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FURTHER STUDIES ON SOUTH AMERICAN BETHYLIDAE (HYMENOPTERA)

HOWARD E. EVANS

Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

ABSTRACT—In the subfamily Pristocerinae, *Xestobethylus* Cameron is placed in the synonymy of *Pseudisobrachium* Kieffer; the specific names *flaviventris* Kieffer and *argentanicum* Evans are placed in the synonymy of *P. pallidipes* (Cameron), new combination. Two new species of this genus are described: *P. chacoense* (Argentina) and *P. erythrocephalum* (Chile). In the subfamily Epyrinae, 2 new genera are described: *Nothepyrus*, type-species *N. brasiliensis*, n. sp. (Brazil), and *Thlastepyrus*, type-species *T. pertenuis*, n. sp. (Brazil). Two additional new species are described: *Rhabdepyris* (*Chlorepys*) *cyanosoma* (Argentina, Surinam) and *Epyris* *nigrivirens* (Bolivia). New distribution records are presented for species of *Bakeriella*, *Aspidepyris*, and *Laelius*.

This paper is a supplement to my Synopsis of the American Bethylidae (Evans 1964) and to several subsequent generic revisions (Evans 1965, 1967, 1969, 1970). Its purpose is to dispose of 1 generic name, previously listed as unrecognizable, to describe 2 new genera, to present several new distribution records, and to describe several distinctive new species in material sent to me for identification. The genera and species considered belong to the subfamilies Pristocerinae and Epyrinae. Terminology is the same as that used in the Synopsis; for standard abbreviations of body parts, see that paper and also this journal, 72: 341 (1970).

Subfamily Pristocerinae Genus *Pseudisobrachium* Kieffer

- Pseudisobrachium* Kieffer, 1904: 368 (type-species: *P. laticeps* Kieffer). Evans, 1964: 62 (generic description and synonymy). Evans, 1970: 45-65 (spp. of Argentina and Chile).
- Xestobethylus* Cameron, 1909: 450 (type-species: *X. pallidipes* Cameron) (new synonymy). Evans, 1964: 17 (listed as unrecognized).

This is a large and difficult genus, and for the present it is possible to recognize only the males of some of the more common and distinc-

tive species. The species treated here all belong to the subgenus *Pseudisobrachium*, the other subgenus, *Edapholigon* Ogloblin, being known from 3 female specimens.

Pseudisobrachium pallidipes (Cameron) new combination

Xestobethylus pallidipes Cameron, 1909: 450 (type: ♂, ARGENTINA: Mendoza; in British Museum).

Plutobethylus flaviventris Kieffer, 1910: 53 (type: ♂, ARGENTINA: Mendoza; in Berlin Museum) (new synonymy).

Pseudisobrachium argentinicum Evans, 1964: 82 (new name for *flaviventris* Kieffer, preoccupied in *Pseudisobrachium*) (new synonymy). Evans, 1970: 58.

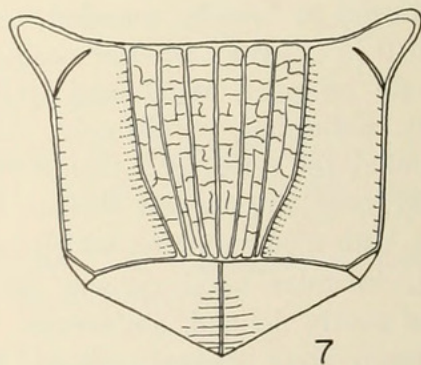
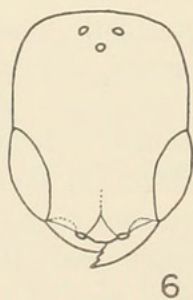
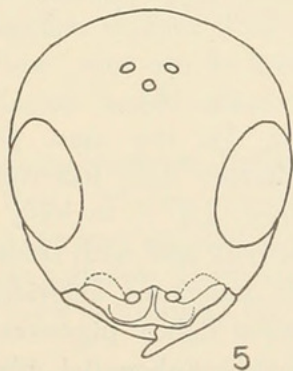
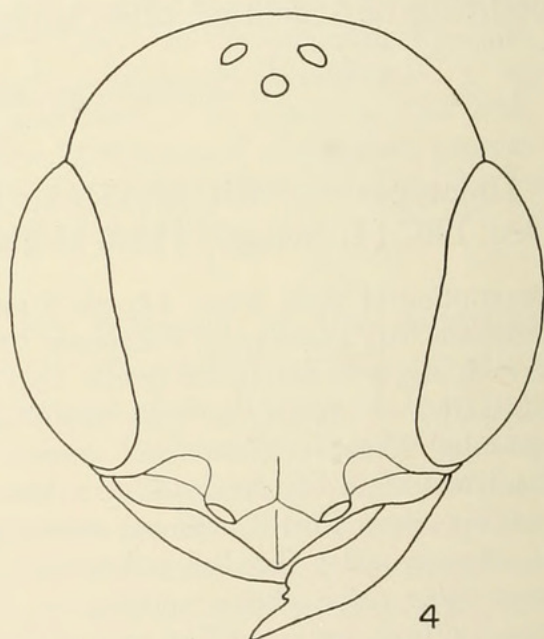
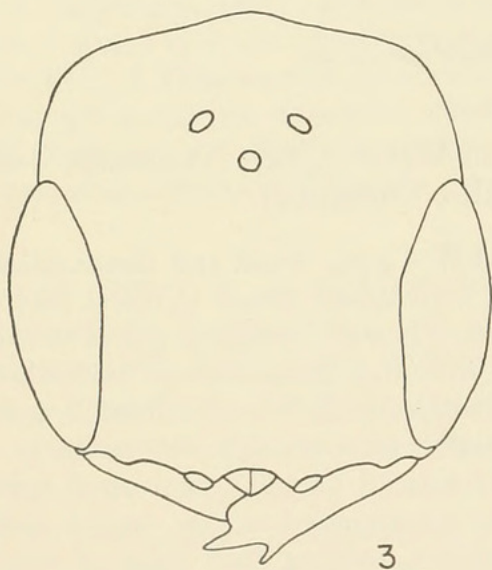
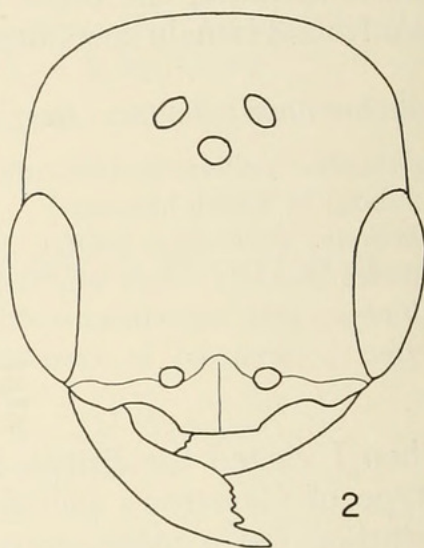
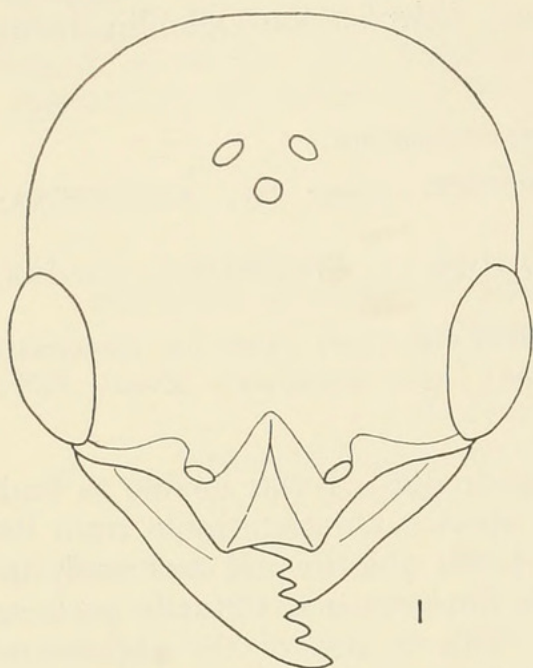
When I visited the British Museum in 1961, I was unable to find the type of Cameron's *pallidipes*, a species unrecognizable from its description. On a more recent visit I was able to find and study it. Agreement with the type of Kieffer's *flaviventris* is virtually perfect, and the type locality is the same. This is one of the commoner bethylids of Argentina, often being taken in light traps.

Pseudisobrachium chacoense, n. sp.

fig. 2

Holotype: ♂, ARGENTINA: 11 km W Las Cejas, Tucumán, 8–30 Dec. 1967 (L. Stange) [Inst. Miguel Lillo, Tucumán].

Description of male type: Length 5 mm; LFW 4 mm. Head and thorax black; abdomen dark castaneous, irregularly banded with lighter brown at apical margin of each segment; mandibles mostly light brown; antennae testaceous except weakly infuscated on apical $\frac{1}{2}$; legs stramineous, including coxae; wings subhyaline, veins light brown, stigma dark brown. Mandibles with 5 teeth, basal 3 teeth small and close together. Clypeus broad basally, sides strongly convergent to a truncate apex. First 4 antennal segments in a ratio of 17:4:7:7, segment 3 twice as long as wide; flagellar pubescence short, subappressed, a few longer, fully erect setae rising above pubescence. Eyes hairy, bulging from sides of head, removed from vertex crest by approximately their own height. Head approximately as wide as high, subquadrate, sides subparallel behind eyes and then suddenly contracted to broadly rounded vertex; WF $1.45 \times$ HE; ocelli slightly enlarged, DAO $0.15 \times$ WF; anterior ocellus very slightly above level of eye tops, ocellar triangle compact, WOT and OOL subequal. Occipital carina absent dorsally. Front alutaceous, moderately shining, punctures shallow, for the most part separated by more than their own diameters. Thoracic dorsum dull, inconspicuously punctate; notauli absent. Propodeum, in dorsal view, $1.4 \times$ as long as wide, with median carina which nearly reaches crest of declivity and with several short, irregular basal carinae. Mesopleurum with shallow punctures anteriorly, callus poorly defined, alutaceous. Discoidal vein of fore wing lightly pigmented, arising a short distance down on transverse median vein. Subgenital plate rounded apically, hirsute, without a signum.



Paratypes: 26 ♂♂, same data as type but various dates Dec. 1967–May 1968 (L. Stange); 4 ♂♂, Las Cejas, Tucumán, Jan.–Apr. 1968 (C. C. Porter) [Inst. Miguel Lillo, Mus. Comp. Zool., USNM].

Variation: The paratypes vary in size from 3.5 to 5.5 mm, LFW from 2.5 to 4.5 mm. There is little variation in color or in standard measurements except for minor variation in ocellar size. In specimens with unusually small ocelli DAO is $0.14 \times \text{WF}$, OOL very slightly greater than WOT; in the male with the largest ocelli, DAO is $0.20 \times \text{WF}$, WOT $1.3 \times \text{OOL}$. In the smaller males the wing veins tend to be very lightly pigmented and the discoidal vein interstitial with media or nearly so. The smaller males also have only 4 teeth on the mandibles and the third and following antennal segments only slightly longer than wide.

Remarks: In my key to the species occurring in Argentina and Chile (Evans, 1970), *chacoense* runs to couplet 15; it differs from the five species keying out beyond that point in its subquadrate head and characteristically shaped clypeus.

Pseudisobrachium erythrocephalum, n. sp.

fig. 1

Holotype: ♂, CHILE: La Fusta, C. Lonquimay, Malleco, 14 Feb. 1962 (L. E. Peña) [Canadian Nat. Coll., Ottawa].

Description of male type: Length 6 mm; LFW 4.2 mm. Entire head, including mandibles, bright orange; thorax and abdomen piceous; antennae light brown; legs piceous except tarsi light brown; wings wholly lightly infuscated, veins and stigma dark brown. Mandibles broad apically, with 5 strong, sharp teeth. Clypeus with a Y-shaped ridge, arms of which terminate in small lateral extensions of apical margin. First 4 antennal segments in a ratio of 19:4:9:8, segment 3 twice as long as wide; flagellar pubescence short, subappressed, a few longer, fully erect setae rising above pubescence. Eyes hairy, bulging from sides of head, removed from vertex crest by a distance considerably exceeding their own height. Head slightly higher than wide, sides of head roundly convergent from just behind eyes; WF $2.0 \times \text{HE}$; OOL $1.2 \times \text{HE}$; ocelli in compact triangle well above eye tops and far removed from top of vertex; DAO only $0.11 \times \text{WF}$; OOL $1.8 \times \text{WOT}$; occipital carina complete. Front shining, non-alutaceous, with small and shallow but rather close-set punctures. Thoracic dorsum also shining, non-alutaceous; pronotum transversely striatopunctate; mesoscutum wholly and uniformly punctate, notauli complete; scutellar groove very strong; propodeal disc barely longer than wide, with complete median carina and some-

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Fig. 1–6. Heads of holotypes of new species of Bethyliidae, drawn to same scale. 1, *Pseudisobrachium erythrocephalum*. 2, *P. chacoense*. 3, *Rhabdepyris* (*Chlorepyris*) *cyanosoma*. 4, *Epyris nigrivirens*. 5, *Nothepyrus brasiliensis*. 6, *Thlastepyrus pertenuis*. Fig. 7. Propodeum of holotype of *Epyris nigrivirens*.

what irregular transverse carina margining disc behind. Mesopleural callus strongly elevated, polished and impunctate, mesopleurum otherwise with strong punctures. Fore wing with discoidal cell faintly outlined by pigmented streaks. Subgenital plate rounded apically.

Paratype: ♂, CHILE: Quebrada de La Plata, 550 m, Rinconada, Prov. Santiago, 22 March 1966 (M. E. Irwin; Malaise trap) [Univ. Calif. Riverside].

Variation: The paratype is similar in size to the type and apparently of similar color, although it is somewhat greasy. In this specimen the head is produced even farther above the eyes, measuring $1.05 \times$ as long as wide; the ocellar triangle is slightly broader, so that OOL is only $1.6 \times$ WOT and barely greater than HE.

Remarks: This is one of the most striking species of the genus known to me, not only because of its color but because of the unusual form of the clypeus, the thoracic sculpturing, and the transverse carina margining the propodeal disc. Only 1 other species of *Pseudisobrachium* is known from Chile (*chilense* Evans); this is also a very distinctive species, but in quite different respects.

Subfamily Epyrinae

Genus *Rhabdepyris* Kieffer

Rhabdepyris (*Chlorepyris*) *cyanosoma*, n. sp.

fig. 3

Holotype: ♀, ARGENTINA: 11 km W of Las Cejas, Tucumán, 1-15 Sept. 1967 (L. Stange) [Inst. Miguel Lillo, Tucumán].

Description of female type: Length 6 mm; LFW 3.8 mm. Head and thorax deep blue, propodeum also of this color but with coppery tints medially; abdomen a somewhat darker shade of blue, suffused with brownish apically; mandibles dark blue except rufous apically; scape dark blue, remainder of antenna dark brown, testaceous beneath; legs dark blue except tarsi brown; wings subhyaline, fore wing weakly clouded along radial vein, veins and stigma dark brown. Mandibles with unusually large tooth on inferior margin. Median lobe of clypeus barely extending beyond interantennal portion of front; antennae short, first four segments in a ratio of 19:5:5:7, segment 3 wider than long. Head subquadrate, WH and LH subequal; WF $1.2 \times$ HE; front angle of ocellar triangle exceeding a right angle, OOL very slightly exceeding WOT. Vertex slightly gibbous behind ocelli; distance from eye tops to vertex crest equal to slightly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ HE. Front moderately alutaceous, shining, with strong punctures which are separated by $1-2 \times$ their own diameters. Pronotal disc similar, but punctures slightly more widely spaced; mesoscutum weakly punctate on posterior $\frac{1}{3}$, notauli broadened and convergent here; scutellar pits small, connected by narrow but deep groove. Propodeal disc $1.2 \times$ as wide as long, center with 5 longitudinal carinae which are connected by numerous cross-ridges; sides of disc shining and with weak surface sculpturing; side-pieces finely, longitudinally striate. Mesopleurum shining, weakly alutaceous, punctate; upper fovea deep, elongate; lower fovea broadly incomplete above. Front femora $2.1 \times$ as long as wide; claws somewhat

trifid, with small basal swelling followed by 2 longer rays. Transverse median vein of fore wing weakly curved. Abdomen depressed apically.

Paratype: ♀, SURINAM: Kwatta Road to sea, mangrove forest, 3-6 March 1964 (D. C. Geijskes; Malaise trap) [Leiden Museum].

Variation: Although the paratype is from a place far from the type locality and apparently from a very different habitat, it is closely similar to the type. The propodeum lacks coppery tints, but in color and size it is otherwise identical. WF is $1.35 \times$ HE, OOL $1.35 \times$ WOT. Sculpturing is in every respect closely similar to that of the type. One assumes that this species is widely distributed in South America.

Remarks: This is the only *Rhabdepyris* known in which the entire body, including the abdomen and legs to the tibiae, is blue in color. In my key (Evans 1965: 113) it runs to couplet 12, but it differs from *violaceus* and *tricolor* not only in color but in the more elongate head, much broader ocellar triangle, more elongate propodeum, and several other features.

Genus *Epyris* Westwood

Epyris nigrivirens, n. sp.

figs. 4, 7

Holotype: ♀, BOLIVIA: Dept. Beni, Rio Itenez at mouth of Rio Baures, 10 Oct. 1964 (J. K. Bouseman & J. Lussenhop) [Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York].

Description of female type: Length 6.5 mm; LFW 4.5 mm. Black, head and thorax (but not propodeum) reflecting dark green, apical $\frac{1}{3}$ of abdomen suffused with reddish brown; mandibles ferruginous, antennae also of this color except flagellum somewhat infuscated on upper surface; legs fuscous to femora (front femora reflecting dark green), tibiae and tarsi ferruginous; wings lightly tinged with yellowish brown. Mandibles tridentate; clypeus broadly subangular. First 4 antennal segments in a ratio of 25:6:7:8, segment 3 slightly longer than wide. Eyes sparsely hairy, slightly bulging from sides of head; vertex forming an even arc above eye tops; front narrow, WF $0.90 \times$ HE; ocelli in a compact triangle, front angle less than a right angle, OOL $1.25 \times$ WOT. Front shining, barely alutaceous, covered with strong punctures which are separated by about their own diameters. Thoracic dorsum slightly more evidently alutaceous than front; pronotal disc with punctures somewhat weaker and more widely spaced than on front; mesoscutum punctate on posterior $\frac{1}{2}$ only; scutellar pits slender, oblique, separated by $1.5 \times$ their own maximum length. Propodeal disc $1.5 \times$ as wide as long, with 7 strong carinae in the center; sides of disc shining, weakly sculptured; posterior angles foveolate. Mesopleurum alutaceous and punctate, the fovea ill-defined above. Middle tibiae strongly spinose for most of their length. Transverse median vein of fore wing strongly curved below.

Allotype: ♂, BOLIVIA: Dept. Beni, Romansos, 1 km N Junction Rio Itenez and Rio Paragua, 30 July 1964 (J. K. Bouseman & J. Lussenhop) [Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.].

Description of male allotype: Length 5.5 mm; LFW 4.2 mm. Black, head with dark blue reflections, thorax more weakly reflecting dark blue (but not propodeum); antennae wholly testaceous beneath, dark brown above; legs black to femora, tibiae brownish, tarsi testaceous; wings lightly suffused with brownish. Mandibles bidentate, upper tooth broad and blunt. First 4 antennal segments in a ratio of 9:4:5:6, segment 3 $1.4 \times$ as long as wide, segment 11 $3 \times$ as long as wide. Median lobe of clypeus obtusely angulate; eyes sparsely hairy; vertex broadly rounded off a short distance above eye tops. WH $0.96 \times$ LH; WF $0.95 \times$ HE; front angle of ocellar triangle less than a right angle, OOL $1.4 \times$ WOT. Front and thoracic dorsum polished, non-alutaceous, strongly punctate; notauli convergent and widened behind, separated there by twice their own width; scutellar pits separated by twice their own length. Propodeal disc $1.6 \times$ as wide as long, with 11 somewhat irregular longitudinal carinae, some of them incomplete; sides of disc shining, with weak surface sculpturing; posterior angles foveolate. Mesopleurum and fore wing as in female.

Remarks: This species is a member of the *Subspinosus* species-group and is the first member of the group to be described from the female sex and the first known species of the group of metallic coloration. The male will run to *subspinosus* in my key (Evans 1969: 198), although the propodeal sculpturing is much more like *willinki*; the scutellar pits are more widely separated than in either of those species, and of course the coloration is different. The female will not key out, since no females of this group have previously been known. In the key to species-groups (p. 188) it runs to couplet 6 but differs in having a much shorter and broader propodeum. The tridentate mandibles are also distinctive, although this feature is shared by 2 members of the *tricostatus* group.

Genus *Bakeriella* Kieffer

Bakeriella cristata Evans

This is the only known species of the genus in which the scutellar pits are separated by a broad, flat-topped ridge. I described it from males from Bolivia and Brazil. Three additional males before me represent the first records for this genus from Argentina: 1 ♂, Eldorado, Misiones, 13 Oct. 1964 (A. Kovacs) [Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.]; 2 ♂♂, Pocitos, Gral. Sn. Martin, Salta, Jan. 1971 (Fritz & Martinez) [Coll. M. Fritz].

I also have a specimen that very probably represents the female of this species. It is from Nova Teutonia, Santa Catarina, Brazil, collected by Fritz Plaumann on 18 April 1941 [Coll. R. D. Shenefelt]. It is, like the male, immediately separable from other *Bakeriella* by virtue of having the scutellar pits elliptical and separated by a broad, flat-topped ridge; it is also unique in the genus in having the front dark, metallic green. The pronotum has the median carina weakly developed on the posterior $\frac{1}{3}$, otherwise absent. The mandibles have 2

large apical teeth, the upper 1 very broad; OOL is $1.1 \times$ WOT; LFW is 2.7 mm. The body is black, without metallic reflections except on the front; the antennae, apical parts of the legs, and tip of the abdomen are ferruginous.

Genus *Aspidepyris* Evans

This unusual genus has been known from 3 specimens representing 2 species. Hence a new record seems worth noting.

Aspidepyris austrinus Evans

This species was described from Brazil and Bolivia (Evans 1967). The following specimen represents a considerable northwestward range extension: 1 ♂, Santo Domingo, Ecuador, 19 June 1965 (Luis Peña) [Coll. H. K. Townes].

Genus *Laelius* Ashmead

This genus has not been reported from the southern hemisphere, but since the species attack dermestid beetles, it is not surprising that it does occur in South America, probably by introduction in commerce.

Laelius pedatus (Say)

Two females from Brazil appear identical to females from eastern North America. They bear the following data: 1 ♀, São Paulo, 15 Jan. 1966 (W. W. Kempf) [Mus. Zool. Univ. São Paulo]; 1 ♀, Nova Teutonia, Santa Catarina, March 1967 (F. Plaumann) [Museum of Comparative Zoology].

Genus *Thlastepyrus* new genus

Type species: *Thlastepyrus pertenuis*, n. sp.

Generic characters (of female; male unknown): Known species about 2.5 mm in length, fuscous, entire body extremely flattened; wings fully developed. Head much longer than wide, eyes situated well forward, far removed from vertex; eyes sparsely covered with short setae, slightly bulging from side of head; labial palpi short, with 3 segments; maxillary palpi with 6 segments; mandibles slender, terminating in 4 teeth; clypeus protruding only a short distance beyond base of antennae, with shallow median emargination, overhung laterally by antennal insertions; antennae slender, elongate, 13-segmented, arising slightly below bottoms of eyes; malar space very short; temples not at all developed, head broadly flattened immediately behind eyes; occipital carina absent.

Pronotum simple, very flat, much longer than very short mesoscutum; propleura angularly projecting anterolaterally of pronotum, in dorsal view; notauli absent; parapsidal furrows thin, not reaching anterior margin of mesoscutum; scutellum with pair of slender basal pits connected by very thin line; propodeum elongate, disc weakly margined laterally and posteriorly, also with median carina which does not quite reach posterior margin. Femora slightly incrassate, legs otherwise simple,

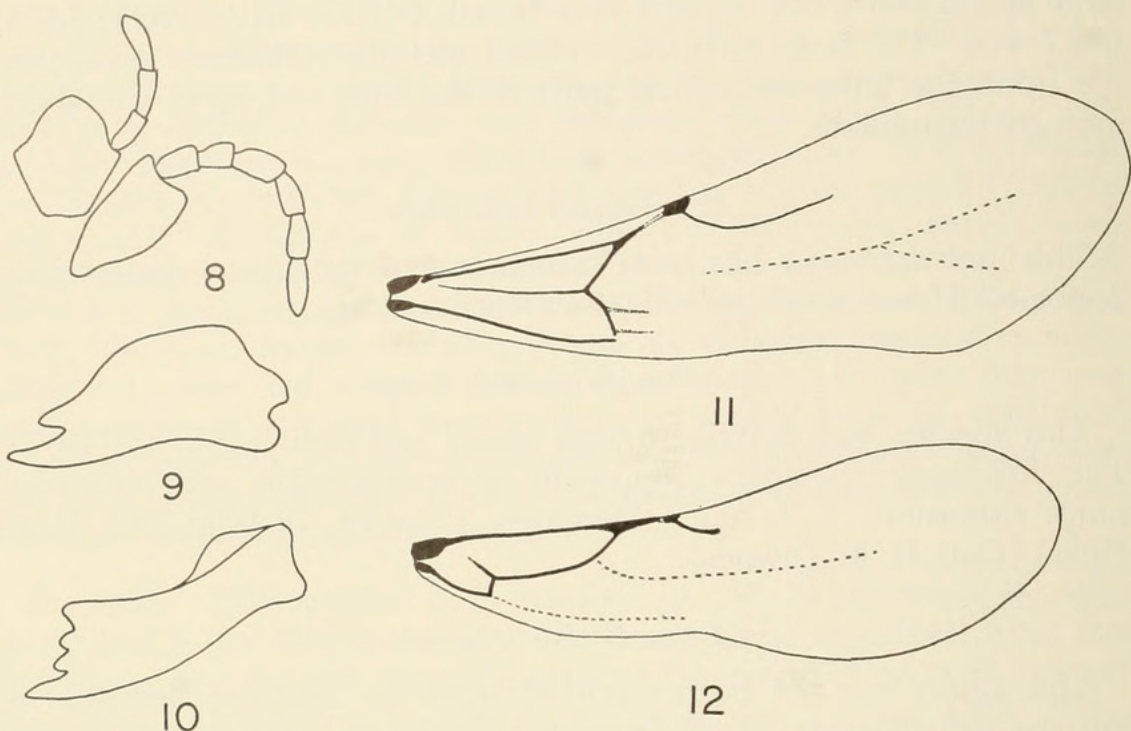


Fig. 8. Maxilla and labium of *Nothepyrus brasiliensis*, n. sp. Fig. 9. Mandible of *N. brasiliensis*, n. sp. Fig. 10. Mandible of *Thlastepyrus pertenuis*, n. sp. Fig. 11. Fore wing of *Nothepyrus brasiliensis*, n. sp. Fig. 12. Fore wing of *Thlastepyrus pertenuis*, n. sp.

not spinose; claws simple. Wings rather slender, fore wing with very small stigma and short radial vein, basal cells of unusual shape and incompletely divided (fig. 12). Abdomen exceedingly strongly depressed.

Remarks: This genus bears much resemblance to *Cephalonomia* and *Plastanoxus*, but it cannot be placed in the Cephalonomiini because of the 13-segmented antennae and elongate, fully segmented palpi. It is perhaps best placed in the Sclerodermini because of the reduced venation and very short clypeus, although the eyes are more lateral and somewhat more protruding than is usually the case in that tribe.

Thlastepyrus pertenuis, n. sp.

fig. 6, 10, 12

Holotype: ♀, BRAZIL: Nova Teutonia, Santa Catarina, 2 May 1941 (F. Plaumann) [Mus. Comp. Zool.].

Description of female type: Length 2.8 mm; fore wing 1.6 mm. Head and thorax black, abdomen shining reddish brown; antennae and legs dark brown except tibiae and tarsi testaceous; wings hyaline. First 4 antennal segments in a ratio of 10:4:3:3, segment 3 barely longer than wide, segment 11 $1.3 \times$ as long as wide. Head $1.15 \times$ as long as wide; WF $0.60 \times$ WH, $1.25 \times$ HE; distance from eye tops to vertex crest $1.3 \times$ HE; OOL $2 \times$ WOT, ocelli far above eye

tops and close to vertex crest. Front strongly alutaceous although moderately shining, with median streak which is slightly elevated below, slightly depressed just before anterior ocellus. Thoracic dorsum also alutaceous, moderately shining, very sparsely and inconspicuously punctate; propodeum similarly alutaceous. Venation of fore wing as figured.

Remarks: This striking species is known from a single specimen, which I have held on to for several years in the hope of finding others like it. The extremely depressed form suggests that it attacks an insect living under bark.

Genus *Nothepyrus* new genus

Type species: *Nothepyrus brasiliensis*, n. sp.

Generic characters (of female; male unknown): Known species 3–4 mm long, testaceous to piceous in color, wings fully developed. Head slightly wider than maximum width of thorax, slightly wider than high (exclusive of mouthparts); head very convex in front, vertex broadly rounded; eyes with sparse, short hairs, well removed from crest of vertex and from posterior margin of head (i.e., temples broad); labial palpi with 3 segments, maxillary palpi with 6; mandibles broad basally, tapering to bidentate apex; clypeus short, broadly truncate, deeply sunken at each antennal socket; antennae slender, 13-segmented, arising well below bottoms of eyes; malar space about as long as width of mandibles at their base; occipital carina absent.

Pronotum with smooth contours, somewhat longer than mesoscutum, latter with both notauli and parapsidal grooves complete, linear; scutellum with transverse, basal groove which is curved backward at each end; propodeal disc margined with carinae laterally and posteriorly and with complete median carina. Femora only slightly incrassate; middle tibiae somewhat broadened and bearing many short, spinelike setae above; claws simple. Wing venation as figured (fig. 11), differing in no important details from that of *Nesepyrus* except that the radial vein is somewhat thinner than other veins. Abdomen robust, the sternites with tripartite apical plates similar to those of *Lepidosternopsis* although much shorter.

Remarks: This genus fits readily in the Sclerodermini, running to couplet 2 in my key to genera (Evans 1964: 161) but differing from both *Nesepyrus* and *Chilepyrus* in head shape and form of the mandibles, from the latter genus in venation, and from the former in palpal segmentation.

Nothepyrus brasiliensis, n. sp.

figs. 5, 8, 9, 11

Holotype: ♀, BRAZIL: Nova Teutonia, Santa Catarina, 11 April 1941 (F. Plaumann) [Mus. Comp. Zool.].

Description of type: Length 3.9 mm; fore wing 2.7 mm. Dark reddish brown, thorax almost black, but head fading to light brown anteriorly, especially clypeus and mouthparts; antennae and legs medium brown; wings hyaline except fore

wing weakly clouded on apical $\frac{1}{2}$. First 4 antennal segments in a ratio of 15:6:5:4, segment 3 $1.7 \times$ as long as wide, segment 11 $1.3 \times$ as long as wide. Front narrow, WF $1.08 \times$ HE; ocelli in a compact triangle opposite tops of eyes, front angle less than a right angle; OOL $1.3 \times$ WOT; distance from posterior ocelli to top of vertex slightly exceeding WOT. Temples, in lateral view, approximately as wide as maximum width of eye. Head shining, weakly alutaceous, with sparse, shallow setigerous punctures. Thoracic dorsum moderately alutaceous, pronotum somewhat more closely punctate than head, but mesoscutum impunctate. Propodeal disc with weak surface sculpturing except for pair of sharp carinae between median and lateral carinae which extend for 0.7 the length of the disc.

Paratypes: 10 ♀♀, same data as type but dated March–June 1941, 2 of them undated but evidently collected more recently [Mus. Comp. Zool., USNM, Coll. R. D. Shenefelt].

Variation: The paratypes vary in length from 3.2 to 4.0 mm. Several are somewhat paler than the type, somewhat ferruginous, but in every case the thorax is darker than the head or abdomen. There seem to be no important differences in sculpture or in standard measurements.

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