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***Preembobracon* gen. nov. (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Doryctinae: Ypsistocerini: Embobraconina) from Brazil**

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Abstract. *Preembobracon zaldivarriveroni* gen et sp. nov. from Brazil is described and illustrated. It belongs to the poorly known tribe Ypsistocerini for which biology, is only partly known and then only for the genera of nominal subtribe which are both associated with termite colonies. *Preembobracon* displays both derived and plesiomorphic character states relative to *Embobracon* the only other genus of its tribe, and its position in relation to the other genera discussed. Its biology is unknown.

Key words: *Preembobracon*, new genus, new species, Doryctinae, Ypsistocerini, morphology, termitophily

Introduction

The Neotropical tribe Ypsistocerini was originally described as a separate subfamily of braconids for a remarkable termitophilus wasp from Bolivia and Brazil, *Ypsistocerus manni* (Cushman, 1923); a second species described in the same paper, *Y. vestigialis*, has since been synonymised with *Y. manni*. Soon thereafter, another genus and species, *Termitobracon emersoni* was described from British Guyana (Brues, 1923), which similarly had winged females and brachypterous males. Although lacking the normal suite of doryctine external morphological characters, the venom apparatus of ypsistocerines shared synapomorphic characters with the former (Quicke *et al.*, 1992) and have for some while now, been treated as a tribe of Doryctinae (Belokobylskij *et al.*, 2004, Quicke, 2015), though unfortunately no specimens have as yet been included in molecular phylogenetic studies to help resolve their placement.

The known species of these genera are well-illustrated by van Achterberg who added another highly aberrant genus to the group, *Embobracon*, from Panama, placing it in its own subtribe, the Embobraconina (van Achterberg, 1995). Monophyly of the Ypsistocerini is suggested by several apomorphic conditions including loss of hind wing vein SC+R, strong setosity, and retraction of hypopygium far under the metasoma such that the ovipositor sheaths arise near to the metasomal midlength (van Achterberg, 1995).

The relationships of this group were hard to define because of their highly derived morphology. The only other braconids known to be associated with termites are *Termitospathius* and *Ceylonspathius*, both from South East Asia. However, these are far less derived and are easily placed within the Doryctinae and appear to belong to the tribe Spathiini (Belokobylskij, 2002).

Here we describe a new genus and species of Ypsistocerini from Brazil based on old museum specimens. Consideration of its morphological characters suggest that it is either a member of the Embobraconina which is where we tentatively place it, or perhaps basal to the whole tribe.

Material and methods

Wing vein terminology follows Sharkey & Wharton (1997); other terminology follows van Achterberg (1988). Illustrations were made using an Olympus SXZ16 microscope with automated multiple image capture at preset focal levels using an Olympus DP72 camera, and image combination using the Cell^D image processing system.

Type specimens are deposited in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH).