

## ***Rotoita* and *Oodera* - the stories of two extraordinary chalcidoid wasps**

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The megadiverse superfamily Chalcidoidea is rich in extraordinary, sometimes weird taxa, and taxa being key for our understanding of certain evolutionary innovations. Two of these taxa, the genera *Rotoita* and *Oodera*, will be presented here in more detail, including their morphology, biology, phylogenetic placement and classification.

*Rotoita* is an enigmatic genus of small chalcidoid wasps endemic to New Zealand. It is classified in the family Rotoitidae, which includes only two genera, *Rotoita* from New Zealand and *Chiloe* from Chile, suggesting a relict Gondwanan distribution of the group. We present new findings on the placement of *Rotoita* in the chalcidoid tree of life as well as the state of knowledge on this genus, based on recent collections during a trip to New Zealand.

*Oodera* is another rarely collected genus of comparatively large-sized wasps, currently classified in the family Pteromalidae and the subfamily Cleonyminae. All species of the genus have remarkably enlarged fore femora and a variety of characters unique or very unusual among chalcidoid wasps. The genus has been notoriously difficult to place in the Chalcidoidea tree, and had never been taxonomically revised. We present new data that allow for the first time reliable phylogenetic placement, and present the results from recent taxonomic revision, including some observations and speculations on the species' biology and the use of the exceptional and striking morphological modifications.

## **New kid on the block – a new addition to the ranks of CI-inducing bacteria promotes speciation in a parasitic wasp**

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The process of speciation has been the subject of many studies, one of the first scientists addressing this topic being Darwin in 1859 who called it the “mystery of mysteries” (Coyne 1992). By now, many isolating barriers causing and promoting speciation have been identified, with the final step of the speciation process always being the establishment of reproductive isolation (Dobzhansky 1937, Coyne 1992).

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