Systematics, Morphology and Biogeography

*Lopesia indaiensis* (Diptera, Cecidomyiidae), a new species of gall midge feeding on *Andira fraxinifolia* Benth (Fabaceae), an endemic plant in Brazil

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**Abstract**

*Lopesia indaiensis* (Diptera, Cecidomyiidae), a new species of gall midge found causing galls on *Andira fraxinifolia* (Fabaceae), an endemic plant species in Brazil, is described based on larva, pupa, male and female. *L. indaiensis* galls were collected in Dores do Indaiá, State of Minas Gerais, Southeastern Brazil. Larvae were removed from the galls and pupae and adults were obtained by rearing. The specimens were mounted on slides and the most important morphological characters were illustrated. The new species was compared to the other species of *Lopesia*.

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**Introduction**

*Andira fraxinifolia* Benth (Fabaceae) is a heliophytic, evergreen, woody plant, which is endemic in Brazil (Lorenzi, 1992). It occurs in the Atlantic forest, Cerrado and Caatinga and has been found from Rio Grande do Sul to Piauí States. Due to its good propagation and fast germination, this species has great importance for recovering disturbed areas (Backes and Irgang, 2004).

Four gall morphotypes have been recorded on this plant species. One of them (Fig. 1) is a veriform leaf fold found in several areas of Atlantic forest (Southeastern Brazil: Bertioga/State of São Paulo, Mangaratiba and Maricá/State of Rio de Janeiro; Northeastern Brazil: Tamandaré/State of Pernambuco), as well as in a Cerrado area (Southeastern Brazil: Dores do Indaiá, State of Minas Gerais) (Table 1). This gall is induced by a new species of *Lopesia* Rübsamen, 1908 (Diptera, Cecidomyiidae).

Similar galls have been recorded on *Andira* sp. in Bahia (Northeastern) (Tavares, 1920) and *Andira humilis* Mart. ex Benth. in Mato Grosso (Midwestern), São Paulo and Bahia (Garcia et al., 2017). The former is induced by *Andirodiplosis bahiensis* Tavares, 1920 (Cecidomyiidae) and the latter by *Lopesia andira* Garcia, Lima, Calado and Urso-Guimarães, 2017.

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Fig. 1. Galls of *Lopesia indaiensis*, sp. n., on leaf of *Andira fraxinifolia* Benth (Fabaceae), general aspect.

In this study, we describe a new species of *Lopesia* that induces veriform galls on leaves of *A. fraxinifolia* based on material from Minas Gerais. This genus is known from 25 described species, 20 of them from the Neotropics. The other species are Afrotopical (three spp.), Nearctic (one sp.) and Australasian (one sp.) (Gagné and Jaschhof, 2017; Maia and Monteiro, 2017).
Material and methods

Branches of A. fraxinifolia with leaf galls were collected at Porcos Farm (19°30’18.99” S–45°41’00.88” W), municipality of Dores do Indaiá, State of Minas Gerais [Southeastern Brazil], in April of 2009. Galls were found on an individual plant situated in the border of a Cerrado fragment. Most leaves were galled and leaflets hosted one to several galls. The presence of more than three galls on the same leaflet caused its distortion.

Galled branches were removed from the host plant and transported in plastic bags to the laboratory of the Departamento de Ciências Biológicas/Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras do Alto São Francisco, where some galls were dissected under a stereoscopic microscope to obtain larvae and pupae. Other galled branches were wrapped in wet cotton at the basis and kept in plastic pots covered by a fine screening until adults’ emergence, when these pots were put in a refrigerator to cause insects’ lethargy. Then, midges were collected using a 70% ethanol soaked paintbrush.

All specimens were first preserved in 70% ethanol, then mounted on microscope slides, following the methods outlined by Gagné (1994) and deposited in the Entomological Collection of the Museu Nacional/Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ).

Samples of the host plant were pressed, dried, identified by Dr. Fernando Augusto de Oliveira e Silveira (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) and kept in his laboratory as a voucher material.

Results

Lopesia indaiensis, sp. n. (Figs. 2–13)

The new species was placed in Lopesia due to four-segmented palpi, R5 curved at its juncture with Rs, Rs situated near the midlength of R1, short female postabdomen and its cerci with many short, sensory setae, and larva with corniform terminal papillae, each on a terminal projection.

Diagnosis. Adults with 1st–11th antennal flagellomeres neck partially setulose in both sexes, 12th flagellomere with apical process entirely setulose in both sexes, four-segmented palpi, male circumflua with all loops similar in length, tarsal claw with two teeth, 8th male tergite narrow, elongated, with only basal pair of trichoid sensilla; pupa with antennal basis modified into anteriorly pointed projection, with inner margin slightly serrated, apical plate deeply bilobed, prothoracic spiracle long and abdominal dorsal spines absent; larva with spatula two-toothed and four pairs of corniform terminal papillae.

Larva. Fusiform and cylindrical body: 1.90–2.60 mm long (n = 05). Integument rough. Spatula (Fig. 2): 0.17–0.26 mm long (n = 05), two-toothed, apical teeth triangular, stalk long. Two groups of three lateral papillae on each side of spatula (two pairs setose and a single setose papilla in each group) (Fig. 2). Terminal segment (Fig. 3): four pairs of corniform papillae similar in length.

Pupa. Body length: 3.10–4.40 mm (n = 17). Head (Fig. 4): apical setae 0.07–0.13 mm long (n = 11); vertical plate deeply bilobed at upper margin, antennal projections slightly serrated, 0.10–0.17 mm long (n = 17) (from apex to the upper antennal margin); two pairs of lower facial papillae (one asetose and the other setose), three pairs of lateral facial papillae, one pair setose and two without seta. Prothoracic spiracle (Fig. 4) elongate 0.25–0.35 mm long (n = 17), sclerotized. Prothoracic integument partially rough (Fig. 5). Abdominal segments 2–8 without dorsal spines.

Male. Body length 2.70–3.80 mm long (n = 12) (including terminalia). Head (Fig. 6): apical process absent. Eye facets circular, all closely approximated. Antenna (n = 05): scape obconical,
pedicel globose, flagellomeres binodal and tricircumfilar; nodes and internodes setulose, necks partially setulose; three circumfila of each flagellomere with loops regular in length (Fig. 7); 1st and 2nd flagellomeres connate, 12th flagellomere 0.20 mm long (n = 5), with apical process entirely setulose. Frontoclypeus with 10–12 setae (n = 10). Labrum triangular, long-attenuate, with 3 pairs of ventral sensory setae. Hypopharynx with anteriorly directed lateral setulae. Labella elongate-convex, each with long lateral setae and three pairs of short mesal sensory setae. Palpus (n = 07) with four segments, all cylindrical with setae, 1st segment shorter than the others, 0.03–0.04 mm long, 2nd segment 0.08–0.09 mm long, 3rd segment 0.08 mm long, and 4th segment 0.08 mm long.

Thorax. Wings: length: 2.40–2.70 mm (n = 12). Venation: R5 and Rs as in the genus diagnosis, CuA forked, M3 + 4 present. Scutum with 4 longitudinal rows of setae with a few scales intermixed, the 2 dorsocentral rows broadest anteriorly, forming a single row posteriorly, and the 2 lateral as a single row. Scutellum with several setae. Anepisternum bare. Anepimeron with setae. Tarsal claws bent near base and two-toothed, tooth basal shorter than the distal; empodium short, not reaching bent in claws (Fig. 8).

Abdomen (Fig. 9): 1st–6th tergites sclerotized, rectangular, with a single distal row of setae, few setae mesally and laterally, basal pair of trichoid sensilla, and scattered scales; 7th tergite sclerotized, rectangular, with a double distal row of setae, few setae mesally and laterally, basal pair of trichoid sensilla, and scattered scales; 8th tergite sclerotized, narrow, elongated, with only basal pair of trichoid sensilla. 2nd–7th sternites sclerotized, rectangular, with a single distal row of setae, many setae mesally and laterally, basal pair of trichoid sensilla, and scattered scales; 8th sternite sclerotized, with scattered setae at ½ distal, lateral setae, basal pair of
trichoid sensilla and scattered scales. Terminalia (Fig. 10): gonocoxite partially setose, 0.21–0.22 mm long, 0.07–0.08 mm wide (n = 07), with setulose rounded mesobasal lobe; gonostylus setulose basally, striated beyond basis, 0.11–0.12 mm long, 0.02–0.03 mm wide (n = 07); cerci apically rounded with setae and setulae, cercal lobes convergent; hypoproct deeply bilobed, with setae and setulae, lobes widely separated and rounded apically; hypoproct much longer than cercus; aedeagus accentuately longer than hypoproct, wider than gonostylus, tapered to apex, rounded apically, bearing several asetose papillae.

**Female.** Body length 3.90–4.20 mm long (n = 8) (including ovipositor). Antenna: scape and pedicel as in male, flagellomeres cylindrical; nodes entirely setulose and necks partially setulose; circumfila made of two rings, connected horizontally, slightly sinuous (Fig. 11), 12th flagellomere 0.11–0.13 mm long (n = 6), entirely setulose, apical process 0.05–0.07 mm long (n = 6) with basal node 0.02 mm long (n = 6). Frontoclypeus with 10–14 setae (n = 9). Palpus (n = 9): 1st segment shorter than the others, 2nd–4th segments subequal in length, 1st segment 0.04–0.05 mm long, 2nd segment 0.09–0.10 mm long, 3rd segment 0.08–0.09 mm long, 4th segment 0.09–0.10 mm long.

Thorax. Wings: length: 3.00–3.30 mm (n = 8).

Abdomen (Fig. 12): 1st–7th tergites as in male; 8th tergite not sclerotized, with basal pair of trichoid sensilla and distal row of setae. 2nd–7th sternites as in male, 8th sternite not sclerotized, with basal pair of trichoid sensilla and a row of distal setae.

Ovipositor (Fig. 13) barely protrusible, 0.18–0.21 mm long (from basal margin of segment 9 to cerci apex) (n = 3), cerci separate elongate-ovoid, 0.07–0.08 mm long (n = 4) and setose, hypoproct wide with setae and setulae.

**Figs. 11–13. Lopesia indaiensis, sp. n. 11. Female flagellomere 5. 12. Female abdominal segments 7–8 (lateral view). 13. Ovipositor (ventral view). Scale bars in mm.**
Etymology. The name indaiensis refers to the type locality.

Material examined. Holotype male. Brazil, Minas Gerais: Dores do Indaiá, IV.2009, L. Oliveira col., MNRJ. Paratypes, data as holotype– 10 males, 9 females, 18 pupal exuviae and 06 larvae, MNRJ.

Distribution. Brazil: Pernambuco (Tamandaré), Rio de Janeiro (Mangaratiba) and São Paulo (Bertioga) in Atlantic forest areas, and Minas Gerais (Dores do Indaiá) in Cerrado areas.


Adults of the new species differ from those of L. erythroxyli and L. brasiliensis mainly by the shape of male terminalia. Gonocoxites, gonostyli and aedeagus are wider in L. indaiensis than in the others; the hypoproct of the new species has longer lobes than those of the others, and its cercal lobes are convergent (divergent in the two other species). Pupae differ mainly in the shape and length and of the antennal projections (slightly serrated and conspicuously longer in L. indaiensis, not serrated and shorter in the others), shape of the apical plate (deeply bilobed only in the new species), and number of abdominal dorsal spines (none in L. indaiensis, several in L. brasiliensis and L. erythroxyli). Besides, the prothoracic spiracles are clearly shorter in the new species than in L. brasiliensis.

As L. andirae and L. indaiensis are the only two congeneric species associated with Andira Lam., both are compared: larva – the spatula teeth of L. andirae are far apart from each other, while those of L. indaiensis are more closely approximated and the spatula basis of the former is narrow while in the latter is anchor-shaped; pupa – the vertical plate conspicuously more deeply bilobed at upper margin in L. indaiensis, the antennal projections have serrated inner margin only in the new species, the prothoracic spiracle is clearly longer in the new species (0.16 mm in L. andirae and 0.25–0.35 mm in L. indaiensis), as well as the apical setae (0.06 mm in L. andirae and 0.07–0.13 mm in L. indaiensis); male – the median circumfilium has short whors while in the new species they are long, the 8th tergite of L. andirae is setose whereas that of L. indaiensis has no setae, the cercus of L. andirae is more acute than that of the new species and the hypoproct has sinuous margin while in L. indaiensis its margin is rounded; and female – the circumfilia of L. andirae are more sinuous than that of the new species, the 8th tergite of L. andirae has no setae whereas that of L. indaiensis has a distal row of setae and a basal pair of trichoid sensilla (not described in L. andirae).

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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References


