both sexes, distribution records and an identification key for the three species of the subgenus that occur in Colombia are provided.

Key words: Oil-bees, taxonomy, Andean Mountains, Neotropical Region

Introduction

The subgenus *Centris* (*Xanthemisia*) Moure, 1945 is a small lineage that comprises nine species distributed from Mexico to northern Argentina including several Caribbean islands (Roig-Alsina, 2000; Genaro, 2007, 2008; Moure *et al.*, 2007), from lower altitude areas (Panama: Barro Colorado Island) (Snelling, 1984) up to 2000 m.a.s.l. in the Colombian Andes. The highest species diversity of this subgenus is found in temperate areas of South America, mainly Brazil, where five of the nine known species occur (Moure *et al.*, 2007).

The species of this subgenus form a very characteristic monophyletic group supported by several synapomorphies (Moure, 1945; Silveira *et al.*, 2002; Michener, 2007). These features are mainly associated to the morphology of females, such as the mandible with five teeth, being one of them on the inner surface at the base of the apical tooth, and the primary pygidial plate abruptly narrowed a short distance beyond the secondary plate. On the other hand, although the morphology of the males is quite conservative and somehow similar to that of the males in other subgenera, some characteristics of the genital capsule indicate that this subgenus belongs to the “*Centris* group” (Ayala, 1998 *apud* Zanella, 2002), one of the four major internal lineages of the genus (Vivallo & Melo, in preparation).

Unfortunately, the taxonomy at species level in this subgenus is relatively poorly known and the true identity of some species is uncertain, with some only known from their original description (*i.e.*, *C. amisitsi* (Schrottky, 1908) and *C. weilenmanni* Friese, 1900a). With the purpose of increasing the knowledge of the species of this subgenus, a new species of *C.* (*Xanthemisia*) is here described from the Colombian Andes, providing a synopsis of all known species of the subgenus that occur in Colombia.