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Description of two new species of the genus *Xyalaspis* Hartig, 1843 (Hymenoptera: Figitidae: Anacharitinae) in the Neotropical region

Descripción de dos nuevas especies del género *Xyalaspis* Hartig, 1843 (Hymenoptera: Figitidae: Anacharitinae) en la región Neotropical

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ABSTRACT

Two new species of genus *Xyalaspis* Hartig, 1843, *Xyalaspis dominicana* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar n. sp. from Dominican Republic and *Xyalaspis muzencaba* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar n. sp. from Mexico are described. *Xyalaspis dominicana* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar n. sp. represents the first record of the genus in the Caribbean area. The description and diagnostic characters of the new species are illustrated and discussed.

Key words: Figitidae, *Xyalaspis*, Neotropical, Mexico, Caribbean, new species.

RESUMEN

Se describen dos nuevas especies del género *Xyalaspis* Hartig, 1843: *Xyalaspis dominicana* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar n. sp. de la República Dominicana y *Xyalaspis muzencaba* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar n. sp. de México. *Xyalaspis dominicana* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar n. sp. representa el primer registro del género para el Caribe. Se ilustran y discuten los caracteres diagnósticos de las nuevas especies.

Key words: Figitidae, *Xyalaspis*, Neotropical, México, Caribe, nuevas especies.

Figitidae is a family of microhymenopteran parasitic wasps which currently includes twelve subfamilies (Paretas-Martínez *et al.* 2011). The subfamily comprises nine genera (Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar 2013): *Acanthaegilips* Ashmead, 1896, *Acanthaegilopsis* Pujade-Villar, 2013, *Aegilips* Haliday, 1835, *Anacharis* Dalman, 1823 *Calofigites* Kieffer, 1909, *Hexacharis* Kieffer, 1907, *Proanacharis* Kovalev, 1996, *Solenofigites* Díaz, 1979 and *Xyalaspis* Hartig 1847. The Anacharitinae can be easily distinguished from the other subfamilies of Figitidae by three main synapomorphies (Ros-Farré *et al.* 2000): (1) rounded and continuous pronotal plate, (2) broadly overlapping mandibles and (3) triangular-shaped head in front view - although more quadrangular shaped in genera *Acanthaegilopsis*, *Proanacharis* and some species of *Xyalaspis* and *Aegilips* (Kovalev 1996; Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar 2013; Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2014a, 2014c; Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2015). They also present a different biology from other Figitidae, being cited attacking the aphid-feeding larvae of Hemerobiidae (Neuroptera) (Díaz 1979; New 1979; Kyerich 1984; Miller & Lambdin 1985; Fergusson 1986; Cave & Miller 1987; Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2014b).

Genus *Xyalaspis* is closely related to *Aegilips* and *Acanthaegilopsis*, forming a group characterized by a sort of common morphological traits, including a short and carinated petiole, a robust body compared to the slender

genera *Acanthaegilips* and *Anacharis*, and the absence of any groove or sulcus in the mesopleuron. Both *Xyalaspis* and *Acanthaegilopsis* present a scutellar spine derived from the circumscutellar carina, a character not seen in *Aegilips*. The main character used for distinguishing between the two spiked genera was the presence of malar sulcus in *Xyalaspis*, which is absent in *Acanthaegilopsis* (Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2014a).

Xyalaspis has a cosmopolitan distribution, being present in all continents except for Antarctica. Prior to our study, it comprised twenty species; five of them occurring in the Neotropical region (Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2014c): *X. aberrans* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014, *X. alveolata* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014, *X. flavipes* Ashmead, 1896, *X. hirsuta* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014 and *X. pilosa* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014. This makes the Neotropical region the second richest region in *Xyalaspis* species, behind the Palaearctic. However, this biodiversity is reduced to the mainland; no species for the Caribbean islands have been previously described. The objective of this paper is to describe two new species of *Xyalaspis* - *X. dominicana* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar **sp.n.** from Dominican Republic and *X. muzencaba* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar **n. sp.** from Mexico - and to register *X. dominicana* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar **n. sp.** to the Caribbean area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Morphological terms used are those of Richards (1977), Ronquist (1995) and Ros-Farré *et al.* (2003). All measurements are relative except for the body length. Measurements and abbreviations include: F1–F12, first and subsequent flagellomeres; POL (post-ocellar distance) is the distance between the inner margins of the posterior ocelli; OOL (ocular-ocellar distance) is the shortest distance between the inner margin of the compound eye and the outer edge of the posterior ocellus; LOL (lateral–frontal ocellar distance) is the distance between the edges of the lateral and frontal ocelli. Antennal formula includes scape, pedicel and flagellomeres length and relative width in brackets.

The images included were made in the ‘Serveis Científico-Tècnics’ of the University of Barcelona. The field-emission gun environmental scanning electron microscope (FEI Quanta 200 ESEM) was used for high-resolution imaging, under a low voltage (12.0 kV) and without gold-coating of the specimens in order to preserve the material.

The specimens of *Xyalaspis dominicana* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar **n. sp.** And the paratype of *X. muzencaba* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar **n. sp.** are deposited in the Canadian National Collection of Insects (CNCI) while the holotype of *X. muzencaba* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar **n. sp.** is deposited in the Universitat de Barcelona (UB).

RESULTS

Xyalaspis dominicana Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar **sp. nov.**

Type material. Holotype ♀ (deposited in CNCI) with the following labels: “DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Independencia, 28 km NW La Descubierta, Sierra de Neiba, 1400m, 5.XII.1991: L. Masner leg” (white label), “Holotype of *Xyalaspis dominicana* n. sp., design.. Mata-Casanova” (red label). Paratype (1♂ deposited in CNCI) with the following labels: “DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Sierra de Bahoruco, Las Abejas, 1300m, 17-19.I.1989: L. Masner leg” (white label), “Paratype of *Xyalaspis dominicana* n. sp.” (red label).

Diagnosis. *Xyalaspis dominicana* shares some characteristics with the Asian species *X. esbelta* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014: the general slender constitution, the long scutellum transversely divided by a complete median carina and the smooth central region of the propodeum; however, it has a strongly carinated mesoscutum and pronotum (in *X. esbelta*, mesoscutum completely smooth and pronotum with only some weak basal carinae).

Description: Length. Body: 1.9 mm. Wings: 2 mm. Antenna: 1.8 mm (♀), 1.9 mm (♂).

Coloration. Head and mesosoma black, metasoma dark yellow. Mandibles yellowish brown with darker teeth. Antennae yellowish, darker flagellum. Legs and coxae yellowish, darker tarsi. Wing veins yellowish to dark yellow, hyaline wings.

Head. Quadrangular-shaped in front view (Fig. 1c). Head as high as wide in front view and 2.5 times its length in dorsal view. Face smooth and shiny with setaceous punctures, covered by uniformly distributed short hairs. Malar sulcus coriaceous, 0.8 times of compound eye height. Transfacial line 1.3 times of compound eye height. Diameter of toruli shorter than intertoruli distance but equal to eye-toruli distance. Clypeus shortly defined, convex, smooth and glabrous. Occipital and postocular carina absent. Compound eyes with only few short hairs. Ocelli almost arranged in line; POL:OOL:LOL ratio in males = 5.5:6:2, ocelli diameter 2; POL:OOL:LOL ratio in females = 5.5:5:2, ocelli diameter 2. Frons smooth and shiny, almost glabrous except for some pubescence near compound eye margin.

Antennae. Cylindrical flagellomeres, covered with pubescence. Female antennal formula: 8(3), 3(2.5), 6.5(2), 6.5(2), 6(2), 6(2), 5(2.5), 5(2.5), 4.5(2.5), 4(2.5), 4(2.5), 6(2.5). Male antennal formula: 7(2.5), 3(2), 6(2), 6(2), 6(2), 6(2), 6(2), 5(2), 5(2), 5(2), 5(2), 4.5(2), 6(2). Placodeal sensilla in females start at F2, in males start at F1.

Mesosoma. Pronotal plate alutaceous and covered by short pubescence. Pronotum smooth, and obliquely carinated (Fig. 1a). Mesoscutum width 1.2 times its length in dorsal view. Mesoscutum smooth covered by short and scarce pubescence and abundant setaceous punctures; alutaceous sculpture in region between notauli (Fig. 1b); complete and internally carinated notauli, median mesoscutal furrow apparent. Parapsidal signum present; parascutal sulcus excavated and internally carinated, divided in cells. Scutellum smooth and glabrous, surrounded by a circumscutellar carina that reaches scutellar spine end. Scutellum 0.9 times of mesoscutum length in dorsal view. Scutellar foveae not basally defined, elongated until of scutellar spine end (Fig. 1b); lateral pits of scutellar foveae absent. Interfoveal line complete, reaching of scutellar spine end; spine end truncated. Spine straight in both sexes in lateral view, being nearly one-third of scutellum total length. Mesopleuron smooth, glabrous and shiny, only some weak and short carinae near pronotum. Mesopleural triangle smooth and shiny, covered with sparse hyaline pubescence. Propodeum alutaceous and pubescent; central area smooth and glabrous (Fig. 1d), without longitudinal or transverse carinae.

Wings. Pubescent. Radial cell of forewing closed, 2.8 longer than wide. Marginal pubescence of wing denser at apical third.

Metasoma. Petiole longer than wide, dorsally smooth or only slightly carinated while heavily carinated in lateral and ventral regions. Third abdominal tergum 3 times longer than fourth abdominal tergum in dorsal view. Fifth, sixth and seventh abdominal terga are visible in dorsal view. Metasoma glabrous and smooth.

Etymology. The specific name makes reference to the country where the specimens were collected.

Biology. Unknown.

Distribution. Neotropical. Only recorded from Dominican Republic.

***Xyalaspis muzencaba* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar
sp. nov.**

Type material. - Holotype ♀ (deposited in UB) with the following labels: “MÉXICO, Morelos, Cuernavaca, III-V.1965: N.L.H. Krauss leg” (white label), “Holotype of *Xyalaspis muzencaba* n. sp., det. Mata-Casanova” (red label). Paratype (1♀ deposited in CNCI) with the following labels: “MEXICO, Chiapas, San Cristóbal de Las Casas 7200 ft, MT, 18.VI.1969: collector unknown”.

Diagnosis. Species closely related to *X. dimorphica* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014 and *X. subsaharica* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014. However, *X. muzencaba* has an incomplete median mesoscutal furrow (median mesoscutal furrow reaching the pronotum in *X. dimorphica* and *X. subsaharica*).

Description: Length. Body: 2.6 mm. Wings: 2.3 mm. Antenna: 2.2 mm (♀).

Coloration. Head and mesosoma black, metasoma dark yellow. Mandibles yellowish brown with darker teeth. Antennae yellow. Legs and coxae yellow, darker third coxa and tarsi. Wing veins yellowish, hyaline wings.

Head. Quadrangular-shaped in front view (Fig. 2c). Head width 1.2 its height in front view and 2.5 times its length in dorsal view. Face smooth and shiny, densely pubescent. Malar sulcus coriaceous (Fig. 2a), 0.6 times of compound eye height. Transfacial line 1.2 times of compound eye height. Diameter of toruli equal to eye-toruli distance but shorter than intertoruli distance. Clypeus shortly defined, convex, smooth and glabrous. Occipital and postocular carina absent. Compound eyes pubescent. Ocelli arranged in line; POL:OOL:LOL ratio in females = 8:7:3, being the ocelli diameter 2.5. Frons smooth and shiny, with some scarce hyaline hairs.

Antennae. Cylindrical flagellomeres, covered with pubescence. Female antennal formula: 10(4.5), 4(2.5), 9(2.5), 9(3), 8(3), 7(3), 6.5(3), 6(3), 6(3), 5(3), 5(3), 4(3), 7(3). Placodeal sensilla start at F3 in females.

Mesosoma. Pronotal plate slightly projected at its apex. Pronotum alutaceous and pubescent, surface irregularly carinated (Fig. 2d). Mesoscutum width 1.2 times its length in dorsal view. Mesoscutum pubescent, central area glabrous; surface alutaceous, some anterior weak carinae between notauli; complete and internally carinated notauli, median mesoscutal furrow elongated but incomplete, also internally carinated (Fig. 2b). Parapsidal signum present; parascutal sulcus excavated and internally carinated, divided in cells. Scutellum heavily areolate. Scutellum length 0.9 times of mesoscutum length in dorsal view. Scutellar foveae basally defined by a carina; lateral pits of the scutellar foveae present. Interfoveal line complete. Spine straight in lateral view, about one-third of scutellum total length. Mesopleuron smooth, and shiny, some slight

anterior carinae (Fig. 2d). Mesopleural triangle smooth and shiny, covered with sparse hyaline pubescence. Propodeum alutaceous and pubescent; central area smooth, with two upper larger cells and two smaller lower cells.

Wings. Pubescent. Radial cell of forewing closed, 2.8 longer than wide. Marginal pubescence of the wing denser at the apical third.

Metasoma. Petiole longer than wide, dorsally smooth while heavily carinated in lateral and ventral regions. Third abdominal tergum 3.7 times longer than fourth abdominal tergum in dorsal view. Fifth, sixth and seventh abdominal terga are visible in dorsal view. Metasoma glabrous and smooth.

Etymology. The specific name makes reference to Ah-Muzencab, the Mayan god of bees.

Biology. Unknown.

Distribution. Neotropical. Only recorded from Mexico (Morelos and Chiapas).

DISCUSSION

Genus *Xyalaspis* presents a highly variable morphology in the mesosomal sculpture, from the completely smooth mesoscutum without any traces of notauli or other features we can find in *X. esbelta* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014 to the highly areolate sculpture we can see in *X. alveolata*. The scutellum is also highly variable, both in shape and sculpture. In some species, like *X. petiolata* Kieffer, 1901, the scutellum is much shorter than the mesoscutum, while other species like *X. arapahoe* Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar, 2014, *X. rugosa* Hartig, 1843 and *X. pilosa*, the scutellum is far larger than the mesoscutum (Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2014c, 2015a).

The newly described *Xyalaspis dominicana* n. sp., presents a transversely carinated mesoscutum with completely and internally carinated notauli, and a strongly carinated pronotal surface. This state of characters is also present in *X. flavipes* and *X. pilosa*, both American species like *X. dominicana* n. sp. However, when examining the scutellar and propodeal sculpture we find strong differences with these two species. *X. dominicana* n. sp. presents a smooth central propodeum and scutellum, the last being transversely divided by a median carina derivative from an elongation of the interfoveal line. These characters are also found in the Asian species *X. esbelta*. Thus, the morphological affinities and position of *X. dominicana* n. sp. are pretty ambiguous.

The Mexican species *Xyalaspis muzencaba* n. sp. also has some interesting morphological features. It has pubescent composite eyes, strongly sculptured pronotum and mesoscutum, and a long median mesoscutal furrow, like *X. pilosa*. The mesoscutal furrow, nevertheless, is internally carinated in *X. muzencaba*, a trait only seen in other species with complete median mesoscutal furrow: *X. dimorphica*, *X. subsaharica* and *X. victoriensis* New, 1979; this trait seems to reinforce the idea of a common Gondwanan origin for this group of *Xyalaspis* species (Mata-Casanova

et al. 2014a). Moreover, a detailed study of these species shows some shared traits with genus *Acanthaegilopsis*: the complete and internally carinated mesoscutal furrow, the quadrangular-shaped head and the strong carinated sculpture of the body, especially the pronotum and mesoscutum. The only character that is currently useful in separating both genera is the lack of coriaceous malar sulcus in *Acanthaegilopsis* (Mata-Casanova & Pujade-Villar 2013; Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2014a). However, the presence of the malar sulcus is variable within some Anacharitininae genera (Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2014c; 2015b), thus making the distinction between the two genera dubious. More research should be done to assert the validity of *Acanthaegilopsis*.

The Caribbean area has a poor record of Anacharitininae, especially considering that the highest diversity of the subfamily is located in the Neotropical region. The description of *X. dominicana* **n. sp.** represents the first record for genus *Xyalaspis* in the Caribbean and the second record of subfamily Anacharitininae in the area after the description of two species of genus *Acanthaegilips*: *A. alienus* Ros-Farré & Pujade-Villar, 2003 and *A. exiguus* Ros-Farré & Pujade-Villar, 2003 (Ros-Farré *et al.* 2003); the Dominican Republic holds the highest diversity of the subfamily, with two species recorded there: *A. alienus* and *X. dominicana* **n. sp.** The scarce record of Caribbean Anacharitininae appears to be due to the absence of previous works with undetermined material collected in this area; more surveys are very likely to increase the number of species and knowledge on Caribbean Anacharitininae. On the other hand, Mexico is pretty rich in Anacharitininae, with four species of the subfamily recorded there (Cameron 1884; Ros-Farré *et al.* 2003; Mata-Casanova *et al.* 2014c) prior to the description of *X. muzencaba* **n. sp.**

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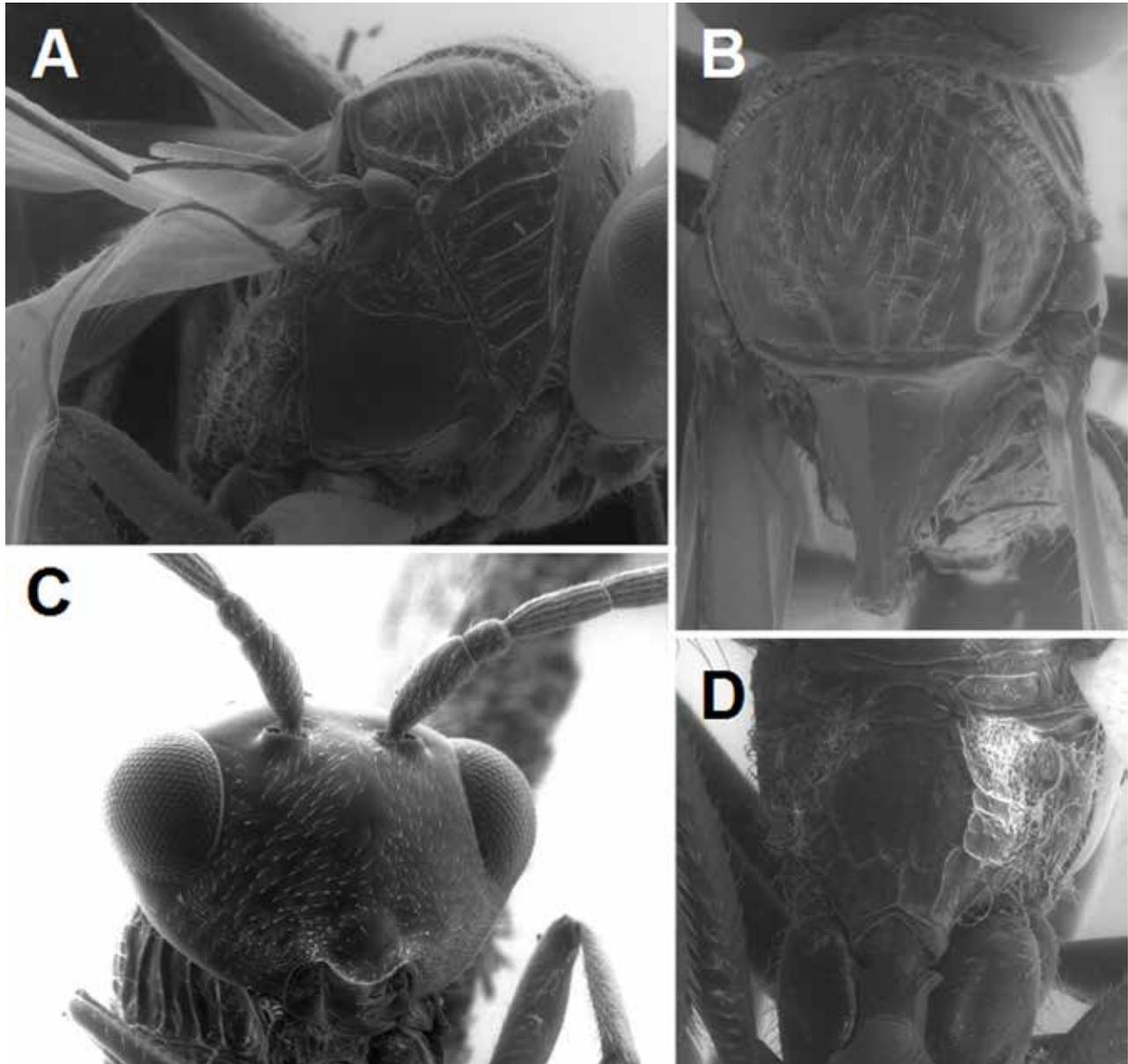


Figure 1. *Xyalaspis dominicana* n.sp.: (a) mesosoma in lateral view; (b) mesosoma in dorsal view; (c) head in front view; (d) propodeum.

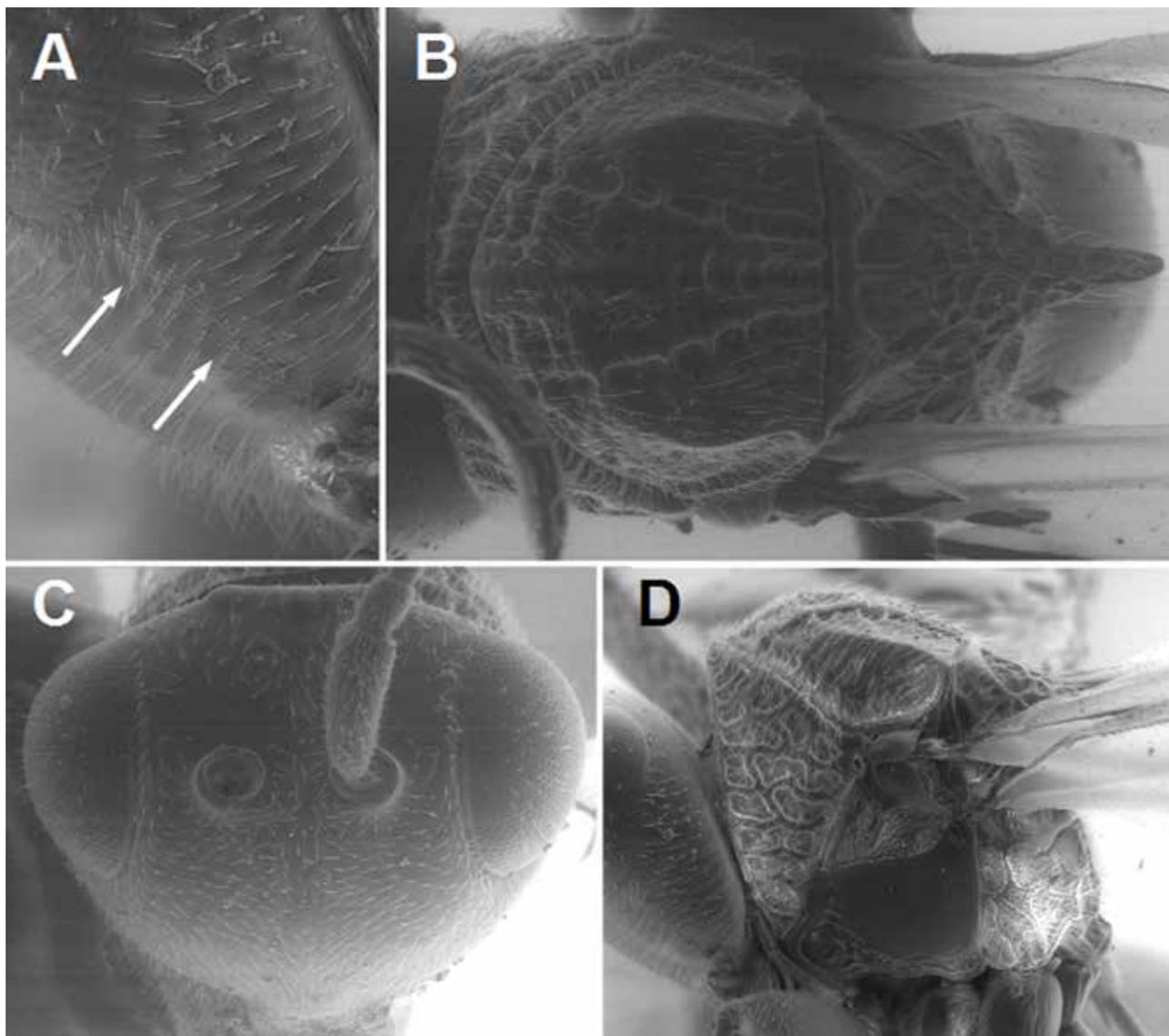


Figure 2. *Xyalaspis muzencaba* n.sp.: (a) malar area in lateral view; (b) mesosoma in dorsal view; (c) head in front view; (d) mesosoma in lateral view.