A new species of *Asphondylia* (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) and a key to separate species of the genus associated with Asteraceae from Neotropical region

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**Abstract.** A new species, *Asphondylia cipo* sp. nov. (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) causing stem and petiole galls on *Lessingianthus warmingianus* (Baker) H. Rob. (Asteraceae) is described and illustrated from Serra do Cipó, Minas Gerais State, Brazil. A key is provided to separate species of this genus associated with host plants in the Asteraceae family from the Neotropical region.

**Key-Words.** Asphondylinae; Insect-plant association; Morphology; Taxonomy.

**INTRODUCTION**

*Asphondylia* Loew, 1850 belongs to the tribe Asphondylini of the subfamily Cecidomyiinae (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae). The genus is cosmopolitan with 299 species described to date, of which about 100 species occur in the Neotropical region and 21 in Brazil (Gagné & Jaschhof, 2017; Flor & Maia, 2017). *Asphondylia* species have been recorded on 66 plant families in the world, being most frequently found on Asteraceae, Fabaceae, and Chenopodiaceae (Gagné & Jaschhof, 2017). So far, 19 species of *Asphondylia* have been associated with Asteraceae species in the Neotropical region, mostly shrubs and herbs.

A new species, *Asphondylia cipo* sp. nov., is described here. The specimens were reared from stem and petiole galls of *Lessingianthus warmingianus* (Baker) H. Rob. (Asteraceae) sampled from the Serra do Cipó, Minas Gerais State, Brazil. *Lessingianthus H. Rob.* is a Neotropical genus of the tribe Vernonieae, which includes species that had previously been placed in *Vernonia* Schreber (Antar & Loeuille, 2015). This genus has more than 135 species distributed in South America, of which 115 occur in Brazil, with 85 being endemic (Dematteis & Almeida, 2015). *Lessingianthus warmingianus* is a perennial sub-shrub, native to Brazil and endemic to the Cerrado and rupestrian fields in Goiás and Minas Gerais (Dematteis & Almeida, 2015). Previously thirteen morphotypes of insect galls were described to *Lessingianthus* species, all in Cadeia do Espinhaço, MG. Twelve of the morphotypes were induced by undescribed species of cecidomyiids in six species of *Lessingianthus* (*Lessingianthus coriaceus* (Less.) H. Rob., *Lessingianthus elegans* (Gardner) H. Rob., *Lessingianthus hoveaefolius* (Gardner) H. Rob., *Lessingianthus linearifolius* (Less.) H. Rob., *Lessingianthus pychnostachius* (DC.) H. Rob., and *Lessingianthus tomentellus* (Mart.) H. Rob); and one on stem of *Lessingianthus warmingianus* induced by an undescribed species of coleopterous (Carneiro et al., 2009; Maia, 2012; Coelho et al., 2013).

Previously no *Asphondylia* species have been described from *Lessingianthus* neither to Neotropics nor to other biogeographical region in the world. Here the new species is described, named *Asphondylia cipo* sp. nov. and compared to 19 congener associated with Asteraceae in the Neotropical region. A key is provided to separate these species.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Branches of *Lessingianthus warmingianus* (Baker) H. Rob. (Asteraceae) with galls of *Asphondylia cipo* sp. nov. were collected from rupestrian field vegetation on the Pedra do Elefante trail in Serra do Cipó, Municipality of Santana do Riacho, Minas Gerais State, Southeastern Brazil (S19°17.468”; W43°32.564”, 1,237 m altitude) on 14.xi.2002. Galls were transferred to individual plastic bags for adult rearing. Some galls were dissected under a stereomicroscope to obtain immature specimens. All material was conserved...
in 80% alcohol for slide mounting, following the method outlined in Gagné (1994), as well as the terminology of morphological characters. The type specimens of the new species were deposited in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP).

Specimens of Asphondylia anaceliae Möhn, Asphondylia serrata Maia, Asphondylia glomeratae Gagné, Asphondylia gochnatiae Maia, and Asphondylia cipo sp. nov. were examined for comparison. The characters of other species were taken from original descriptions or revisions (Gagné, 1994; Gagné et al., 2001; Kieffer & Herbst, 1905; Möhn, 1959, 1960, 1973; Rübsaamen, 1908; Wünsch, 1979).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Taxonomy

Genus Asphondylia Loew 1850: 21, 37, as subg. of Cecidomyia.


For the diagnosis of Asphondylia see Gagné (1994) and Flor & Maia (2017).

Asphondylia cipo sp. nov.

(Figures 1–6)

Description: Adult: Thorax brown, abdomen orange. Body length, male 3.5–5.2 mm (n = 13), female 4.2–6.2 mm (n = 10). Head (Fig. 1A): Eyes black, holoptic, facets octagonal, closely adjacent, with long setae. Antenna typical of Asphondylia (2+12 cylindrical flagellomeres; male 2.2–3.1 mm; female 2.2–2.8 mm; scape elongated, male 0.17 mm, female 0.18 mm; and distally enlarged; pedicel round, male 0.06 mm, female 0.07 mm; sinuous circumfila in male (Fig. 1B), and simple in female (Fig. 1C); 9th–12th male flagellomere with length approximately equal (Fig. 1D); 9th–12th female flagellomeres progressively shorter (Fig. 1E). Frontoclypeus with about 20–24 setae (n = 16, males and females), labrum elongated with 2–3 pairs of ventral setae. Hypopharynx triangular with short lateral setulae, labella round-convex, each with 6–7 setae; palpus three-segmented, shape and setae as in figure 1F. Thorax: Dark brown, antepronotal lobe bare, scutum with dorsocentral rows of setae and lateral setae present, anepistemum with 50–52 setae in male (n = 13) and 52–54 setae in female (n = 10); katepistemum bare; anepimeron with three rows with 56–58 setae in male (n = 13) and 60–62 setae in female (n = 10), mediotergite bare, laterotergite with eight trichoid sensilla near halter base. Legs: First tarsomere of each leg with an apicoven-
Figure 2. *Asphondylia cipo* sp. nov. (A, B) Male abdomen in lateral view; (C, D) Male terminalia in dorsal view. Abbreviations: ce = cercus, gc = gonocoxite, gs = gonostyle, hy = hypoproct, s7 = sternite 7, th = teeth of gonostyle.

Figure 3. *Asphondylia cipo* sp. nov. (A, B) Abdominal segments 7 and 8 and ovipositor in ventro-lateral view. Abbreviation: cl = cercilike lobes.
ternal spur 0.03-0.04 mm long (Fig. 1G); tarsal claws all equal in size and shape, as long as empodia (Figs. 1H, 1I, 1J). Wing length (from arculus to apex): males: 3.5-4.4 mm (n = 13), females: 4.1-4.9 mm (n = 10), venation typical of Asphondylia.

Abdomen: Male: Tergites and sternites 1-7: rectangular and completely sclerotized; a row of strong setae along the posterior margin of tergites, setae scattered elsewhere, scales absent. Tergite 8 a narrow sclerotized band with a row of strong setae along the posterior margin. Sternite 8 ovoid, well sclerotized with several scattered setae concentrated caudally. Trichoid sensilla absent in tergites and sternites (Figs. 2A, 2B). Male terminalia (Figs. 2C, 2D): Gonocoxite wide and setose, 0.2-0.23 mm length (n = 13) and 1.3-1.5 times as long as wide; gonostylus short ovoid, setose, 0.09 mm long (n = 13) and as long as wide, two-toothed; cercus round, fused at base, lobed at apex; hypoproct bilobed; aedeagus triangular, tapering gradually towards the apex and pointed apically, sclerotized.

Abdomen: Female (Figs. 3A, B): tergites 1-7 as in male. Stermites 2-6 as in male, sternite 7 ovoid, 0.7 mm long, with scattered setae; 1.5 of the length of sternite 6. Sternite 8 non-sclerotized. Trichoid sensilla absent in tergites and sternites. Ovipositor: protractible part 1.6 mm length, 2.3 times longer than sternite 7.

Pupa (Figs. 4A-D): Brown, abdominal integument rough, with microspines dorsally, and round sclerotized plates ventrally in abdomen surface. Body length, 4.3-6.4 mm, 1.8-2.0 mm maximum width (n = 32). Head (Figs. 4A, 4B). Antennal horns, 0.02 mm, well developed, triangular, inner margin finely serrate, outer margin smooth. Upper frontal horn simple, 0.11 mm length, lower frontal horn trilobed, 0.04 mm length each; presence of two pairs of lower facial papillae (one setose and the other bare), three pairs of lateral papillae (one setose and two bare); cephalic setae short, 0.07 mm length. Thorax: Prothoracic spiracle short, 0.12 mm length, setiform with an accessory structure in spiral format (Fig. 4C). Wing reaching third abdominal segment and legs reaching fifth abdominal segment. Abdominal tergites 2-8 with two rows of strong spines in caudal area and small spines.
scattered in proximal area. Terminal segment with one row of hooked spines (Fig. 4D). Pupation in gall.

**Larva 3rd instar:** Light cream. Body, 3.1 mm length, 1.6 maximum width (n = 1). Integument sclerotized, cephalic setae, 0.01 mm length. **Thorax:** Area around prothoracic spatula pigmented, spatula 0.3 mm length, four teeth anteriorly, middle tooth smaller than lateral teeth, with narrow shaft; one pair of setose inner lateral papillae and two pairs of setose outer lateral papillae (Fig. 5A). Abdomen: Segments 1-8 covered by round plates with microspines dorsally and ventrally, spiracles short and sclerotized; terminal segment (Fig. 5B), 0.03 mm length, 0.07 maximum width, round with a pair of short setose papillae; anus dorsal in cleft, flanked by elongated cells (Fig. 5C).

**Etymology:** The specific name "cipo" is in apposition, referring to the type locality, Serra do Cipó.

**Gall and biology (Fig. 6):** Globose stem and petiole swelling on Lessingianthus warmingianus (Baker) H. Rob. (Asteraceae). Galls are bare, monothalamous, unilocular. The adult male and female characters of Asphondylia cipo sp. nov. can be easily differentiated from any other species of the genus by the following set of characters: the great body length; needle part of ovipositor 1.6 mm length, 2.3 times longer than sternite 7; upper frontal horn simple, lower frontal horn trilobed; prothoracic spiral setiform with an accessory structure in spiral format; four-toothed prothoracic spatula of larva, the inner pair tiny and widely separated; one pair of discrete terminal papillae; gall on stem and petiole of Lessingianthus warmingianus.

Of the 16 species Asphondylia inducing galls on Asteraceae whose larvae are known, only A. ajallai, A. serrata, A. ulei, A. zacatechichi, and A. cipo sp. nov. have spatula with inner teeth much less than ½ the size of the outer with the inner incision flat and wide (Fig. 7F), however, the distance between the inner teeth is much larger in A. cipo sp. nov. than in the other known species; from these, only A. serrata and A. cipo sp. nov. have one inner and two outer lateral papillae, A. ajallai and A. ulei have two inner and two outer lateral papillae, and A. zacatechichi has 3 inner and 2 outer lateral papillae. Asphondylia cipo sp. nov. differ of A. serrata by the shape of antennal horn, triangular in the former, rectangular in the later in pupa; and in females, the needle part of ovipositor is 2.3 times longer than sternite 7 in the former and 1.87 in the later. The morphological evidence discussed above indicates that this species is distinct from all other species of Asphondylia inducing galls on Asteraceae described previously.

**Identification key to the species of Asphondylia associated with Asteraceae in the Neotropical region**

The male and female characters of Asphondylia are near all similar among the species, that’s why most of the characters used in the key are from pupa, larva, host plants, and galls. The adults of A. ulei Rübsaamen, Asphondylia zacatechichi Möhn, and Asphondylia zexmeiae Möhn; the pupa of A. ajallai Möhn, A. corbulae Möhn, A. herculesi Möhn; and the larvae of A. tithoniae Möhn are

![Image](image-url)
unknown; *A. duplicornis* Wünsch is known only from female and pupa. The original description of *A. baccharis* Kieffer & Herbst is very unspecific and the type specimens have been lost. Of the twenty species of *Asphondylia* associated with Asteraceae in the Neotropical region, only four were not included in this key: *A. duplicornis* (Distrib. Colombia: Magdalena Prov., Canaverales) and *A. tithonioides* (Distrib. El Salvador: La Libertad, E Sitio del Nino) because the larvae are unknown; *A. baccharis* (Distrib. Chile: vic. San Vicente) because the type specimens are lost. *Asphondylia hieronymi* (Weyenbergh) (Distrib. Argentina) could be included in the *Asphondylia* species grouped under the couplet 5, which larval spatula was described with four teeth, the inner much less than ½ of outer, with inner incision flat and wide, but the required information to the next steps of the key is unavailable in the original description and the type specimens are referred as lost in Gagné & Jaschhof (2017).

1. Larval spatula with four teeth, outer and inner pairs of spatula teeth approximately equal in size (Figs. 7A, 7B) .......................................................... 2
2. Larva with two inner and two outer lateral papillae; terminal segment of larva with one (Fig. 8A) or four terminal papillae (Fig. 8E) ....................... 3
3. Larva with terminal segment with one pair of setiform terminal papillae barely visible among microspines (Fig. 8A); vein swelling on leaves of *Mikania glomerata* Sprengl. (Distrib. Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, Poço das Antas; Minas Gerais, Lavras) ................................................................. A. glomeratae Gagné
4. Larva with the inner teeth of spatula slightly shorter than outer (Fig. 7B); bud galls on *Eupatorium sp.*; *Chromolaena odorata*, *Fleischmannia microstemon* (Distrib. El Salvador: Ahuachapan, NW Las Chinamas; Guadeloupe FWI, Trinidad) ............................................................................................................................. A. corbulae Möhn
5. Larva with the inner teeth of spatula at least ½ of outer teeth, inner incision absent (Fig. 7C) or, if present, deep and narrow (Fig. 7D) .................... 6
6. Larva with the inner teeth of spatula minute, with much less than ½ of outer teeth, inner incision present, flat and wide (Fig. 7E) ............. 12
7. Larva with three inner and two outer lateral papillae; bud and axil leaf galls on *Melanthera nivea* (L.) Small (Distrib. El Salvador: San Miguel, N El Delirio) ................................................................. A. melanthae Möhn
8. Larva with two inner and two outer lateral papillae

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*Figure 8.* Terminal segment of *Asphondylia* species. (A) *Asphondylia glomerata*, (B) *A. ajjalai*, (C) *A. salvadorensis*, (D) *A. ulei*, (E) *A. gochnatiae*, (F) *A. serrata*. Figure 8A modified from Gagné et al. (2001), 8B, 8C from Möhn (1959), 8D from Möhn (1973), 8E from Maia (2004).
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author acknowledges support from FAPESP (Proc. #99/01429-1), Dr. Carlos J.E. Lamas for providing access to the facilities at M2USP, Dr. Marcelo Monge Egea (IB/UNICAMP) for identifying the host plant species, Dr. Adolfo R. Calor (UFBA), Dr. Sidnei Matheus (FFCCLRP/USP), and Dr. Charles M.D. dos Santos (UFABC) for collaboration in the field work; and Dr. Raymond J. Gagné for commenting on a draft version of the manuscript.

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Papéis Avulsos de Zoologia, 2018; v.58: e20185853