Revision of the bee genus *Chlerogella* (Hymenoptera: Halictidae), Part IV: A new species from southwestern Colombia

Michael S. Engel¹, Victor H. Gonzalez¹, & Ismael A. Hinojosa-Díaz²

**Abstract.** A new species of the diverse augochlorine bee genus *Chlerogella* Michener (Halictinae: Augochlorini) is described and figured from southwestern Colombia. *Chlerogella anchicaya* Engel, Gonzalez, & Hinojosa-Díaz, new species, is similar to *C. agaylei* Engel and *C. materdonnae* Engel, both occurring on the eastern slopes of the Andes in Ecuador. There are also some similarities with *C. eumorpha* Engel from the western Andean foothills in northern Ecuador, but differences in rostral length and male terminalia can distinguish these species. Revised couplets are provided to the South American species of *Chlerogella* to permit identification of the new species.

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**INTRODUCTION**

One of the most vital and fundamental contributions toward a comprehensive understanding of any group of organisms is a revision and hypothesis as to the circumscription of its constituent species. Upon such a foundation are built our edifices of knowledge on everything from natural history, relationships, biogeography, ecology, and genetics. There is a long tradition of such revisions and species-level phylogenies among bees and such work is continually growing in interest and importance (Engel, 2011; Gonzalez et al., 2013), although it is understandable that many groups remain to be investigated in a modern context. Remarkably, for the bee tribe Augochlorini a number of genera have been revised, particularly during the last 20 years, and keys to the species provided – these include *Paroxystoglossa* Moure (Moure, 1960), *Ctenaugochlora* Eickwort (Engel, 1995a; Engel & Gonçalves, 2010), *Rhectomia* Moure s.l. (Engel, 1995b; Gonçalves, 2010b), *Chlerogelloides* Engel et al. (Engel et al., 1997; Engel &

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Table 1. Colombian species of Chlerogella Michener with the total known number of specimens (across the entire range of each species), elevational range, and collecting localities in Colombia (based on Engel, 2010b).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Elevation (m)</th>
<th>Peruvian Localities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. anchicaya, n. sp.</td>
<td>♂</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>Valle del Cauca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. cyranoi Engel</td>
<td>♂</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Porce, Antioquia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. hypermeces Engel</td>
<td>♂♂, ♂♀</td>
<td>400–1100</td>
<td>Putumayo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. picketti Engel</td>
<td>♂</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Nariño, Barbacoas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. terpsichore Engel</td>
<td>♂♂, ♂♀</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Nariño, Barbacoas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. tychoi Engel</td>
<td>♀</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>Valle del Cauca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brooks, 1999b; Oliveira et al., 2012), Xenochlora Engel et al. (Engel et al., 1997), Megaloptidia Cockerell (Engel & Brooks, 1998), Megaloptilla Moure & Hurd (Engel & Brooks, 1999a), Chlerogas Vachal (Brooks & Engel, 1999; Engel et al., 2006; Engel & Gonzalez, 2009; Engel, 2009a, 2010a), Ischnomelissa Engel (Engel, 1997, 2013a; Brooks & Engel, 1998; Engel & Brooks, 2002), Micromnation Moure (Smith-Pardo & Engel, 2004), Augochlorella Sandhouse (Coelho, 2004), Thectochlora Moure (Gonçalves & Melo, 2006), Rhynchochlora Engel (Engel, 2007), Chlerogella Michener (Engel, 2009b, 2010b; Engel & Rasmussen, 2013), Halictillus Moure (Gonçalves, 2010a), Ceratalictus Moure (Coelho & Gonçalves, 2010), Megommation Moure (Gonçalves & Santos, 2010), Rhinocorynura Schrottky (Gonçalves & Melo, 2012), and Cleptomnation Engel et al. (Engel, 2013b). In addition, several regional revisions have been completed for Neocorynura Schrottky (Smith-Pardo, 2005a, 2005b, 2010; Smith-Pardo & Gonzalez, 2009; Engel & Smith-Pardo, 2012), Pseudaugochlora Michener (Almeida, 2008), Megalopta Smith (Santos & Silva-veira, 2009; Gonzalez et al., 2010), Caenaugochlora Michener (Gonçalves & Engel, 2010; Engel, 2014), and Augochlora Smith (Dalmazzo & Roig-Alsina, 2011). It is fair to say that the systematics of these bees has undergone a true revival and it is hoped that this momentum shall be maintained for decades to come.

Herein we provide a fourth installment to the earlier revision of Chlerogella (Engel, 2009b, 2010b), and its supplement (Engel & Rasmussen, 2013). The present account documents a further new species from the Andes of Colombia (Fig. 1), and provides modifications to existing keys that will permit its recognition from close congeners. This is the sixth species hitherto recorded from Colombia (Table 1), and it is likely that several more exist within undisturbed forests in the mountains of the Andes.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The holotype of the new species discussed herein is deposited in the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia (UNCB), and was compared with other species of Chlerogella deposited in the Division of Entomology, University of Kansas Natural History Museum, Lawrence, USA. Morphological terminology follows that of Eickwort (1969), Engel (2001, 2009b), and Michener (2007), while the format for the description follows that of Engel (2003a, 2003b, 2009b, 2010b) and Engel & Rasmussen (2013). Measurements were prepared with an ocular micrometer on an Olympus SZX-12 stereomicroscope and photographs prepared with a Canon EOS 7D digital camera attached to an Infinity K-2 long-distance microscope lens.
**SYSTEMATICS**

**Genus Chlerogella Michener**

*Chlerogella anchicaya* Engel, Gonzalez, & Hinojosa-Díaz, new species

ZooBank: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:D5821CBE-F4B8-4395-AC6A-32EC81D8A58E (Figs. 1–8)

**Diagnosis:** The new species is most similar to *Chlerogella agaylei* Engel and *C. materdonnae* Engel, both from Ecuador. *Chlerogella anchicaya* differs from *C. materdonnae* in the azurite blue of the head and mesosoma (Figs. 1–3); the off-white mandible, labrum, and clypeal apex (Figs. 2, 3); the largely yellow scape (Fig. 3); the yellow inner surfaces of the protarsi (Fig. 1); and in details of surface sculpturing as described below. From *C. agaylei* the new species differs in the bigibbous mesoscutellum and details of surface sculpturing. The new species differs from both in the tuberculate subpleural signum, the much more elongate second flagellomere, and the form of the male terminalia (Figs. 5–8).

**Description:** ♂: Total body length 9.10 mm; forewing length 6.52 mm. Head length 3.13 mm, width 1.75 mm. Clypeus beginning well below lower tangent of compound eyes. Malar space 64% compound eye length (malar length 0.96 mm; compound eye length 1.50 mm) (Figs. 2, 3). Upper interorbital distance 0.79 mm; lower interorbital distance 0.42 mm. First flagellomere only slightly longer than pedicel, about as long as wide; second flagellomere four times length of first flagellomere; ventral surfaces of second through eleventh flagellomeres densely covered in placoid sensilla, placoid fields not disrupted. Upper portion of pronotum medially depressed, not elongate, medially less than 0.25 times ocellar diameter in length; ventral portion of preëpisternal...
sulcus not broad, similar to scrobal sulcus and upper portion of preëpisternal sulcus; interticular distance 1.46 mm; subpleural signum tuberculate; mesoscutellum weakly bigibbous, with two low paramedian tubercles. Forewing with basal vein distad cu-a by two times vein width; 1rs-m distad 1m-cu by two times vein width; 2rs-m distad 2m-cu by seven times vein width, 2rs-m weakly arched, nearly straight; first submar-

**Figures 2–4.** Details of holotype male of *Chlerogella anchicaya*, new species. 2. Facial aspect. 3. Lateral aspect of head. 4. Ventral view of apical metasomal sterna (partially obscured by metatibial apex, metatarsus, and metapretarsus), showing setose pads on medioapical extension of sternum IV and apicolateral setae on sternum V.
ginal cell longer than combined lengths of second and third submarginal cells; second
submarginal cell slightly narrowed anteriorly, anterior border of second submarginal
cell along Rs about as along as that of third submarginal cell; posterior border of third
submarginal cell about 2.5 times length of anterior border. Distal hamuli arranged 2-1-2.
Inner metatibial spur serrate. Apical margin of SIII entire; apical margin of SIV with
short, broad median projection, projection deeply concave medially (thereby resulting
in form of two paramedial, lobe-like projections) (Fig. 4); apical margin of SV entire;
apical margin of SVI emarginate; terminalia as depicted in figures 5–8.

Clypeus and supraclypeal area smooth with coarse, shallow, faint punctures sepa-
rated by 2–5 times a puncture width, sometimes closer along lateral borders; face with

minute punctures separated by a puncture width, more widely spaced in malar space, integument between punctures smooth; punctures of face blending to more widely spaced in ocellocular area and on vertex, punctures separated by 2–3 times a puncture width; gena smooth with minute punctures separated by 2–4 times a puncture width; postgena finely imbricate. Pronotum finely imbricate with minute sparse punctures; mesoscutum smooth with minute punctures separated by 1.5–3 times a puncture width, anteromedially punctures becoming exceedingly faint to absent; mesoscutellum as on mesoscutum; metanotum smooth with sparse minute punctures. Preëpisternum smooth with sparse minute punctures; mesepisternum smooth with sparse minute punctures separated by 3–6 times a puncture width; metepisternum smooth with minute punctures separated by 4–5 times a puncture width. Propodeum finely imbricate, more strongly so on dorsal-facing surface. Metasoma finely imbricate.

Mandible, labrum, apical margin of clypeus, and small spot apically in malar space off white to pale yellow; labiomaxillary complex dark brown except apicalmost portions, glossa, paraglossae, and palpi yellow; remainder of clypeus and head azure blue with strong purple highlights (Fig. 2, 3). Antenna dark brown except scape pale yellow with brown dorsally in apical two-thirds. Mesosoma azure blue, with purple highlights but weaker than those of head (Fig. 1), propodeum lighter blue than remainder of mesosoma; tegula dark brown. Wing membranes faintly infumate; veins brown to dark brown. Legs dark brown with scattered metallic blue highlights except inner surfaces of protarsi yellow. Metasoma dark brown.

Typical gender pilosity. Pubescence generally white except more golden apically on face, on legs, and on metasoma and more fuscous on meso- and metatarsi. Postgena with numerous elongate, sinuate setae, such setae with short apical branches; inner surfaces of trochanters, femora, and metatibia with elongate, apically-plumose setae except those on metatibia simple and apically sinuate. Apical margin of SIV with patches of dense, short fuscous setae on medial projection (Fig. 4); SV with apicolateral areas of more numerous, long, fuscous setae.

♀: Unknown.


Etymology: The specific epithet is based on the name of the Anchicayá River, a watershed area known for its high biodiversity and whose origins are at the mountain Farallones de Cali in the Department of Valle del Cauca.

Comments: This species belongs to a difficult group of metallic blue species with greatly elongate malar spaces more completely known from Peru and Ecuador (Engel, 2010b). This complex, here dubbed the ‘azurea complex’, encompasses the species C. azurea (Enderlein), C. rostrata Engel, C. dolichorhina Engel, C. cyranoi Engel, C. agaylei, C. materdonnae, and now C. anchicaya. Chlorogella fortunaensis Engel from Panama should perhaps also be included in this complex. These species are, like virtually all Chlorogella, known from sparse samples and are exceedingly similar in structural features. Some may eventually be discovered to be synonyms (Engel, 2010b) but presently there is insufficient evidence to suggest anything other than a series of almost cryptically-similar species.

Engel (2014) noted some similarities between species of Caenaugochlora s.l. and those of Chlorogella. To this can be added a further interesting feature, albeit one restricted to isolated taxa within each of the genera. The subpleural signum is tuberculate in C. anchicaya and this is the same for Caenaugochlora (Ctenaugochlora) donnae
Engel and more weakly so in C. (C.) perviridis Engel & Gonçalves (Engel, 1995a; Engel & Gonçalves, 2010). The function of such a feature is unknown.

The present taxon will run to couplet 32 in the key to South American species of Chlerogella (Engel, 2010b). The following modified couplets will permit its incorporation into the aforementioned dichotomous key:

32(30). Mesoscutellum not bigibbous, gently convex ................................................................. 33
—. Mesoscutellum bigibbous, with two low paramedial tubercles ........................................ 32a

32a(32). Second flagellomere about 4 times length of first flagellomere; scape pale yellow except largely brown dorsally; mandible, labrum, and clypeal apex off white; integument of head and mesosoma brilliant azure blue with purple highlights; subpleural signum tuberculate (Colombia) .......... *C. anchicaya*, n. sp.
—. Second flagellomere about 2.4 times length of first flagellomere; scape brown; mandible, labrum, and clypeal apex brown; integument of head and mesosoma brilliant, shiny caerulean blue; subpleural signum not tuberculate (Ecuador) ................................................................. *C. materdonnae* Engel

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REFERENCES


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