

9 new wasp species of the genus *Paramblynotus* described from Africa and Madagascar

March 18 2013



This is an image of a close up of *Paramblynotus alexandriensis*, a new species from South Africa. Credit: Simon van Noort

A newly published article "Revision of the Afrotropical Mayrellinae ([Cynipoidea](#), Liopteridae), with the first record of *Paramblynotus* from

Madagascar" by Dr. Simon van Noort, from Natural History Department, [Iziko South African Museum](#), and Dr. Matthew L. Buffington from the Systematic Entomology Lab, USDA offers the description of 9 remarkable new species of wasps. Mayrellinids are extremely rare wasps, which are under-represented in museum collections. Most species are known from single specimens. The study was published in the open access [Journal of Hymenoptera Research](#).

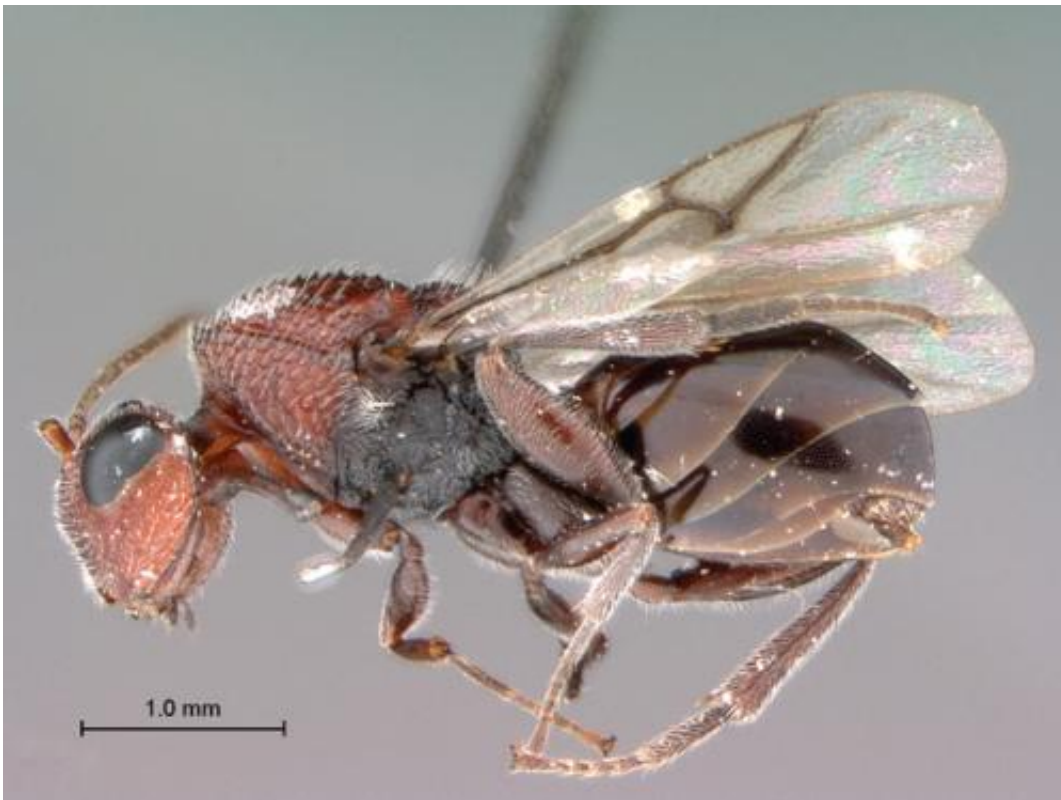
The Mayrellinae [subfamily](#) includes two genera, *Kiefferiella* and *Paramblynotus*, with only the latter genus occurring in the Afrotropical region. The representatives of the genus are very small species that look superficially like cynipids, or gall [wasps](#). Little is known about their biology. They are assumed to be [parasitoid](#) of wood-boring [beetle larvae](#), although there is no confirmed host record to date.



This is an image of *Paramblynotus behara*, a new species for Madagascar and a

first record of the genus for the island. Credit: Simon van Noort

The genus *Paramblynotus* is also recorded from [Madagascar](#) for the first time, with representatives of two species groups being present on the island. The *P. seyrigi* group, is erected in this study to accommodate a single, but highly distinctive new species, likely to be endemic to the island. The specimens were unearthed by the authors from a 1930s collection by André Seyrig, held in the [Natural History Museum](#) in Paris.



This is an image of *Paramblynotus zohy*, a new species from Madagascar. Credit: Simon van Noort

"Discovering the field box full of unusual wasps was reminiscent of excitement around opening presents as a child. In fact most new samples of wasps collected in the region evoke such a response when first sorted under a microscope." explains Dr van Noort. "There is a huge diversity of undiscovered species in Africa and Madagascar and every new sample contains species unknown to science. Seyrig was a prolific collector of wasps. It was a privilege to be able to work on some of his [specimens](#) that had not been examined by specialist taxonomists since they were collected in the 1930's."

More information: van Noort S, Buffington ML (2013) Revision of the Afrotropical Mayrellinae (Cynipoidea: Liopteridae), with the first record of *Paramblynotus* from Madagascar. *Journal of Hymenoptera Research* 31: 1–64, [doi: 10.3897/JHR.31.4072](https://doi.org/10.3897/JHR.31.4072)

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