

Neruandella gen. n. from Mexico and USA (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae)

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Neruandella gen. n. is described, with the type species *Ruandella zerovae* Trjapitzin & Ruiz Cancino from Sinaloa, Mexico. The new genus is compared with the Afrotropical genus *Ruandella* Risbec.

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Noyes et al. (1907) placed the genus *Ruandella* Risbec, 1957 (type species: *Ruandella testacea* Risbec, 1957 from Rwanda) in their key to Nearctic genera of Encyrtidae. They found two undescribed species of “*Ruandella*” in the Nearctic but did not indicate their geographical distribution.

Following the interpretation of the genus *Ruandella* by Noyes et al. (1997), Trjapitzin & Ruiz Cancino (2001) described a new species *Ruandella zerovae* collected by J.T. Huber in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico, in 1982. Two of the four African species of *Ruandella* are represented in the collection of Zoological Institute RAS, St.Petersburg, Russia. This allowed me to compare their characters with those of *R. zerovae* and some characters mentioned in the key by Noyes et al. (1997) and to draw a conclusion that American species belong to an undescribed genus established here.

Genus *Neruandella* gen. n.

Type species: *Ruandella zerovae* Trjapitzin & Ruiz Cancino, 2001.

Description. Female. Body elongate. Head hypognathous. Occipital margin acute. Subocular suture well developed. Antennal toruli under the level of inferior margins of eyes. Antennal scape long, sublinear; pedicel short; funicle 6-segmented, clava 3-segmented; flagellum fusiform, tapering towards its both ends, rather strongly broadened and flattened; clava narrower than funicle. Maxillary palpus with apical segment very conspicuously enlarged. Mesoscutum without parapsidal lines. Scutellum convex, with apex smooth and brilliant (2/5-1/3 the length of scutellum). Forewing narrow, 3 times as long as broad, with dark pattern; costal cell nearly absent, perceptible in the basal part of wing; mar-

ginal vein about 1.5 times as long as broad; stigmal vein nearly perpendicular to anterior margin of wing, but short; postmarginal vein shorter than stigmal. Mesopleura reaching base of gaster, which is as long as mesosoma and head combined. Ovipositor sheaths slightly exerted. Body partly with metallic lustre.

Male unknown.

Comparison. *Neruandella* and *Ruandella* belong to the subfamily Encyrtinae, tribe Microteryni, subtribe Microterynina. *Neruandella* shares with *Ruandella* the following characters: forewing with stigmal vein almost perpendicular to anterior margin of wing and with rather similar type of dark pattern on the alar disc. It differs from *Ruandella* in the axillary palpus with apical segment very conspicuously enlarged, fusiform antennal flagellum (clavate in *Ruandella*), very long stigmal vein of the forewing (short in *Ruandella*), and absence of costal cell (present in *Ruandella*). Strongly enlarged apical segment of maxillary palpus seems to be a unique character in the family Encyrtidae. Antenna and dark pattern of the forewing of *Neruandella zerovae* (Trjapitzin & Ruiz Cancino), **comb. n.** has been illustrated by Trjapitzin & Ruiz Cancino (2001).

References

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- Trjapitzin, V.A. & Ruiz Cancino, E. 2001. Sinopsis de las especies de *Ruandella* Risbec (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Encyrtidae) y descripción de una nueva especie del Estado de Sinaloa, México. *Folia entomol. Mexic.*, **40**(2): 213-219.

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