

The status of the genus *Xanthosphecium* Simon Thomas (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

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Abstract: *Xanthosphecium* Simon Thomas, 1994 is synonymized with *Eremiasphecium* Kohl, 1897. The species are *Eremiasphecium harteni* (Simon Thomas, 1994) comb. nov. and *E. sahelensis* (Simon Thomas, 1994) comb. nov.

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The differential characteristics of *Eremiasphecium* Kohl, 1897 (with nine species included) and *Xanthosphecium* Simon Thomas, 1994 (with two species) are as follows. The forewing of all species of *Eremiasphecium* has three submarginal cells; the second submarginal cell is petiolated in six species (Pulawski, 1992). All species except *E. budrysi* (Kazenas, 1991) have the second discoidal cell closed. Both species of *Xanthosphecium* have two submarginal cells and an open second discoidal cell (Simon Thomas, 1994).

Xanthosphecium also differs from *Eremiasphecium* in the reduction of some veins of the hind wing: the A1-a does not reach the wing border and the costa is shorter than usual. However, the phenomenon of a partly reduced wing venation is frequent in small sized Hymenoptera, especially in desert species (W. Pulawski, personal communication). Moreover, desert Hymenoptera often have a reduced body pigmentation, and the few and small black markings of *Xanthosphecium* have not much systematic importance.

I therefore synonymize *Xanthosphecium* with *Eremiasphecium*. The latter genus is thus enlarged by *Eremiasphecium harteni* (Simon Thomas, 1994) comb. nov. and *E. sahelensis* (Simon Thomas, 1994) comb. nov.

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References

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