



***Euglossa bembei* sp. n. (Hymenoptera: Apidae): a new orchid bee from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest belonging to the *Euglossa cybelia* Moure, 1968 species group**

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Abstract

One species of *Euglossa*, which has been collected in the Atlantic Forest from Pernambuco to São Paulo in low abundance, is here described as a new species, *Euglossa bembei* sp. n. An updated identification key for the species of *Euglossa* (*Euglossa*) occurring in eastern Brazil is provided.

Key words: Atlantic Forest, *Euglossa ioprosopa*, Euglossina, euglossine bees

Introduction

Euglossa Latreille, 1802 (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Apini: Euglossina) is the most speciose genus of Euglossina, including more than a hundred species (see Nemésio & Rasmussen 2011). It comprises medium-sized to large bees (from 8.0 to 20.0 mm), showing mostly metallic colors, especially in green, red, and blue hues. A recently renewed interest in this group of bees has revealed several new species of *Euglossa* (e.g. Roubik 2004, Ramírez 2005, 2006, Rasmussen & Skov 2006, Parra-H. *et al.* 2006, Nemésio 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011b, Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel 2007, Bembé 2007, 2008, Hinojosa-Díaz *et al.* 2011).

Recent studies have shown that populations of orchid-bee species formerly believed to occur both in the Amazon Basin and the Atlantic Forest of eastern Brazil belong, in fact, to distinct species (e.g. Nemésio 2008, 2009, 2010a, 2011b, c). In this study, a new species of *Euglossa*, closely related to the Amazonian *Euglossa ioprosopa* Dressler, 1982a, is described from the Atlantic Forest. It has been recorded from the state of Pernambuco, in the north, to São Paulo, in the south (Nemésio 2009) and has been treated until now as *Euglossa ioprosopa* (e.g. Darvauld *et al.* 2006, Nemésio 2009) and *Euglossa cybelia* Moure, 1968 or *Euglossa* cf. *nigropilosa* Moure, 1968 (Tonhasca Jr. *et al.* 2002).

Material and methods

The studied specimens, including type material, belong to the Entomological Collection of the Taxonomic Collections of the 'Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais' (UFMG). Terga and sterna are referred to as T1, T2, T3, etc, and S1, S2, S3, etc. Integument and setae coloration were observed by eye using a Leica MZ12 microscope lit. Measurements were taken from the holotype. Tongue length was measured as indicated by Kimsey (1982:10, for *Eufriesea* Cockerell, 1908).

Taxonomy. Taxonomy follows Nemésio (2009, 2010, 2011a, b, c) and Nemésio & Rasmussen (2011). General morphological terminology for bees follows Roig-Alsina & Michener (1993) and Michener (2007). Specific morphological terminology for orchid bees follows Nemésio (2009: 10, 12).