

# *Neocorynurella*, a New Genus of Augochlorine Bees from South America (Hymenoptera: Halictidae)

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## Abstract

*Neocorynurella* Engel gen. n., a new sweat bee genus of the tribe Augochlorini (Halictidae), is described and figured from high altitudes in Colombia and Venezuela. The genus is distinguished from other augochlorine genera by the following combination of characters: galeal comb absent, epistomal sulcus obtuse, mouthparts not narrowed, preoccipital ridge rounded, pronotal dorsal and lateral ridges not carinate, pectinate inner hind tibial spur, strong basitibial plate, truncated marginal cell, and penis valve without a ventral prong. Two species are currently recognized in the group, *Neocorynurella seeleyi* Engel et Klein sp. n. and *N. viridis* Engel et Klein sp. n. Modified key couplets are provided for Eickwort's key to the genera of Augochlorini in order to facilitate recognition of the new genus. The position of *Neocorynurella* in augochlorine phylogeny is briefly discussed.

**Key words:** Augochlorini, bees, montane, *Neocorynurella*, South America, taxonomy

## Introduction

Bees of the tribe Augochlorini are restricted to the New World and have their greatest diversity in the tropics. The group is most easily recognized by the division of the pseudopygidial area of the female fifth tergum and by the absence of a pygidial plate in the male. The tribe is small, with approximately 500 described species, compared to its cosmopolitan sister tribe the Halictini (with over 2000 species). Despite their numerical size, the augochlorines exhibit a wide range of behavioral diversity. Eusociality, those societies with a sterile worker caste, has apparently evolved once in a monophyletic group of Augochlorini, with a single reversal in this clade to solitary behavior (Michener, 1990; Engel, 1996a, in prep; Danforth & Eickwort, 1997). Several augochlorine genera are also nocturnal foragers (e.g., *Megalopta* and *Megaloptidia*), with this mode of life having apparently evolved at

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least twice in the tribe. Cleptoparasitism and diverse nesting biologies (e.g., wood vs. soil nesting; reviewed in Eickwort & Sakagami, 1979) have likewise arisen multiple times, making the tribe an excellent group for studies of behavioral evolution.

Eickwort (1969a) presented a generic revision of the tribe and, along with a second paper, provided the modern tribal diagnosis (Eickwort, 1969b). Since the time of Eickwort's seminal studies on the Augochlorini, only two genera have been added, the Brazilian genus *Micrommation* (Moure, 1969) and the fossil genus *Oligochlora* from Dominican amber (Engel, 1996b). Herein we propose a new genus for two new species of Augochlorini from montane regions of Colombia and Venezuela. This is done in order to make the generic name available for a forthcoming paper by the senior author on cladistic relationships in the Augochlorini (Engel, in prep).

## Material and Methods

Material of the new taxa presented herein was compared with specimens of Augochlorini from the following institutions: American Museum of Natural History, New York (J. G. Rozen, Jr., and E. Quin-ter); Bohart Museum of Entomology, University of California, Davis (L. S. Kimsey and L. A. Baptis-te); Canadian National Collection, Ottawa (G. Gibson and L. Dumouchel); Cornell University Insect Collection, Ithaca (J. K. Liebherr and E. R. Hoebeke); Michigan State University (F. Stehr); Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (P. Perkins and S. Cover); National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (R. J. McGinley); Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (R. R. Snelling); Snow Entomological Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence (R. W. Brooks and C. D. Michener); and the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogot (G. Nates-Parra).

The morphological terminology and format for the descriptions is generally based on Eickwort (1969a). The following abbreviations are used in the descriptions: F, flagellomere; S, sternum; and T, tergum. All measurements were made using an ocular micrometer on a WILD-M5a microscope.

### *Neocorynurella* Engel gen. n.

(Habitus – Fig. 1)

Type species. *Neocorynurella seeleyi* Engel et Klein sp. n., present designation.

Female. Angle of epistomal sulcus obtuse. Clypeus and supraclypeal area protuberant and gently rounded (Fig. 2); over half of clypeus extending below lower tangent of compound eye. Scape long and thin. Malar area short (Fig. 2). Hypostomal ridge carinate, anterior angle rounded, very slightly projecting beyond posterior border of head; hypostomal bridge suture short, not coming to a central closure before posterior border of head. Inner orbit of compound eye moderately emarginate; eye hairs short. Ocelli not enlarged, without impressed line between and just behind lateral ocelli. Vertex slightly swollen behind ocelli, not ridged (Fig. 2). Preoccipital ridge gently rounded. Gena broad, much greater in width than compound eye in profile (Fig. 2). Labral basal elevation orbicular, strongly protuberant in profile; labral teeth absent; distal process narrowly triangular. Mandible with weakly defined subapical tooth. Maxillary palp not elongated; galeal comb absent, apex lobed, base of galea distal to base of stipes, inner strip of galea broad and with setae. Prementum not greatly narrowed; salivary plate well sclerotized, V-shaped brace present; labial palp segments 2 + 3 longer than 1; glossa moderately long, about half length of prementum. Pronotal lateral angle slightly obtuse, not produced; dorsal ridge rounded; lateral ridge sharply angled but definitely not carinate. Mesoscutum broadly rounded anteriorly, mesoscutal lip

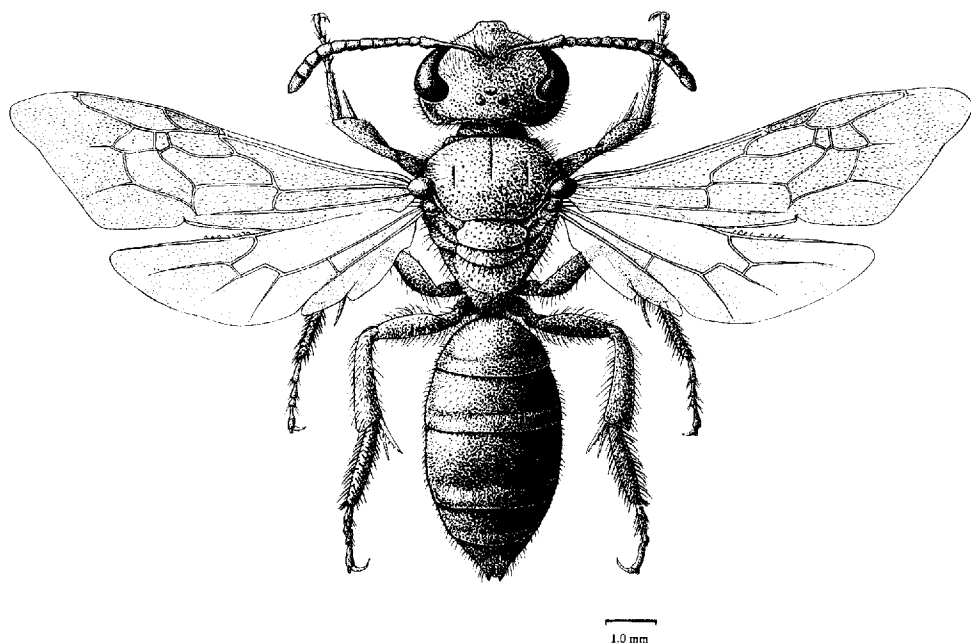


Fig. 1  
*Neocorynurella seeleyi*: Female, dorsal habitus.

low and rounded, slightly projecting over pronotum; median and parapsidal lines strongly impressed. Tegula rounded normally. Propodeal triangle as long as metanotum, not declivous, with striae; pit of posterior face narrow; dorsal ridge rounded; lateral ridge rounded. Marginal cell weakly truncate and appendiculate. Anterior basitarsal brush present. Scopa formed of long, plumose hairs on hind trochanter and femur. Inner hind tibial spur pectinate, teeth short. Basitibial plate of moderate size, narrowly rounded, all borders strong. Pseudopygidial area of T5 divided, division deep and narrow.

Male. As for female except as indicated. Antenna long; scape of moderate length, shorter than in female; F2 longer than F1; sensory plate areas present. Labral basal elevation not notched; distal process short and broad. Mandible simple. Inner hind tibial spur serrate. Metasoma elongated, not petiolate. Pygidial plate of T7 absent. S4–5 with apical margins weakly depressed; S6 deeply emarginated along posterior margin (Fig. 3). Hidden fused sterna (S7–8) as in Fig. 4; S7 with broad median projection; S8 with narrow median projection; spiculum of S8 broad. Male genitalia as in Figs 5–7. Gonobasal bridge narrow; dorsal lobes strong. Basal process of gonostylus and parapenial lobe absent. Ventral gonostylar process twisted at apex; dorsal gonostylar process a thin projecting plate with setae. Volsella without long, thin, apical median projection. Venter of penis valve without prong or keel.

**Etymology.** The name *Neocorynurella* is a diminutive of the generic name *Neocorynura*.

**Remarks.** *Neocorynurella* superficially resembles the genera *Corynura* (*Callistochlora*), *Augochlorodes*, and *Andinaugochlora*. It can be readily separated from the first group by the absence of long eye hairs, absence of a galeal comb, and the strong border to the



*Neocorynurella seeleyi* Engel et Klein sp. n.

Figs 1-7

**Diagnosis.** Head and mesosoma metallic red with coppery and green highlights. Pronotal lateral surface imbricate. Mesoscutal central disc with punctures more widely spaced than along lateral and posterior borders. Hypoepimeron granular.

**Description.**

**Female.** Total body length 10 mm; fore wing length 7.7 mm. Head wider than long (length 2.6 mm; width 3 mm). Distal two-thirds of clypeus extending beyond lower tangent of compound eyes; supra-clypeal area as long as wide, slightly shorter than length of clypeus. Frontal line carinate just below antennal sockets to half of distance between antennal sockets and median ocellus, ending at that point. Scape long, reaching past lateral ocellus, length 1.2 mm; pedicel slightly longer than wide, shorter than F1, length 0.18 mm; F1 longer than wide, length 0.2 mm; F2 about as long as wide, length 0.18 mm; remaining flagellomeres slightly longer than wide; individual lengths of F3-4, 0.22 mm; individual lengths of F5-9, 0.24 mm; distal flagellomere, length 0.36 mm. Median ocellus to lateral ocellus 0.1 mm; median ocellus to antennal sockets 0.7 mm; between lateral ocelli 0.3 mm; lateral ocellus to compound eye 0.6 mm. Compound eyes weakly convergent below. Prementum length 2 mm; width 0.3 mm; glossa length 1 mm. Median and parapsidal lines strongly impressed. Intertegular distance 2.1 mm. Scutellum 1.7 times longer than metanotum. Propodeal triangle as long as metanotum. Basal vein distad of cu-v crossvein by 4 times vein width; 1r-m distad of 1m-cu by 2.5 times vein width; 2r-m distad of 2m-cu by 8.5 times vein width. First submarginal cell slightly shorter than second and third combined; second submarginal cell not narrowed anteriorly; anterior border of second submarginal cell along Rs approximately equal to length of anterior border of third submarginal cell; length of anterior border of third submarginal cell less than half the length of posterior border; wings hyaline. Distal hamuli arranged 4-1-1-2. Inner hind tibial spur pectinate, with 6 teeth (not including apex as a tooth). Metasoma unmodified.

Mandible and labrum black. Face metallic red with a few metallic green and coppery highlights, except clypeal apex black; antenna black; clypeus with weak punctures 1-2

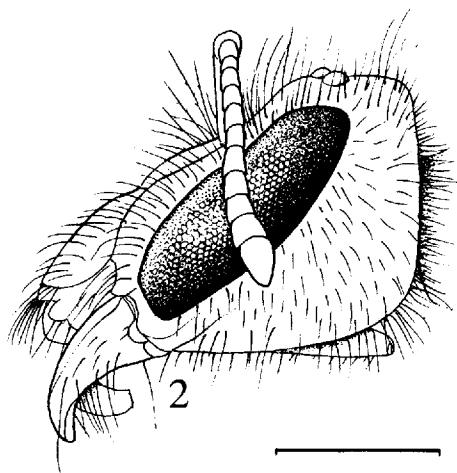


Fig. 2  
*Neocorynurella seeleyi*: Female, profile of head.

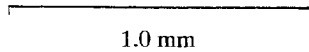
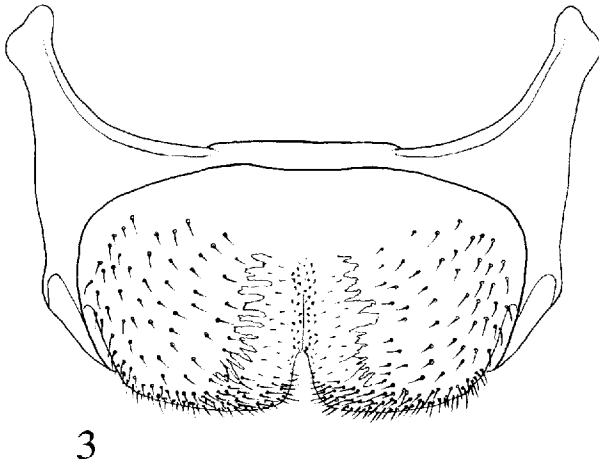


Fig. 3. *Neocorynurella seeleyi*: Male, sternum 6.

puncture widths apart, integument between imbricate; supraclypeal area and lower half of face as on clypeus, except integument between punctures granular; sculpture of upper half of face and vertex closely punctate, punctures strong and contiguous. Metallic red giving way to metallic green and gold on gena and postgena; gena imbricate with scattered punctures; postgena imbricate and impunctate. Pronotum dark brown with strong green and coppery highlights; collar smooth; lateral surface weakly imbricate. Mesoscutum, scutellum, and metanotum metallic red with coppery highlights, some green highlights along borders; tegula dark brown; mesoscutum closely punctured on borders, except anterior median region imbricate and impunctate, centrally punctures separated by 1–3 puncture widths, integument between smooth; scutellum punctured, punctures separated by 1–2 puncture widths, integument between smooth; metanotum minutely punctured, punctures separated by a puncture width or less. Pleura metallic red with coppery highlights, giving way to metallic green and gold ventrally; pre-episternum and mesepisternum granular, with a few, scattered, faint punctures; metepisternum transversely striate near wing base, otherwise granular. Propodeum metallic red with coppery highlights; propodeal triangle with striae radiating from basal margin, striae reaching two-thirds of way to apical margin, integument between finely

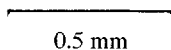
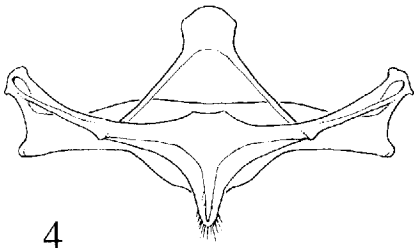
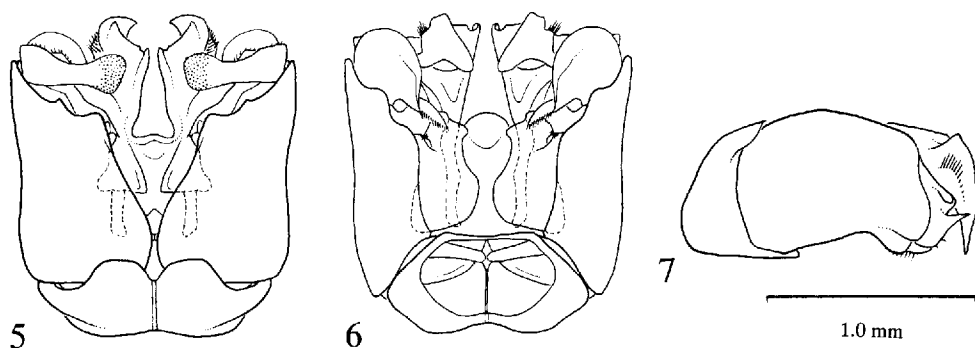


Fig. 4. *Neocorynurella seeleyi*: Male, sterna 7 and 8.



Figs 5–7. *Neocorynurella seeleyi*: Male genitalia, 5) dorsal aspect, 6) ventral aspect, 7) lateral aspect.

imbricate; lateral surface imbricate; posterior surface with transverse striae, integument otherwise imbricate. Forelegs dark brown; mid-legs dark brown, except tarsus lighter brown; hind legs lighter brown; weak metallic green highlights on coxae and trochanters. Terga and sterna dark brown and imbricate, terga with scattered metallic green or coppery highlights.

Hairs of face long, fuscous, and with a few short branches; hairs similar on gena, only lighter and shorter; postgena with scattered long, pale, plumose hairs. Mesoscutum, scutellum, metanotum, and pleura with scattered long, fuscous hairs, each with a few short branches. Propodeal triangle without pubescence; lateral and posterior surfaces with scattered, long, pale, plumose hairs. Pubescence of legs generally lighter than that of body; long branched hairs on posterior surfaces of profemur, protrochanter, and mesotrochanter; scopal hairs golden; dense, stiff, black hairs at apex of mesotibia and on outer surface of metatibia below basitibial plate. Tergal hairs scattered, short and fuscous, such hairs becoming longer on lateral margins and apical terga; sternal hairs pale, long and restricted to posterior halves of sterna.

**Male.** As for female except as follows. Total body length 10 mm; fore wing length 7.8 mm. Head about as long as wide (length 2.8 mm; width 2.7 mm). Distal three-quarters of clypeus projecting beyond lower tangent of compound eyes; supraclypeal area wider than long, much shorter than clypeus. Scape shorter than in female, just reaching lateral ocellus, length 0.9 mm; pedicel about as long as wide, length 0.2 mm; F1 about as long as wide, length 0.2; remaining flagellomeres much longer than wide; F2, length 0.36 mm; F3, length 0.38 mm; F4–5, individual lengths 0.42 mm; F6–8, individual lengths 0.46 mm; F9–10, individual lengths 0.48 mm; distal flagellomere, length 0.6 mm. Male terminalia as in Figs 5–7. Second submarginal cell slightly narrowed anteriorly; anterior border of second submarginal cell along Rs half as long as anterior border of third.

Integument sculpturing and coloration as for female, except undersides of flagellomeres light brown and metallic green highlights of coxae and trochanters stronger.

General sex differences in pubescence (e.g., absence of scopal hairs) with the following addition: stiff, black hairs of mid- and hind legs absent.

**Etymology.** The specific epithet is a patronym honoring Dr. Thomas D. Seeley, Cornell University, for his friendship and guidance of our studies.

**Material examined.** Holotype female: VENEZUELA, Páramo, Las Cruces, Merida 3900–4300 m, P. Berry, 592, 1983 (Cornell University Insect Collection). 1 paratype male:

VENEZUELA, Páramo, Las Cruces, Merida, 3900–4300 m, P. Berry, 591, 1983 (Cornell University Insect Collection). 1 paratype female: [COLOMBIA] Tunja Boyaca, Santuario, Iguaque, Morronegro, 15 Ene 1991, C. Sarmiento, 2800 msnm (Cornell University Insect Collection). 1 paratype female: [COLOMBIA] Cundinamarca, Bogot, Páramo de Monserrate, 3230 m, 7 September 1978, H. Sturm, specimen number 3820 (Universidad Nacional de Colombia).

Remarks. 1 female was destroyed in postal transit. The collection information for this specimen was: [Colombia] Tunja Boyaca, Santuario, Iguaque, Esterillal, 15 Ene 1991, C. Sarmiento, 2800 msnm.

*Neocorynurella viridis* Engel et Klein sp. n.

Diagnosis. Head and mesosoma metallic green. Pronotal lateral surface with a few dorsoventral striae. Mesoscutal central disc with punctures spaced similar to those of lateral and posterior borders. Hypoepimeron with transverse striae.

Description. As for *N. seeleyi* with the following modifications:

Female. Total body length 12.4 mm; fore wing length 8 mm. Head wider than long (length 2.8 mm; width 3.3 mm). Scape long, reaching past lateral ocellus, length 1.4 mm; pedicel longer than wide, longer than F1, length 0.22 mm; F1 longer than wide, length 0.2 mm; F2 about as long as wide, length 0.18 mm; remaining flagellomeres slightly longer than wide; individual lengths of F3–5, 0.22 mm; individual lengths of F6–8, 0.24 mm; F9, length 0.26 mm; distal flagellomere, length 0.38 mm. Median ocellus to lateral ocellus 0.1 mm; median ocellus to antennal sockets 0.8 mm; between lateral ocelli 0.3 mm; lateral ocellus to compound eye 0.6 mm. Intertegular distance 2.3 mm. Basal vein distad of cu-v crossvein by 3 times vein width; 1r-m distad of 1m-cu by 2 times vein width; 2r-m distad of 2m-cu by 11 times vein width. First submarginal cell about as long as second and third combined. Inner hind tibial spur pectinate, with 8 teeth (not including apex as a tooth).

Head entirely brilliant metallic green with few coppery highlights, except clypeal apex black; clypeus and supra-clypeal area with brassy highlights. Mesosoma entirely brilliant metallic green. Pronotal lateral surface with a few dorsoventral striae. Mesoscutal borders and centrally closely and evenly punctured, punctures not more widely spaced centrally, except anterior median region as in *N. seeleyi*. Tegula dark brown with strong metallic green highlights on inner margin. Hypoepimeral area of mesepisternum with weak transverse striae, otherwise granular. Legs dark brown, except mesotarsus, metatibia, and metatarsus light brown; metallic green highlights on procoxa, protrochanter, and profemur. Terga and sterna dark brown; terga with strong metallic green highlights over entire surface, except apical margins.

Male. Unknown.

Etymology. The specific epithet is the Latin word, *viridis*, meaning “green” and is a reference to the brilliant metallic green color of the species.

Material examined. Holotype female: VENEZUELA, DF Parque de Avila, 17 September 1966, R.L. Dressler (Cornell University Insect Collection). 1 paratype female: [VENEZUELA], DF Galipain, 30 April 1939, G. Vinas-Berthier (Cornell University Insect Collection).



## Discussion

A cladistic analysis of generic relationships in the Augochlorini has been completed by the senior author (Engel, 1996a, in prep) and the phylogenetic placement of *Neocorynurella* will be presented in full at a later time. However, a brief comment on its position and relatives seems appropriate here. *Neocorynurella* is a relatively basal member of the tribe. The combination of an obtuse epistomal sulcus, rounded preoccipital ridge, lobed galeal apex, unmodified mouthparts, and the generally unmodified male sterna excludes this genus from the large derived clades which contain most augochlorine genera (e.g., *Augochlora*, *Augochloropsis*, *Megalopta*, *Pseudaugochlora*). Despite the genus' more primitive position in augochlorine phylogeny, it does not fall within the basal clade of augochlorines containing the genera *Halictillus*, *Corynura* s.l., *Rhectomia*, and *Rhinocorynura* due to the absence of a strong galeal comb. *Neocorynurella* is apparently the closest relative of the high Andean genus *Andinaugochlora*. Both genera share a projecting posterior border to the hypostomal ridge, a truncated marginal cell apex, a strong gradulus on the male T7, a depressed apical margin to the male S5, and a broad spiculum on S8.

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