

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *OXAEA* FROM BRAZIL (HYMENOPTERA: APIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT

O. schwarzi n.sp. is described. This species has the mandible broadly expanded and obliquely truncated at its apex and it is provided with a basal, inner tooth. The tegument of the abdominal terga is entirely black and here in the males the green metallic luster is almost completely lacking in the marginal depressions.

Oxaea and *Protoxaea* are two genera of large Andrenide bees placed by Michener (1944) in the subfamily Oxaeinae. Apparently their close relatives are the species of the Old World genus *Melitturga* which constitutes the only genus of the tribe Melitturgini of the Panurginae.

Protoxaea is easily recognized by the possession of the long six-segmented maxillary palpi. The genus includes about seven species flying from Mexico to the southern United States, and one representative in South America, *Protoxaea ferruginea* (Fries, 1898), known from Mendoza, Argentina, to southern Mato Grosso, Brazil. The synonymy of this species has been recently revised by the senior author (1947).

The genus *Oxaea*, confined to the Guiano-Brazilian subregion, lacks the maxillary palpi. The females have green metallic abdominal terga, but this color is confined to the marginal depression of the terga in males. In the present species the tegument is entirely black with the green metallic luster almost completely lacking on the marginal depressions.

The strong convergence of the inner orbits towards the vertex is suggestive of *O. festiva* and *O. stenocoryphe*, but on the other hand *O. schwarzi* is unusual in that the mandibles are broadly

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expanded and obliquely truncate at the apex and provided with a basal inner tooth.

Oxaea schwarzi new species

MALE Black, with some steel-bluish reflections on terga except for the marginal depressions which have a metallic black brilliance with a very weak green reflection on certain light; second to fourth tarsal joints more or less reddened. Wings moderately fuscous especially towards the marginal and submarginal cells; tegulae and venation black.

Pubescence dark fuscous on vertex, thorax, legs, propodeum and both sides dorsal and ventral of the abdomen; pale whitish on frons, lower half of the face and lower four-fifths of the genae. Posterior disc of mesoscutum and the two elevated areas of scutellum glabrous. Lateral tufts of metasomal terga moderately developed, on terga 5-7 of similar character but longer and denser with a tendency to cover more of the basal region.

Punctuation rather close and fine on frons, with some traces of impunctate areas on parocular and median regions; a small triangular area on the lower part of the supraclypeus densely but finely tessellated with two or three irregular punctures; clypeus covered with dense but clearly separated punctures on sides, on central part with scattered punctures forming a wide line broadened below, dull and tessellated. The punctures of thorax slightly finer than those on vertex, rather dense forward and latrad; mesoscutal disc and elevated areas of scutellum sparsely punctured with shiny spaces between the punctures about two to four diameters of puncture; metanotum with fairly sparser but coarser punctures leaving a median impunctate area. Upper half of the mesepisterna with crowded but distinct punctures, the lower half with sparser punctuation; on the basal area of the propodeum a little coarser and sparser than on the metanotum and sparser mesad, on the other areas of the propodeum finer and denser. The basal part of the terga covered with small, distinct and moderately dense punctures but clearly separated and sparser mesad, more emphatically so on third and fourth terga; the marginal depression of terga 1-6 smooth with a sericeous luster; these depressions progressively wider toward the apex, the first one as broad as a little less than the maximum diameter of the flagellum, the fifth depression more than twice as broad as the first.

The head slightly broader than long, but narrower than thorax; inner orbits almost straight, strongly converging above, the lower interorbital distance shorter than eye length but about four times as long as the upper interorbital distance (185:32:122). Malar area short, the shortest distance from the eye to the mandible distinctly shorter than the smaller diameter of the basal joint of the flagellum. The mandible expanded and laminated distally, its apex obliquely truncate and with a strong rounded basal tooth on inner border. The clypeus strongly protuberant, its length about two-thirds of its width, more than twice as long as the clypeocellar distance (71:115:31). The interalveolar distance more than twice as long as the diameter of the alveolus, but three times as long as the alveolorbital distance; the latter a trifle longer than the distance between the upper border of the alveolus and

the lower tangent of the lateral ocelli (38: 13: 12: diameter 15). The ocelli very low on the frons, the distance between the upper tangent of the median ocellus and the upper part of the vertex longer than twice the upper inter-orbital distance (80: 32); the interocellar distance a little longer than the transverse diameter of the median ocellus, but more than three times as long as the ocellorbital distance (25: 7: diameter 19). The scape of the antenna equal to the intervalveolar distance, much shorter than the basal segment of the flagellum, but longer than the following four flagellar segments together (38: 46: 7: 12: 9: 11.5: diameter of the fourth flagellar segment 12).

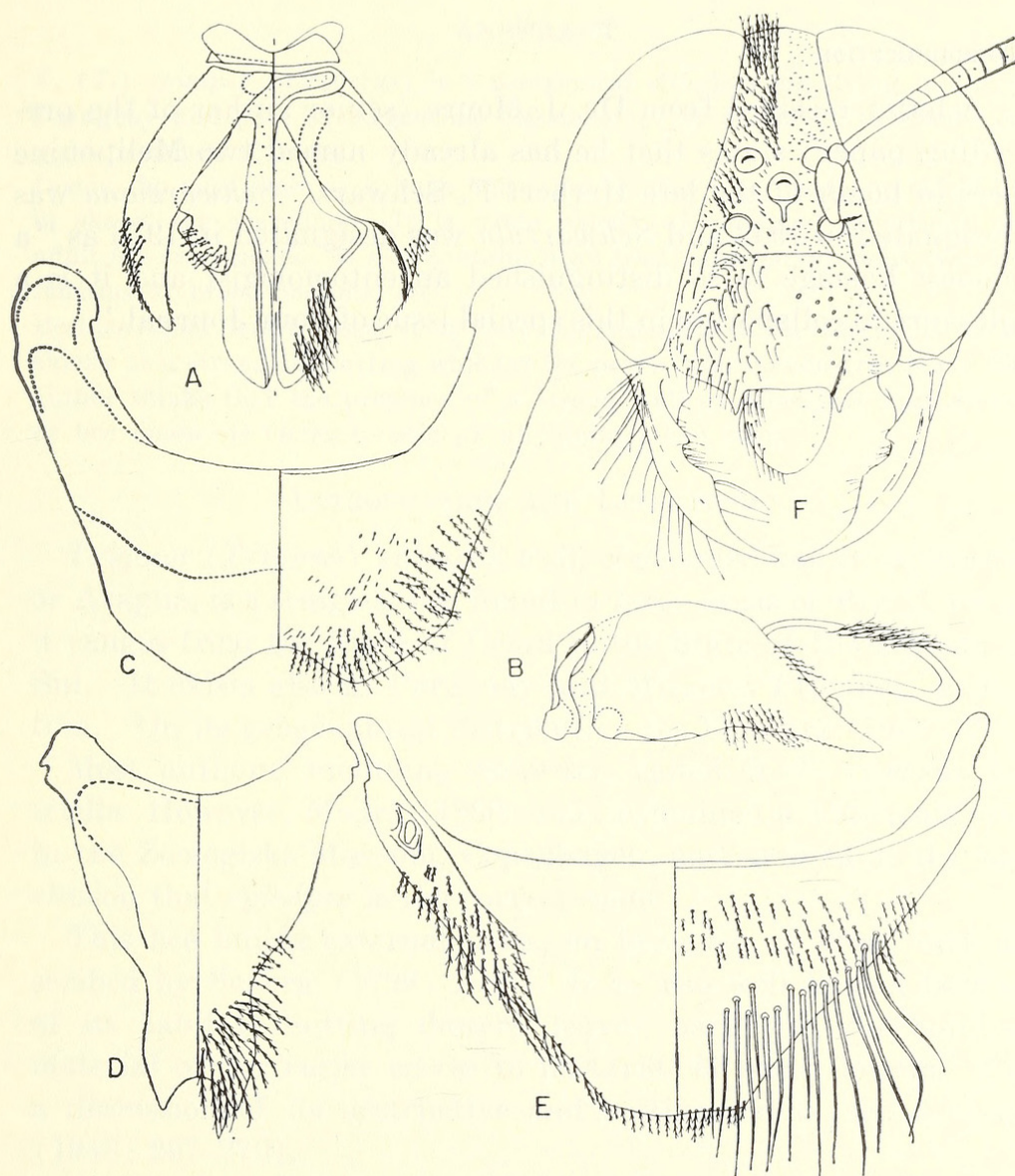


Fig. 1 *Oxaea schwarzi*. Male head (F) and terminalia: seventh tergum (E) (left half ventral), seventh (C) and eighth (D) sternite (left halves dorsal), and genitalia (A) (left half ventral) and (B) (lateral).

SIZE Length 17.5 mm, wing 15.5 mm; breadth of head 5.7 mm of thorax (between outer borders of tegulae) 7.8 mm and of abdomen 7.6 mm.

HOLOTYPE Male in Moure's collection, one male paratype in Campos Seabra's collection.

TYPE LOCALITY Vitória da Conquista, BA-BRAZIL, 21-25-V-1961, F. M. Oliveira leg.

Communication

A letter received from Dr. J. Moure (senior author of the preceding paper) states that he has already named two Meliponine bees in honor of the late Herbert F. Schwarz. *Schwarziana* was designated in 1943 and *Schwarzula* was designated in 1946 as "a modest homage to so distinguished an entomologist and it is a pleasure to collaborate in this special issue of your Journal."



Moure, J S and Seabra, C A C . 1962. "A New Species of the Genus *Oxaea* from Brazil (Hymenoptera: Apidae)." *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 70, 235–238.

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