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## A Daytime Resting Aggregation of Male *Pepsis sericans* (Pompilidae)

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On 27 June 1994 at about 15:00 we came upon a loose aggregation of spider wasps in farmland near Maisí, Guantánamo province, Cuba. It was a hot, sunny day toward the end of the dry season in an exceptionally arid part of the island. The wasps were immobile, occupying two branch ends about 1.5 m from the ground on an *Acacia farnesiana* tree. Resting aggregations of wasps and bees are more commonly observed at night than during the main part of the day.

We succeeded in netting a sample of 13 wasps, amounting to about half of the aggregation. Examination showed that all were male *Pepsis sericans* (= *domingensis*) Lepeletier. One individual in the sample corresponded unequivocally to the description (Alayo 1954) of *P. domingensis ignicornis* Cresson, while the others were all of the typical colour form. The specimens are deposited in the collections of the University of the West Indies and the British Museum (Natural History).

Alayo (1954) noted that, while males of *P. domingensis ignicornis* are commonly collected, the female is unknown, and remarked that "I suspect that this is a case of an exclusively male variety." The finding of the two discrete forms together goes against their recognition as subspecies and supports Alayo's implied suggestion of a sex-linked dichromism. The alternative explanation - that the two are separate species - seems much less likely in view of the persistent failure to find genitalic or other structural differences.

We thank Colin Vardy for advice on *Pepsis* taxonomy.

### Reference

Alayo D., P. 1954. El género *Pepsis* Fabr. En Cuba (Hymenoptera - Pompilidae). Publ. Univ. Oriente, Santiago de Cuba (37):1-25.