
A New *Trigonopsis* (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae) Record for Trinidad, West Indies

Trigonopsis is a neotropical genus of rarely encountered sphecid wasps that includes 16 species (Vardy 1978), three of which were known from Trinidad (Callen 1990; Starr and Hook 2003). These secretive wasps are striking in appearance in having a very polished integument, a prognathous and triangular-shaped head bearing long, slender mandibles, a prolonged pronotum, and a petiolate gaster (abdomen). They come in two color forms, metallic blue or black with a red abdomen. These wasps construct mud cells, which are attached to the undersurface of leaves, rock surfaces, and rootlets of fallen trees or rootlets exposed under overhanging dirt banks. Most species provisioned their nests with paralyzed cockroaches, and nests generally consist of a few to several cells. Although many species may be solitary, communal nesting has been documented in *T. cameronii* (Eberhard 1974).



During my recent sabbatical in Trinidad I collected two females of *Trigonopsis cooperi* Vardy on the southern side of the Northern Range of Trinidad. Their label data are as follows: Caura Valley, N10.688°, W61.371°, 28.VIII.2004, and Caura Valley, N10.705°, W61.368°, 27.I.2005. Elevation at both collection sites were slightly over 200 m. Previously this species was known from only 7 localities in Brazil and Ecuador (Vardy 1978). These two specimens represent a fourth species of *Trigonopsis* in Trinidad, and the first record of this species north of the Amazon River, or a range extension of over 900 km. Voucher specimens have been placed in the Brackenridge Field Laboratory Insect Collection of the University of Texas at Austin and in the Insect Collection of the Department of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad.

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