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Discovery of the South African fauna of *Allophrys* Förster (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae: Tersilochinae)

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Abstract

Eight species of the genus *Allophrys* Förster are found to occur in South Africa: *A. astafurovae* **sp. nov.**, *A. broadi* **sp. nov.**, *A. calculator* **sp. nov.**, *A. dictator* **sp. nov.**, *A. excavator* **sp. nov.**, *A. granulata* **sp. nov.**, *A. scitula* **sp. nov.** and *A. tractor* **sp. nov.** All these species have body length 2.5–3.4 mm and fore wing length 1.7–2.3 mm, and along with members of the genus *Aneuclis* Förster are the smallest Afrotropical tersilochines. An identification key to eight South African species of *Allophrys* is provided.

Key words: Africa, Afrotropical region, taxonomy, key

Introduction

The study of the Afrotropical Tersilochinae was begun six years ago, and in a series of publications (Khalaim 2007, 2009, 2010, 2013) 22 Afrotropical species of the genera *Aneuclis* Förster (7 species), *Diaparsis* Förster (11 species), *Heterocola* Förster (1 species), *Meggoleus* Townes (1 species) and *Phradis* Förster (2 species) have been described. This article continues the study of Afrotropical Tersilochinae and covers the genus *Allophrys*.

Allophrys is a predominantly tropical tersilochine genus comprising ten described and many undescribed species. Eight species of *Allophrys* occur in the Neotropical region: the genotype, *A. oculata* (Ashmead), is known only from Grenada in the West Indies; the abundant and widely distributed (from south-eastern USA to Argentina) *A. divaricata* Horstmann was described in the recent revision of Nearctic Tersilochinae (Horstmann 2010); and the Costa Rican fauna, comprising six described and some undescribed species, was partly revised by Khalaim and Broad (2012). In the Americas, one unidentified species of *Allophrys* has been recorded from Cuba (Fernández-Triana *et al.* 2006).

In the Old World, two species of *Allophrys* were recently described from Brunei, Vietnam and India by Khalaim (2011), three unidentified species were collected in the canopy of tropical forests in Sabah Province of Malaysia (Horstmann *et al.* 2005), and two undescribed species were reported by Gauld (1984) from Australia. The genus has also been recorded from Africa and Philippines (Townes 1971), but no species have been described from these regions.

Allophrys includes mostly small species with body length 2.5–4.0 mm (rarely to 5.4 mm), and morphologically is very similar to the predominantly Holarctic genus *Phradis* Förster. *Allophrys* differs from *Phradis* primarily by the hind wing with a strongly reclivous nervellus and the enlarged eyes of males. *Allophrys* also has a complete hypostomal carina, propodeum usually with narrow and long apical area, slender first metasomal segment without glymma, and short and thin ovipositor. A key to genera occurring in the Afrotropical region, published in Khalaim (2007), may be used for distinguishing *Allophrys*.

The aim of this work is to describe the South African fauna of *Allophrys* and provide a key for identification of eight new species found to occur in this country.