

## Review Article

# Diapriinae Wasps (Hymenoptera: Diaprioidea: Diapriidae) Associated with Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Argentina

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We provide an overview of diapriid wasps associated with ants in Argentina and the diversity of interactions they have developed with their hosts. As a result, we report 16 species of nine genera of Diapriinae, two new geographic distributions, three new association records, illustrations, and photographs. We highlight myrmecophile symphylic species, with a high degree of integration with the host ants, adaptation being morphological and behavioral. A table with diapriid species and ant hosts is given.

## 1. Introduction

Diapriids are primary endoparasitoids of larvae-pupae or pupae, principally of dipterans, but a number of species are closely associated with ant nests. However, there are few behavioral data on host-diapriid myrmecophile interactions. Huggert and Masner [1] hypothesized that the ancestors of diapriines guests changed from Diptera to Formicidae. The intermediates in the presumed sequence of hosts seem to be the numerous synoeketic Diptera living in the refuse depot and bivouacs of various army ants of the subfamily Ecitoninae. Diapriines females, in the search for potential hosts, would have progressively integrated with formicids. According to Masner (personal communication) this change would have occurred more frequently in the Neotropical region where these ants have high distribution. The guests switch mechanism has determined morphological and behavioral specialization, manifested by the degree of integration of diapriines to ant colonies. These symphytes are often highly adapted to their hosts, exhibiting morphological and behavioral adaptations to living with ants (extensive morphological mimicry of the host ants coloration, ocellus regression, similar sculpture, presence of appeasement substances in specialized structures and trichomes, trophallaxis, etc.), which aid them in avoiding detection and/or aggression

by host ants. Ants seem to have preference to lick certain parts of diapriid body to get exudates [2]. The adaptations include secondary apterism in which the wings of wasps are bitten off by either the parasite itself or its host. During the alate phase, the adults probably disperse, as the alate individuals, caught by sweeping, in Malaise traps and significantly by light traps indicating also the nocturnal activity in this phase of life [2]. The secondary apterism occurs in several species of diapriines, for example, *Asolenopsia rufa* Kieffer, *Bruchopria pentatoma* Kieffer, *Bruchopria hexatoma* Kieffer, *Notoxoides pronotalis* (Borgmeier), herein studied.

The current knowledge indicates that only a few diapriids are parasitoids of ant brood, attacking as solitary or gregarious koinobiont endoparasitoids of the host larvae, and worker and/or reproductive immature stages can be parasitized. From 121 diapriine species in 34 genera that had been collected in association with ants, development of immature stages as parasitoids of ant larvae has been demonstrated for only 26 species in seven genera, most of which are only known at the level of morphospecies [3]. There are only two species and one morphospecies recorded in Argentina as ant parasitoids [4].

A large number of diapriine wasps became associated with various groups of ants in Central and South America.

The associations are especially well developed with army ants (Ecitonini) and leaf cutting ants (Attini) with some 20 genera of Diapriinae already involved [5]. The vast majority of these species belong to Diapriini, although there are some exceptions like *Bruchopria* species that belong to the tribe Spilomicrini [6].

The New World fungus-growing ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Attini) are especially diverse in the tropics. As true for the most social insects, they accumulate significant stores of resources within their nests, attracting a diverse array of predators, microbial pathogens, and parasites [7]. We studied aspects of the intensity and prevalence of these little-known diapriine wasps that attack the larvae of the fungus-growing ant, *Acromyrmex lobicornis* Emery, and noted a remarkably diverse community of parasitoids within host population from four localities of La Pampa, Argentina [4, 8]. In some cases, the rates of parasitoidism can reach high levels. Loíacono et al. [4] collected 1560 wasps (adults and immatures) from 430 parasitized larvae from three partial colonies of *Acromyrmex*, which shows how prevalent these wasps can be in attacking the ants. Fernández-Marin et al. [9] found that between 27% and 70% of the colonies of two species of *Cyphomyrmex* Mayr were parasitized by one species in Puerto Rico and by up to four concurrent morphospecies of diapriids in Panama. Similarly, Pérez-Ortega et al. [7] reported that another fungus-growing ant, *Trachymyrmex* cf. *zeteki*, was attacked by a diverse community of diapriids in Panama, with a mean intensity of larval parasitism per ant colony of 33.9%, and prevalence across all ant populations of 27.2%. Lachaud and Pérez Lachaud [3], based on the abundance and success in attacking ants, considered that diapriids and another group of microhymenopterans, the eucharitids, seem excellent potential models to explore how parasitoids impact ant colony demography, population biology, and ant community structure [3].

In Argentina, the study of myrmecophiles has attracted the attention of several scientists in the last two centuries. Carlos Bruch (1869–1943), a German naturalist selected by F. Moreno—first Director of Museo de La Plata—to organize its collections, was a pioneer of the entomological studies; it is important to remark his ability as a photographer and scientific illustrator, and his observations regarding special associations and behaviors of ants and beetles: termitophily and myrmecophily [10, 11]. Jean-Jacques Kieffer (1857–1925), a French entomologist who specialized in the study of parasitoids of insects, based his studies on Bruch's material and published articles about diapriines associated with ants [12, 13]. Alejandro Ogloblin (1891–1967), a Russian entomologist researcher at “Estación Experimental de Loreto” (Misiones, Argentina), collected there numerous diapriid wasps associated specially with myrmicine ants [14, 15]. Luis De Santis (1914–2000) catalogued associations between diapriids and ants [16, 17] and reported new geographic distributions [18]. Marta Loíacono and colleagues studied Neotropical myrmecophiles diapriids and their interactions with ants [4, 7, 8, 15, 19–29].

In this paper, we provide an overview of the diversity of diapriid wasps associated with ants in Argentina and

the diversity of interactions they have developed with their hosts.

## 2. Material and Methods

Specimens for this study were reared in laboratory [4] or collected from ant nests, killed in alcohol, and mounted on cards or microscopic slides for further studies. Observations of the specimens were made through a stereomicroscope Leica S8APO. The photographs were taken by Daniel A. Aquino with a Leica DFC295 camera attached to the stereomicroscope. Digital images were mounted using open software CombineZM [30] and enhanced using Photoshop. Scanning micrographs were taken with a JEOL JSMT100 at Museo de La Plata operating at 15 KV.

Sharkey [31] was followed for the higher-level phylogeny of the Hymenoptera order, Bolton for ant valid names [32], Masner and García [5] for diapriid systematics, and Yoder et al. web site [33] for interactive keys and links.

Diapriid and ant specimens examined in this study are deposited at Museo de La Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina). Most of them were collected and determined by Bruch and Ogloblin in Argentina. Type material of *Szelenyopria reinchenspergeri* (Ferrière) was loan by Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Biology Section includes “hosts” wasps emerged from ant larvae or “associated” wasps found in or near nests or emigration columns of army ants.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Tribe Diapriini Ashmead, 1893 [34]

3.1.1. *Asolenopsia* Kieffer, 1921 [12]. *Asolenopsia* Kieffer, 1921: 36 [12].

*Euplacopria* Ferrière, 1929: 157 [35].

*Distribution.* Tropical lowlands of Central and South America [5].

*Biology.* Associated with ecitonini ants of genus *Eciton* Latreille, *Labidus* Jurine and *Neivamyrmex* Borgmeier [5].

*Remarks.* Members of *Asolenopsia* are moderately to highly specialized associates to ecitonine ants [20]. Their wings are primarily developed but subsequently bitten off by ants or cast off spontaneously (alectomy). Winged adults are also collected in light traps [5].

3.1.2. *Asolenopsia rufa* Kieffer, 1921 [12] (Figure 1(a)). *Asolenopsia rufa* Kieffer, 1921: 37 [12].

*Distribution.* Argentina (Córdoba, Entre Ríos, and Santa Fe) [12, 17].

*Biology.* Associated with *Neivamyrmex carettei* (Forel) [12] (Figure 1(b)).

*Material Studied.* Syntype, female, dealated, with *Neivamyrmex carettei* worker, Argentina, Córdoba, Alta Gracia, La Granja, 1-8-IV-1920, Bruch coll.; one female, without date,

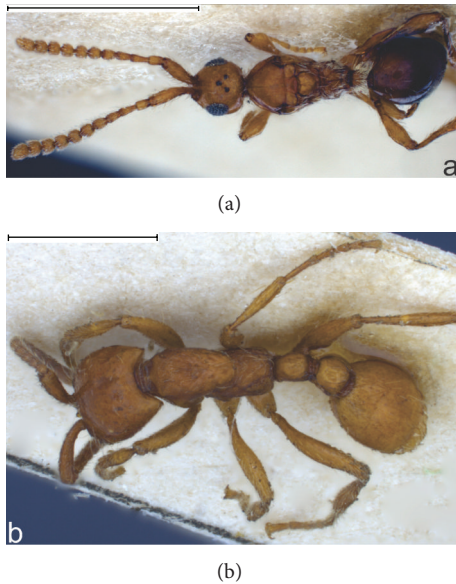


FIGURE 1: (a) *Asolenopsia rufa* female dealate in dorsal view. (b) *Neivamyrmex carettei*. Scale: 1 mm.

Santa Fe, Vera y Pintado (Fives Lille), Weiser coll.; female alated, Argentina, Misiones, Loreto, without date, Ogloblin coll.

3.1.3. *Basalys* Westwood, 1832 [36]. *Basalys* Westwood, 1832: 342–344 [36].

*Ceratopria* Ashmead, 1893: 407, 42 [34].

*Acidopria* Kieffer, 1913: 442 [37].

*Loxotropa* auct. nec Foerster, synonymized by Masner, 1964 [38].

*Nesopria* Muesebeck and Walkley, 1956: 319–419 [39].

**Distribution.** The genus is well represented in North and South America, rarely in Chile [5].

**Biology.** Several species were reared from various dipterous hosts, and some were collected in ant nests [5].

3.1.4. *Basalys* sp.

**Material Studied.** One female and 1 male (microscopic slide) collected with the “Argentine ant,” *Linepithema humile* (Mayr), Argentina, Buenos Aires, J. C. Paz, 11-X-1934, Ogloblin coll.; 1 female (microscopic slide) collected with the Argentine ant *Linepithema humile*, Argentina, Buenos Aires, J. C. Paz, 8-IX-1945, Bezzi leg.

**Biology.** Associated with *Linepithema humile* (new record).

**Remarks.** Female and male studied were determined by Masner, who wrote a label: “*Basalys* sp. ♀♂(=*Loxotropa* auct.) aberrant sp. with !11-segm. ant. ♀, Det. L. Masner, ‘89”; and female specimen: “*Basalys* sp. ♀(=*Loxotropa* auct.) !11-segmented antenna, Det. L. Masner, ‘89.” Specimens studied were determined by Ogloblin as a new species of *Doliopria*,

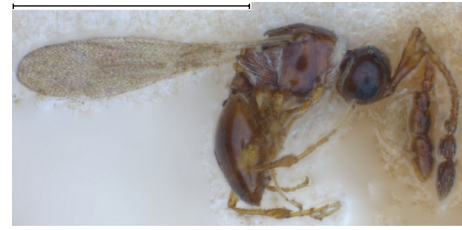


FIGURE 2: *Doliopria collegii* female in lateral view. Scale: 1 mm.

but he did not describe it. We also considered that material studied belong to genus *Basalys*, as it was established by Masner.

3.1.5. *Doliopria* Kieffer, 1910 [40]. *Doliopria* Kieffer, 1910: 48 [40].

*Martinica* Risbec, 1950: 533 [41].

**Distribution.** *Doliopria* is restricted to the New World, with only a few species in the Nearctic region and with a high number of undescribed species in tropical America [5].

**Biology.** Associated with ecitonini and attini ants [5].

**Remarks.** Three Neotropical species were described associated with ants [12, 35, 40]; hypothetically they parasitized synoeketic Diptera because they show no specialized morphology [5].

3.1.6. *Doliopria collegii* Ferrière, 1929 [35] (Figure 2). *Doliopria collegii* Ferrière, 1929: 164 [35].

**Distribution.** Argentina (Buenos Aires and Misiones) [18, 35].

**Biology.** Associated with ecitonini ants, *Eciton burchellii* (Westwood) and *Eciton quadriglume* (Haliday) [35].

**Material Studied.** Two females alated, Argentina, Misiones, Loreto, 20-X-1919 and 18-IX-1923, Ogloblin coll. and det.

3.1.7. *Doliopria myrmecobia* Kieffer, 1921 [12] (Figure 3(a)). *Doliopria myrmecobia* Kieffer, 1921: 39 [12].

**Distribution.** Argentina (Buenos Aires; Misiones, new record) [12].

**Biology.** Associated with attini ants *Acromyrmex lundii* (Guérin-Ménéville) [12] (Figure 3(b)).

**Material Studied.** One female, Argentina, Buenos Aires, La Plata, VIII, inside a nest of *Acromyrmex lundii*, Bruch coll.; 1 female, alated collected with *Acromyrmex* sp., Argentina, Misiones, Loreto, 3-XI-1928, Ogloblin coll. and det.

3.1.8. *Notoxoides* Ashmead, 1903 [42]. *Notoxoides* Ashmead, 1903: 30 [42].

*Notoxopria* Kieffer, 1910: 39 [40].

*Philolestes* Kieffer, 1922: 205 [13].

*Psilogasteroides* Brèthes, 1911: 209–210 [43].

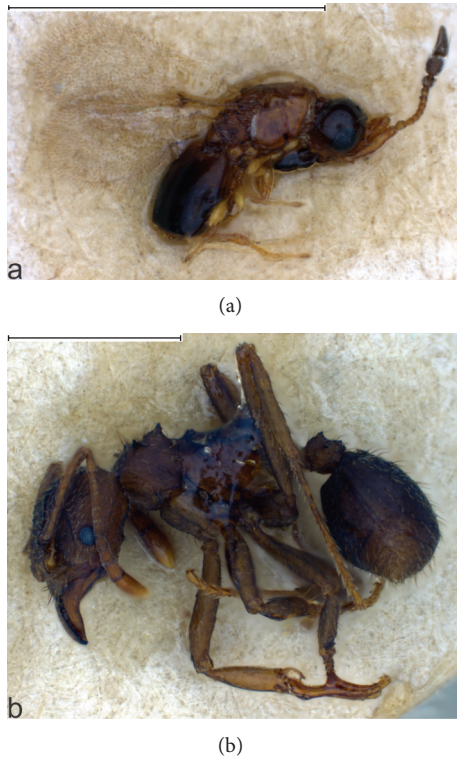


FIGURE 3: (a) *Doliopria myrmecobia* female in lateral view. (b) *Acromyrmex lundii*. Scale: 1 mm.

**Distribution.** Restricted to lowland rainforests of continental South America [5].

**Biology.** Members of *Notoxoides* display some of the most advanced associations with ants. So far, ants of genera *Neivamyrmex* and *Eciton* (Ecitonini) were recorded as hosts [19]. Adult wasps are frequently collected in light traps. Wings may be lost to typical alectomy as indicated by shriveled wing rudiments in some specimens [5].

3.1.9. *Notoxoides pedissequus* (Borgmeier, 1939) [44]. *Notoxopria pedissequa* Borgmeier, 1939: 538 [44].

**Distribution.** Argentina (Córdoba) [19].

**Biology.** Associated with *Neivamyrmex pseudops* (Forel) [44].

**Remarks.** Loíacono [20] studied a female alate collected by Bruch in Córdoba province.

3.1.10. *Notoxoides pronotalis* (Borgmeier, 1939) [44] (Figures 4(a), 4(b), and 5). *Philolestes rufus* Kieffer, 1922: 205 [13].

*Philolestes pronotalis* Borgmeier, 1939: 536 [44].

*Notoxoides pronotalis*: Masner, 1977: 34 [45].

*Notoxoides kiefferi* Loíacono, 1981: 305, 306 [19].

**Distribution.** Argentina (Córdoba, Salta, San Luis, and Santiago del Estero) [19, 44].

**Biology.** Associated with *Eciton dulcium* Forel and *Neivamyrmex sulcatus* (Mayr) [44].

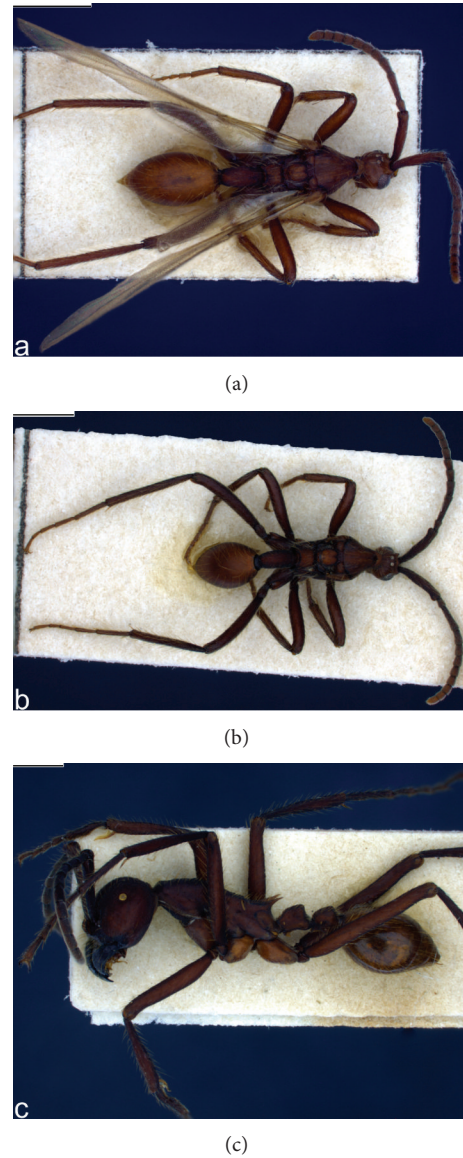


FIGURE 4: *Notoxoides pronotalis* female in dorsal view: (a) alate and (b) dealate specimens. Scale: 1 mm. (c) *Eciton dulcium* collected with *Notoxoides pronotalis*, in lateral view. Scale: 1 mm.

**Material Studied.** Syntype, female dealated, collected with *Eciton dulcium*, Argentina, Córdoba, Alta Gracia, 4-XII-1921, Bruch coll.; 2 syntype females alated, same data as syntype except II-1922, collected with *Neivamyrmex sulcatus*, Bruch coll. and det.; 21 females dealated, Argentina, Salta, Tartagal, I-1960, Martínez coll., with a *Eciton dulcium*, and 5 females alated, Argentina, Salta, Pocitos, III-1959, Martínez coll.; 3 females dealated and 1 alated, Córdoba, San Javier, La Paz, 15-31-XII-1928, Bruch coll., with *Eciton dulcium*; Córdoba, Alta Gracia: 1 female dealated, collected with *Eciton dulcium* (Figure 4(c)), 4-XII-1922, Bruch coll.; 1 female dealated, without date and collector; 1 female alated, La Granja, 21-VIII-1924, Bruch coll.; 2 females dealated, La Granja, 25-I-1925, Bruch coll.; 3 females alated, La Granja, 4-XI-1925, Bruch

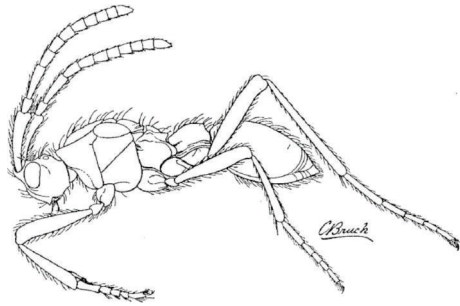


FIGURE 5: Original illustration of *Notoxoides pronotalis* female in lateral view, by Bruch.

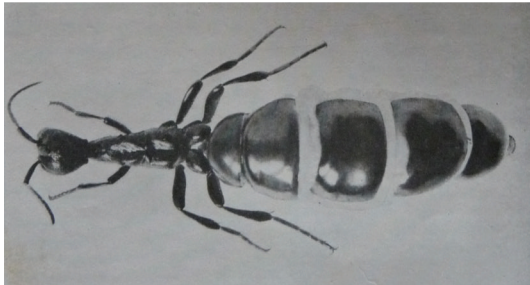


FIGURE 6: *Neivamyrmex pseudops*, gravid queen in dorsal view, photographed by Bruch.

coll.; 2 females dealated, with *Eciton dulcium*, La Granja, 4-XI-1925, Bruch coll.; 2 females alated with *Eciton dulcium*, 13-III-1934, Bruch coll.; 3 females alated, without date, Bruch coll.; 1 female dealated; Córdoba, Unquillo, without date and collector; 9 females alated, Córdoba, Unquillo, without date and collector; 1 female with fore wings, Córdoba, Unquillo, without date and collector; 2 females alated, Santiago del Estero, Cerrillos, 2-V-1955, without collector, and 2 females alated, without date, Bruch coll.; 5 females alated, without locality, 21-II-1925, light collected, without collector; 2 females dealated and 3 alated, without locality, 22-II-1925, light collected, without collector; 5 females alated and 1 dealated, without locality, 23-II-1925, light collected, without collector; 1 female alated, without locality, 24-II-1925, light collected, without collector.

**Remarks.** Bruch always sent to Kieffer diapiiid samples to be studied. As we mentioned, he was an excellent scientific illustrator (Figure 5) [46] and an important photographer as is shown in (Figure 6) *Neivamyrmex pseudops*, ant host of *Notoxoides pedisequus* [47].

We observed numerous both alate and dealate individuals found dependent on the phase of life. As is mentioned [2], during the alate phase, numerous adults were caught by light traps as we observed in the female material light collected by Bruch.

Lachaud [48] mentioned that ants search actively for some chemical substances produced by glands at the basis of the setae present on the diapiiid cuticle; similarly we observed the presence of peculiar neck hairs in *N. pronotalis* [20].



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 7: (a) *Szelenyopria pampeana* female in lateral view. (b) *Acromyrmex lobicornis* larva showing immature instars of diapiiines. Scale: 1 mm.

3.1.11. *Szelenyopria Fabritius*, 1974 [49]. *Szelenyopria* Fabritius, 1974: 54 [49].

*Gymnopria* Loíacono, 1987: 130 [21].

**Distribution.** Wide distribution from Argentina to Guatemala [21, 49].

**Biology.** *Szelenyopria lucens* (Loíacono) from Uruguay is the first member of the tribe Diapiiini in the New World positively reared from ants. Loíacono [21] reports up to three wasps per mature larva of *Acromyrmex ambiguus* (Emery) (Attini). Members of *Szelenyopria* show no specialized structures known among other myrmecophilic Diapiiini; Masner and García [5] assumed that the specialized setae with truncate apices are outlet of chemical substances.

3.1.12. *Szelenyopria pampeana* (Loíacono, 2000) [4] (Figure 7(a)). *Gymnopria pampeana* Loíacono, 2000: 10 in Loíacono et al., 2000 [4].

*Szelenyopria pampeana*: Loíacono and Margaría, 2009: 63 [8].

**Distribution.** Argentina (La Pampa) [4, 8].

**Biology.** Koinobiont and gregarious endoparasitoids of late instar larvae of *Acromyrmex lobicornis* (Emery), it was also established simultaneous parasitoidism with *Trichopria* sp. [4] (Figure 7(b)).

**Material Studied.** Holotype female, Argentina, Santa Rosa, 8-XI-1995, Quirán and Corró Molas colls.; 25 paratypes females

and 3 males, Lihuel Calel, 4-XII-1997, Quirán and Corró Molas colls.

3.1.13. *Szelenyopria reichenspergeri* (Ferrière, 1929) [35].  
*Doliopria reinchespergeri* Ferrière, 1929: 165 [35].

*Szelenyopria reinchespergeri*: Fabritius, 1974, 54 [49].

*Distribution*. Argentina (Salta and Tucumán) [35, 49].

*Biology*. Associated with *Eciton quadriglume* and *Neivamyrmex legionis* (Smith) [35, 49].

*Material Studied*. One female, Argentina, Salta, 2-6-II-1950, Golbach coll.

3.1.14. *Szelenyopria* sp.

*Distribution*. Argentina (Córdoba) (new record).

*Material Studied*. Female and 3 males with an ecitonine ant, Argentina, Córdoba, San Javier, La Paz, 1-20-I-1929, Bruch coll.

*Remarks*. Most females of this genus have 11-segmented antennae, but material studied here presents antenna 12-segmented as mentioned by Masner and García [5] for undescribed species. We considered that these specimens belong to *Szelenyopria* genus by the most important feature, the presence on entire body of specialized straight setae, truncate apically.

3.1.15. *Trichopria* Ashmead, 1893 [34]. *Trichopria* Ashmead, 1893: 407, 431 [34].

*Ashmeadopria* Kieffer, 1912: 8, 10, 59 [50].

*Phaenopria* Ashmead, 1893: 40, 436 [34].

*Planopria* Kieffer, 1906: 19 [51].

*Orthopria* Kieffer, 1911: 983, 984 [52]. *Distribution*. World-

wide [5].

*Biology*. Associated with the “fire ant,” *Solenopsis richteri* Forel (Kieffer, 1921) and endoparasitoid of *Acromyrmex lobicornis* [4].

3.1.16. *Trichopria formicans* Loíacono, 2000 [4] (Figures 8(a) and 8(b)). *Trichopria formicans* Loíacono 2000 in Loíacono et al., 2000: 12 [4].

*Distribution*. Argentina (La Pampa) [4].

*Biology*. Reared from larvae of *Acromyrmex lobicornis* [4].

*Material Studied*. Holotype female, Argentina, La Pampa, Utracán, 22-XII-1997, Caramuti y Rodriguez colls.; paratypes 68 females and 43 males (MLP), same data as holotype.

3.1.17. *Trichopria myrmecophila* (Kieffer, 1921) [12]. *Phaenopria myrmecophila* Kieffer, 1921: 4 [12].

*Trichopria myrmecophila*: De Santis in De Santis and Esquivel, 1966: 50 [16].

*Distribution*. Argentina (Buenos Aires) [12].

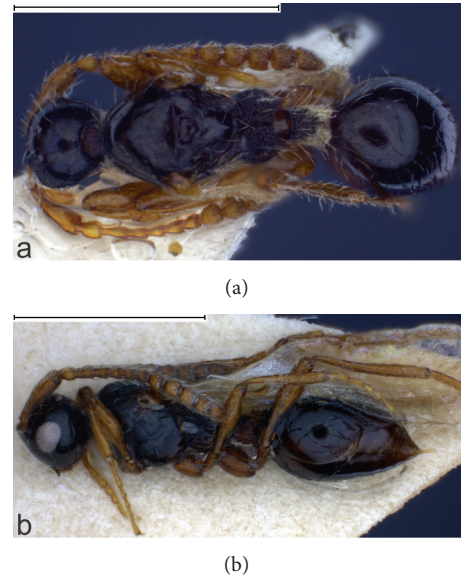


FIGURE 8: *Trichopria formicans* female (a) in dorsal view and (b) lateral view. Scale: 1 mm.

*Biology*. Associated with *Solenopsis richteri* [12].

3.1.18. *Trichopria* sp.

*Distribution*. Argentina Buenos Aires.

*Biology*. Collected with the “argentine ant,” *Linepithema humile* (new record).

*Material Studied*. Female collected with *Linepithema humile*, Argentina, Buenos Aires, J. C. Paz, 8-II-1940, Ogloblin coll.

*Remarks*. Masner studied this material and determined specimens as *Trichopria* s. str. sp.

3.2. Tribe Spilomicrini Ashmead, 1893 [34]

3.2.1. *Bruchopria* Kieffer, 1921 [12]. *Bruchopria* Kieffer, 1921: 38 [12].

*Aulatopria* Brèthes, 1927: 164 [53].

*Distribution*. Argentina (Buenos Aires, Córdoba, and Misiones) [12, 53].

*Biology*. Associated with ants of the genera *Solenopsis* Westwood (Solenopsidini) and *Acromyrmex* Mayr (Attini) [12].

*Remarks*. Hölldobler and Wilson [54] mentioned specimens of genus *Bruchopria*, as *Solenopsis* guest. Masner and García [5] mentioned “wings often bitten off by ants.” Loíacono et al. [26] studied alated and dealated individuals of *Bruchopria* species. The action of dealation has not been observed. The presence of tegulae with normal development and wing stumps demonstrates that the apterism has a secondary origin, caused by the autotomy or by bites of the host ants. The apices of the wing stumps of all individuals examined were

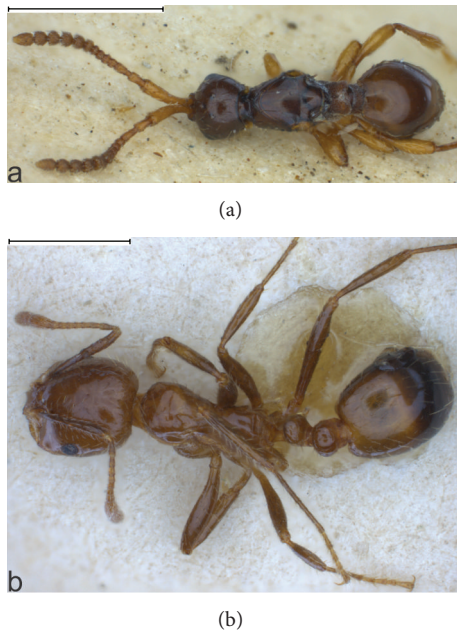


FIGURE 9: (a) *Bruchopria hexatoma* female dealate in dorsal view. (b) *Solenopsis richteri*. Scale: 1 mm.

regular suggesting that the wings are bitten or torn off close to the tegulae. The fact that specimens are dealated allows them to move into the mound galleries and chambers.

3.2.2. *Bruchopria hexatoma* Kieffer, 1921 [12] (Figures 9(a), 10(a), and 10(b)). *Bruchopria hexatoma* Kieffer, 1921: 39 [12].  
*Bruchopria hexatoma*: Borgmeier, 1939: 543 [44].

**Distribution.** Argentina (Misiones, Córdoba and Buenos Aires) [12, 44].

**Biology.** Associated with *Solenopsis richteri* (Figure 9(b)) and *Acromyrmex lundii* [12, 44].

**Material Studied.** One female dealated, Argentina, Misiones, Pastoreo Grande, 9-VII-1932, Ogloblin coll.; 1 female dealated, Argentina, Córdoba, XII-1920, Bruch coll., 1 female dealated, Córdoba, Sierras de Córdoba, La Granja, Bruch coll., without date; 1 male dealated, Argentina, Buenos Aires, without locality, 9-VII-1923, Bruch coll., with the ant; 4 females dealated, Argentina, Buenos Aires, Olivos, without date, Bruch coll., with the ant; 1 female dealated, Argentina, Buenos Aires, 10-IX-1925, Bruch coll.; 1 female dealated with *Acromyrmex lundii*, Argentina, Buenos Aires, without date, Bruch coll.

**Remarks.** *Bruchopria hexatoma* has been reported by Kieffer [12] in association with *Solenopsis richteri* and *Acromyrmex lundii* in Argentina; Borgmeier [44] also mentioned this species as a guest of *S. saevissima* (Smith), in Brazil.

The specimens from the provinces of Córdoba and Buenos Aires are dealated, with remains of wings (Figures 10(a) and 10(b)), and most of them are accompanied by the host ants (Figure 9(b)). Unfortunately, the types of the species

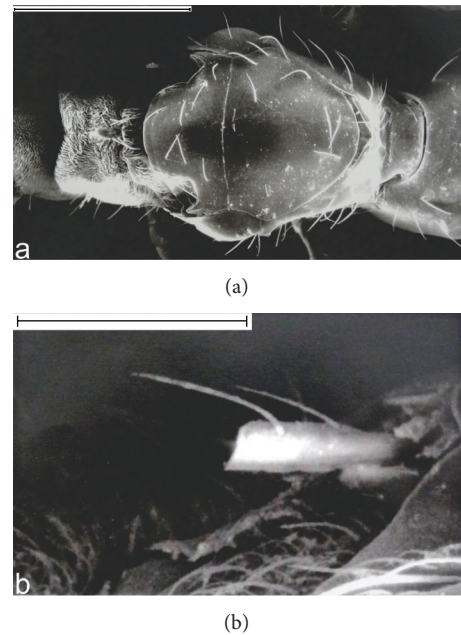


FIGURE 10: *Bruchopria hexatoma* female. (a) mesosoma and petiole in dorsal view, scale: 0.5 mm; (b) wing stump, scale: 0.1 mm [26].

described by Kieffer have become widely scattered or lost [55]. Bruch sent to Kieffer part of the same series of material to identify (De Santis, pers. comm.).

3.2.3. *Bruchopria pentatoma* Kieffer, 1921 [12]. *Bruchopria pentatoma* Kieffer, 1921: 38 [12].

**Distribution.** Argentina (Córdoba) [12].

**Biology.** Associated with *Solenopsis richteri* [12].

**Material Studied.** Syntype male dealated, Argentina, Córdoba, Alta Gracia; 1-8-IV-1920, Bruch coll.

**Remarks.** According to Kieffer's description, females of both species, *B. pentatoma* and *B. hexatoma*, are distinguished by the number of club antennomeres, five and six, respectively. Unfortunately, the unique female type is not available. *Bruchopria pentatoma* has also been reported by Kieffer [12] in association with *S. richteri* and *Acromyrmex lundii* (Guérin) in Argentina.

3.2.4. *Pentapria* Kieffer, 1905 [56]. *Pentapria* Kieffer, 1905: 34 [56].

*Antipapria* Fabritius, 1968: 844 [57].

*Bakeria* Kieffer, 1905: 34 [56].

*Plutopria* Kieffer, 1910: 48 [40].

*Spilomicrinus* Ogloblin, 1957: 425 [58].

*Xenopria* Fouts, 1939: 260 [59].

**Distribution.** The genus is distributed in the New World [5].

**Biology.** The principal host plausible to assume is Stratiomyidae (Diptera) [5]. Herein, we studied a female collected with *Solenopsis saevissima* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

TABLE 1

Diapriid tribe	Diapriids species	Argentine provinces	Ant subfamily	Ant tribe	Ant species
Diapriini	<i>Asolenopsia rufa</i>	Córdoba, Entre Ríos, Santa Fe	Ecitoninae	Ecitonini	<i>Neivamyrmex carettei</i>
	<i>Basalys</i> sp.	Buenos Aires	Dolichoderinae	Dolichoderini	<i>Linepithema humile</i>
	<i>Doliopria collegii</i>	Buenos Aires, Misiones	Ecitoninae	Ecitonini	<i>Eciton burchellii</i> , <i>Eciton quadriglume</i>
	<i>Doliopria myrmecobia</i>	Buenos Aires, Misiones	Myrmicinae	Attini	<i>Acromyrmex lundii</i>
	<i>Notoxoides pedissequus</i>	Córdoba	Ecitoninae	Ecitonini	<i>Neivamyrmex pseudops</i>
	<i>Notoxoides pronotalis</i>	Córdoba, Salta, San Luis, Santiago del Estero	Ecitoninae	Ecitonini	<i>Eciton dulcium</i> , <i>Neivamyrmex sulcatus</i>
	<i>Szelenyopria pampeana</i>	La Pampa	Myrmicinae	Attini	<i>Acromyrmex lobicornis</i>
	<i>Szelenyopria reichenspergeri</i>	Salta, Tucumán	Ecitoninae	Ecitonini	<i>Eciton quadriglume</i> , <i>Neivamyrmex legionis</i>
	<i>Szelenyopria</i> sp.	Córdoba	Ecitoninae	Ecitonini	Ecitonini sp.
	<i>Trichopria formicans</i>	La Pampa	Myrmicinae	Attini	<i>Acromyrmex lobicornis</i>
	<i>Trichopria myrmecophila</i>	Buenos Aires	Myrmicinae	Solenopsidini	<i>Solenopsis richteri</i>
	<i>Trichopria</i> sp.	Buenos Aires	Dolichoderinae	Dolichoderini	<i>Linepithema humile</i>
	Spilomicrini	<i>Bruchopria hexatoma</i>	Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Misiones	Myrmicinae Myrmicinae	Solenopsidini Attini
<i>Bruchopria pentatoma</i>		Córdoba	Myrmicinae	Solenopsidini	<i>Solenopsis richteri</i>
<i>Pentapria</i> cf. <i>nodicornis</i>		Córdoba	Myrmicinae	Solenopsidini	<i>Solenopsis saevissima</i>
<i>Spilomicrus</i> sp.		Buenos Aires	Myrmicinae	Solenopsidini	Solenopsidini sp.

### 3.2.5. *Pentapria* cf. *nodicornis*

*Distribution.* Argentina (Córdoba).

*Biology.* Associated with *Solenopsis saevissima* (new record).

*Material Studied.* Female collected with *Solenopsis saevissima*, Argentina, Córdoba, Alta Gracia, La Granja, II-1927, Bruch. coll., with no more data.

### 3.2.6. *Spilomicrus* Westwood, 1832 [36]. *Spilomicrus* Westwood, 1832: 129 [36].

*Loxotropa* Foerster, 1856: 122, 123, 126 [60].

*Hoplopria* Ashmead, 1893: 385, 386, 388 [34].

*Linkiola* Kieffer, 1910: 39 [40].

*Eriopria* Kieffer, 1910: 693, 744 [40].

*Tritopria* Kieffer, 1910: 717, 748 [40].

*Cologlyptus* Crawford, 1910: 123 [61].

*Scutellipria* Szabó, 1961: 53–493 [62].

*Distribution.* America [5].

*Biology.* Primary parasitoidism solitary and gregarious of various Diptera; few species were reared from Coleoptera [5]. Herein, we studied samples associated with a Solenopsidini ant.

### 3.2.7. *Spilomicrus* sp.

*Distribution.* Argentina (Buenos Aires).

*Biology.* Associated with Solenopsidini ant.

*Material Studied.* Two females with a Solenopsidini ant, Argentina, Buenos Aires, 9-VIII-1923, Bruch coll.

Table 1 summarizes information about diapriids and their associates.

## 4. Discussion

The knowledge of the biology and behavior of these myrmecophilic diapriids and the nature of their interactions with ants has progressed in Argentina since 1980 [63] to present. There are nine genera recorded from Argentina, which represents about 50% of the genera mentioned by Masner and García [5] from the New World.

The study of Diapriidae Collection housed at División Entomología of Museo de La Plata, which includes Bruch and Ogloblin myrmecophilic diapriid specimens, allowed us to report 16 species of nine genera of Diapriinae associated with ants in Argentina. It is interesting to highlight that *Asolenopsia rufa*, *Notoxoides pronotalis*, *Bruchopria pentatoma*, and *B. hexatoma* are the species with a high degree of integration with the host ants, adaptation being both morphological and behavioral.

We mentioned for the first time the associations between the “argentine ant,” *Linepithema humile*, and both *Basalys* sp. and *Trichopria* sp., *Pentapria* cf. *nodicornis* and *Solenopsis saevissima*, and *Spilomicrus* sp. and Solenopsidini ant.

*Doliopria myrmecobia* is a new record to Misiones. The only described species of *Szelenyopria* occurs in La Pampa



province, *S. pampeana*; an undescribed species is known to us from Córdoba.

We considered that *Szelenyopria pampeana* and *Tri-chopria formicans* parasitoids of *Acromyrmex* species in Argentina seem excellent potential models to explore how parasitoids impact ant colony demography, population biology, and ant community structure.

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