Introduction

The braconid subfamily Macrocentrinae comprises approximately 170 described species worldwide, primarily in the genus *Macrocentrus* Curtis. In the Western Hemisphere, four genera have been recognized (Achterberg 1993b). *Macrocentrus* and *Hymenochaonia* Dalla Torre are the more prevalent genera in the Nearctic region (Wharton 1997). It remains to be seen how widespread these two genera are in the Neotropical region. de Santis (1967) recorded *Macrocentrus ancylivorus* Rohwer and *Hymenochaonia delicata* (Cresson) (as *delicatus*) in Argentina. *Dolichozele* Viereck, found only in the Western Hemisphere, is predominantly a neotropical genus; it does, however, extend into the southern Nearctic region (Achterberg 1993b). *Austrozele* Roman occurs in the Afrotropical, Holarctic, and Indo-Australian regions, and currently it is reported to be present in the Neotropical region as a result of Achterberg (1993b) transferring Enderlein's (1920) genus *Paniscozele* to *Austrozele*. The correct placement of *Austrozele* in the Neotropical region, however, needs to be confirmed before it can be conclusively stated that it occurs there (Wharton 1997).

The subfamily Macrocentrinae has four distinguishing characters, which in combination differentiate it from all other braconids:

1. the lack of an occipital carina (Fig. 301),

2. the presence of small toothlike pegs (Figs. 279, 299) on the outer edge of the second trochanter or trochantellus (a unique synapomorphy),

3. the insertion of the metasoma relatively high on the propodeum and not between the hind coxae (Fig. 304), and

4. the middle lobe of the mesoscutum (Fig. 303) being more or less elevated above the lateral lobes (Achterberg 1993a).

All macrocentrines have three submarginal cells except *Macrocentrus incompletus* Muesebeck, which has only two. Species of the subfamily are usually small, 3–11 mm long, slender, and with long legs giving them a graceful appearance (Shaw and Huddleston 1991). An exception is *Dolichozele gravitarsis* (Muesebeck) in which the largest specimens are nearly 17–18mm long. Some macrocentrines are black or dark brown but most are yellowish to testaceous and nocturnal (Huddleston and Gauld 1988).

One unexpected finding of this study is the presence of sexual dimorphism in