

A new species of the bee genus *Chiasmognathus* from southwestern Niger (Hymenoptera: Apidae)

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Abstract. A new species of the cleptoparasitic bee genus *Chiasmognathus* Engel, 2006 is described and figured from southwestern Niger. *Chiasmognathus sahelien-sis* sp. nov. (Ammobatini) is distinguished from its congeners by the combination of its coloration, integumental sculpturing (particularly that of the mesosoma), and genitalic structure. Species of the genus victimize nests of *Nomioides* Schenck, 1867 and perhaps *Ceylalicthus* Strand, 1913 (Halictidae: Halictinae: Nomioidini), both of which are known to occur in Niger.

Key words. Hymenoptera, Apoidea, Anthophila, Apidae, Nomadinae, Ammobatini, new species, Ethiopian Region, Niger

Introduction

The minute bees of the genus *Chiasmognathus* Engel, 2006 are distinctive members of the tribe Ammobatini who victimize nests of the equally diminutive species of the Nomioidini (Halictidae) (e.g., ENGEL 2006, 2007, 2009). Unfortunately, scant information is available regarding the biology of *Chiasmognathus* species. The known distributions and host records are summarized in Table 1, while ROZEN (2008) provided an account of the immature stages and mode of cleptoparasitism for *C. pashupati* Engel, 2007 in Pakistan. No further information is available regarding *Chiasmognathus* biology. Given the rarity with which specimens of *Chiasmognathus* have been collected and the broad distribution of the genus, it is likely that additional species will be discovered.

Chiasmognathus most readily can be recognized by its diminutive size (ca. 2–3.6 mm in total length); the enlarged pedicel which is basally closely adapted to the scape; the long axes of the closed mandibles crossing at a right-angle (similar to *Pseudodichroa* Bischoff, 1923) and recessed into the proboscis fossa, filling space between the labral margins and the adjacent anterior postgena; the pronotum in dorsal aspect concealed beneath the anterior margin of the mesoscutum; the forewing venation contracted basad, with the marginal cell