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A NEW WASP FROM TRINIDAD, PREDACEOUS ON
CURCULIONIDAE AND BRUCHIDAE
(HYMENOPTERA: SPHECIDAE)

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Some years ago Dr. E. McC. Callan made biological observations on a number of solitary wasps in Trinidad, British West Indies. Dr. H. A. Scullen, to whom the *Cerceris* were submitted for identification, recognized one of them as representing a new species allied to *C. azteca* Saussure. Because of his other commitments, Dr. Scullen asked me to provide a description of this taxon, so that Dr. Callan could publish his biological notes. I take pleasure in naming the species for its prospective biographer.

***Cerceris callani* new species**

Holotype: ♀, Talparo, Trinidad, British West Indies, 15 June 1949, E. McC. Callan. USNM Type No. 71961.

Length 10 mm, forewing 8 mm. Black with rather pale yellow markings as follows: Base of mandible, transverse bar near apex of clypeal process, small spot on front along lower inner eye margin, scape and flagellum beneath, tiny spot behind upper outer margin of eye, narrow band on pronotal disk interrupted in middle, outer margin of tegula, broad band on scutellum, narrow band across middle of postscutellum, elongate streak along margin between lateral propodeal surface and dorsal and posterior surfaces, three transverse spots across apex of first tergum, that in center twice as long as lateral mark, band across apical half of second tergum narrowing laterally, narrow apical bands on third to fifth terga broadening slightly toward sides, large spot on side of sixth tergum adjacent to pygidium, very narrow apical streak on second sternum interrupted in middle, tiny posterolateral spots on third through fifth sterna, and anterior surfaces of fore and mid tibiae. The following reddish to brown: Apical third of mandible, tegula except outer margin, pygidium, lower surfaces of fore and mid femora, fore and mid tibiae

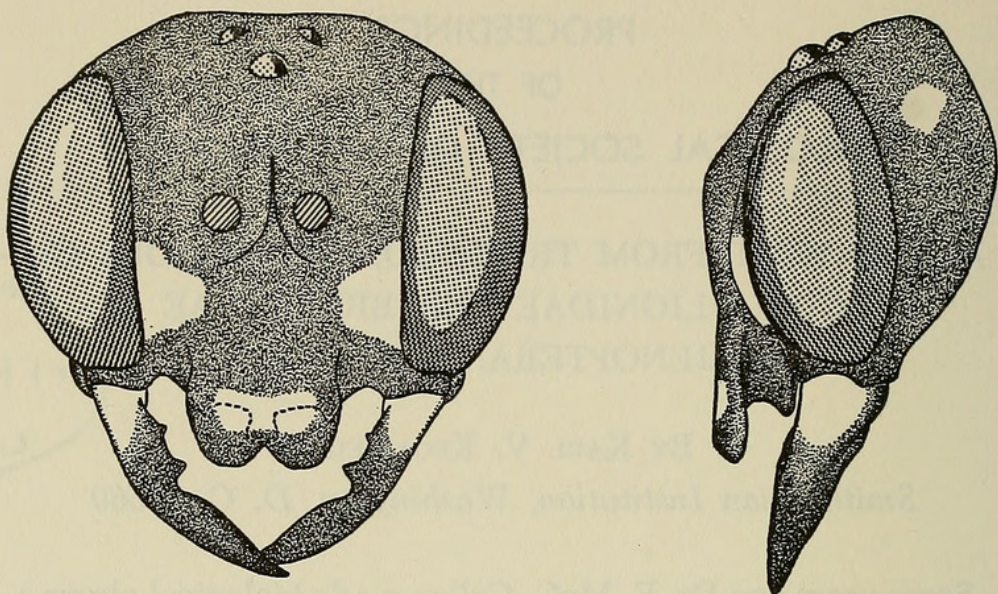


FIG. 1. *Cercheris callani* new species, holotype: Frontal view of head at left, apical margin of clypeus indicated by dotted lines beneath clypeal process; lateral view of head at right.

except anterior surfaces, apex of hind femur, and fore and mid tarsi. Wings subhyaline except anterior half of forewing infuscated, stigma dark amber.

Head in frontal view as figured, very similar to *azteca* in conformation of apical margin of clypeus and clypeal process, and in punctation. Thoracic punctation coarse and dense as in *azteca* except propodeal enclosure with a deeper median groove and most of surface with coarse, contiguous punctures, propodeum outside of enclosure somewhat more coarsely punctate. Abdominal terga coarsely and closely punctate as in *azteca*; pygidium also as in *azteca*, very narrow at base, the sides rounding toward the broader, truncate apex; posterolateral tubercle of fifth sternum prominent, but a bit smaller than in *azteca*.

Allotype: ♂, same locality, date and collector as holotype (USNM).

Length 6.5 mm, forewing 6 mm. Color pattern as in female except clypeus entirely yellow, lateral face mark extending upward slightly above level of antennal insertion, postscutellum black, propodeal mark smaller, lateral mark on first tergum evanescent, sixth tergum with a narrow apical band and seventh tergum dark.

Apical margin of clypeus with a complete fimbria of curled hairs meeting on midline as in *azteca*. Thoracic punctation coarse and dense as in *azteca*, that on propodeum denser. Abdominal terga with coarse, contiguous punctures, larger and denser than in *azteca*; fourth to sixth sterna clothed with dense, soft reclinate hair as in *azteca*; posterolateral angles of fifth and sixth sterna swollen but not tuberculate as in *azteca*.

Paratypes: 12 ♀, same locality and collector as holotype, collected 26

July 1945 (2 ♀), 15 June 1949 (2 ♀), 15 July 1949 (2 ♀) and 29 December 1950 (6 ♀). The paratypes are quite similar to the holotype in all details; about half the series lacks the small yellow bar on the clypeal process and the small spot on the postscutellum, a few have a small yellow spot on the side of the clypeus which may extend beneath the process, and the length range is 8.5–10 mm. Paratypes are in the collections of the National Museum of Natural History and the British Museum (Natural History).

Prey: Dr. Callan collected the following species of prey at Talparo, weevils being stored more commonly than bruchids: Curculionidae—*Centrinaspis* or genus near, *Geraeus* or genus near, *Anacentrinus* or genus near, *Limnobaris* or genus near, and two species belonging to two unknown genera; Bruchidae—*Sennius* sp., *Caryedes* sp. near *plagicornis* (Jekel), and *Acanthoscelides zeteki* Kingsolver.

Both sexes of *callani* run to *azteca* in Scullen's keys to the species of Mexico and Central America (Scullen, in press). The two species are separated as follows:

Paler yellow markings present on propodeum and second tergum, third to fifth (♀) or sixth (♂) terga with narrow apical bands. ♀: Propodeal enclosure with deeper median groove, rest of surface punctate; propodeal punctation elsewhere coarser; posterolateral tubercle of fifth sternum smaller. ♂: Posterolateral angles of fifth and sixth sterna swollen but not tuberculate; punctation of propodeum and abdominal terga coarser. Trinidad *callani* new species
Brighter yellow markings lacking on propodeum and second tergum, covering most of third to fifth (♀) or sixth (♂) terga. ♀: Propodeal enclosure impunctate and with a shallower median groove; propodeal punctation elsewhere not so coarse; posterolateral tubercle of fifth sternum larger. ♂: Posterolateral angles of fifth and sixth sterna tuberculate as well as swollen; punctation of propodeum and abdominal terga not so coarse. Southwestern Texas, and southern New Mexico and Arizona to Nicaragua *azteca* Saussure

LITERATURE CITED

- SCULLEN, H. A. In press. Review of the genus *Cerceris* Latreille in Mexico and Central America (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae). Smithsonian Contrib. Zool.



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