

# The status of the genus *Xanthosphecium* Simon Thomas (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

R. T. SIMON THOMAS

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*Abstract:* *Xanthosphecium* Simon Thomas, 1994 is synonymized with *Eremiasphecium* Kohl, 1897. The species are *Eremiasphecium harteni* (Simon Thomas, 1994) comb. nov. and *E. sahelensis* (Simon Thomas, 1994) comb. nov.

Institute for Systematics and Population Biology (Zoological Museum), Department of Entomology, University of Amsterdam, Plantage Middenlaan 64, 1018 DH Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The differential characteristics of *Eremiasphecium* Kohl, 1897 (with nine species included) and *Xanthosphecium* Simon Thomas, 1994 (with two species) are as follows. The forewing of all species of *Eremiasphecium* has three submarginal cells; the second submarginal cell is petiolated in six species (Pulawski, 1992). All species except *E. budrys* (Kazen, 1991) have the second discoidal cell closed. Both species of *Xanthosphecium* have two submarginal cells and an open second discoidal cell (Simon Thomas, 1994).

*Xanthosphecium* also differs from *Eremiasphecium* in the reduction of some veins of the hind wing: the A1-a does not reach the wing border and the costa is shorter than usual. However, the phenomenon of a partly reduced wing venation is frequent in small sized Hymenoptera, especially in desert species (W. Pulawski, personal communication). Moreover, desert Hymenoptera often have a reduced body pigmentation, and the few and small black markings of *Xanthosphecium* have not much systematic importance.

I therefore synonymize *Xanthosphecium* with *Eremiasphecium*. The latter genus is thus enlarged by *Eremiasphecium harteni* (Simon Thomas, 1994) comb. nov. and *E. sahelensis* (Simon Thomas, 1994) comb. nov.

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## References

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