

**FIRST REPORT OF THE PARASITIC WASP GENUS *ACRORICNUS* IN THE
DUTCH CARIBBEAN (HYMENOPTERA: ICHNEUMONIDAE)**

Augustijn De Ketelaere & Sylvia van Leeuwen

The parasitic wasp *Acroricnus tricolor* is reported for the first time from Curaçao. This also represents the first record of the genus *Acroricnus* from the Leeward Antilles and the Dutch Caribbean.

INTRODUCTION

On February 11, 2023 the second author photographed several insects that were attracted to a lamp on the outside wall of her holiday apartment in Willibrordus, Curaçao. On the photos she posted on Observation.org, the first author recognised *Acroricnus tricolor* Mitchell, 1950. This species is reported for the first time on Curaçao and also represents the first record of the genus *Acroricnus* Ratzeburg, 1852 in the Dutch Caribbean.

MATERIAL

Curaçao Sint Willibrordus, near a house along Kaminda San Sebastian, 12.2303, -69.0590, 11.11.2023, 1 ♀, S. van Leeuwen, det. A. De Ketelaere & B. Santos (Observation.org/264260584).

The house is situated in the middle of a natural environment with hills, overgrown with a thick and spiny indigenous vegetation (locally called 'mondi'). In the garden around the house grow some ornamental plants and crops and herbs.

IDENTIFICATION

Within the Cryptini the genus *Acroricnus* can be recognised by the slender mandibles, spiracle before the middle of the petiole and the last segment of the hind tarsus with a group of large midventral bristles (Townes 1970a). Unfortunately, this specimen was not collected but the quality of the pictures allowed for a positive identificati-



Figure 1-2. *Acroricnus tricolor*, Curaçao, Willibrordus, 11.11.2023. Photos Sylvia van Leeuwen.

on, after comparison with the description of the species in Mitchell (1950) (fig. 1-2). All visible characteristics and unique colouration fit perfectly for *A. tricolor*.

DISTRIBUTION

Acroricnus tricolor is known from Haïti, Puerto Rico and San Domingo (Dominican Republic) (Mitchell 1950). The new observation on Curaçao extends the range of the species about 800 km southwards. It is the first observation of the genus *Acroricnus* from the Leeward Antilles and the Dutch Caribbean. The genus is not known from South America (Yu et al. 2016).

BIOLOGY

Acroricnus tricolor has two reported hosts. Mitchell (1950) mentions *Zeta confusum* (Bequaert & Salt, 1931) and *Sceliphron caementarium* (Drury, 1773). *Zeta confusum* is mentioned as host of *Acroricnus tricolor* in Puerto Rico. This is certainly a misidentification as *Zeta confusum* is endemic to Cuba. Probably this should refer to *Zeta abdominale* (Drury, 1770), which is present in Puerto Rico. It should be noted that the nests of *Zeta* and

Sceliphron are quite similar and maybe *A. tricolor* depends on only one of these hosts (pers. comm. J. Devalez).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LITERATURE

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- Townes, H.K. 1970. Genera of Ichneumonidae Part 3. – *Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute* 13: 1-307.
- Yu, D.S.K., C. van Achterberg & K. Horstmann 2016. Taxapad 2016. World Ichneumonoidea 2015. Taxonomy, Biology, Morphology and Distribution. – Nepean, Ontario, Canada.

SAMENVATTING

Eerste vondst van het sluipwespen genus *Acroricnus* in de Nederlandse Cariben (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae)

Acroricnus tricolor wordt voor het eerst gemeld van Curaçao, op basis van een foto genomen in 2023. Dit is ook de eerste melding van het genus *Acroricnus* van de Benedenwindse Eilanden en van de Nederlandse Cariben.

A. De Ketelaere
Beernem, Belgium
augustijn.de.ketelaere@gmail.com

S.J. van Leeuwen
Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden
fbsylvia@xs4all.nl