

## The Second Record of *Coelioxys obtusiventris* Crawford (Hymenoptera, Megachilidae)<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

The parasitic bee, *Coelioxys obtusiventris* Crawford, was described in 1914 from Florida and has been known only from the unique female holotype. A second specimen has now been collected at Lafayette, Indiana, and is recorded.

The parasitic megachilid, *Coelioxys obtusiventris* Crawford, was described on the basis of a single female located in the C. F. Baker Collection (1). The specimen bore a label "Florida; Palm." without additional data. The holotype is Type Specimen Catalog Number 18217, U.S. National Museum (1, 2). Mitchell (2) redescribed the species and indicated a possible relationship with *C. modesta* Smith.

Females of *C. modesta* and *C. obtusiventris* characteristically have the apex of the sixth metasomal tergite upturned abruptly; however, a number of individuals of *C. modesta* do not exhibit this condition. In either case, the apical third of this tergite (in *C. modesta*) bears numerous long, erect, black hairs, but these are not sufficiently dense to obscure the upturned portion when present. Comparatively, this portion of the apical tergite of *C. obtusiventris* is covered so extensively with brownish-black hairs that the upturned portion is nearly hidden.

The most distinguishing structure of *C. obtusiventris* is the sixth metasomal sternite, described by Mitchell (2) as ". . . ; sternum 6 slightly flared apically, with a long apical spine, apical margin with a prominent fringe of long brownish hairs, nearly equally the spine in length." This feature is so striking and differs so greatly from the apical sternite of other species that its diagnostic value has probably been under-emphasized within longer descriptions.

The second specimen of *C. obtusiventris* was identified among material in the Purdue Entomological Research Collection. The specimen, a female, bears the label "Lafayette, Ind. VI • 16 • 59." No other information is available nor was the bee associated with other specimens of *Coelioxys* or of the host genus *Megachile*.

The status of species based upon unique specimens usually creates a puzzling situation, especially when localities are indefinite. A second record from a remote region does not reduce the puzzle, but it does confirm a continued existence.

### Literature Cited

1. CRAWFORD, J. C. 1914. Some species of the bee genus *Coelioxys*. Ann. Entomol. Soc. America 7(2):148-159.
2. MITCHELL, T. B. 1962. Bees of the eastern United States. Vol. II. North Carolina Agric. Exp. Sta. Tech. Bul. No. 152. 557 p. (esp. 214-215).

<sup>1</sup>Journal Paper No. 2963 of the Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station.