

***Pseudourostyla pelotensis* sp. nov. (Ciliophora, Stichotrichia, Urostylida): a new psammophilic ciliate from the southern Brazil**

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Abstract

In samples of sand collected from the Laranjal beach, a lake shore located in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, we found a new urostylid species characterized as: *Pseudourostyla* measuring about 190 x 80 µm *in vivo*; body very flexible, dorsoventrally compressed in almost 2:1 proportion, with ovoid and ellipsoid colorless cortical granules and displaying a short beak-like projection oriented to the left at the anterior region of the cell. Two contractile vacuoles present. Somatic ciliature with a typical bicorona and urostylid midventral complex formed by cirral pairs, that ends below the equatorial region of the cell. Pre-transverse cirri lacking; on average two frontoterminal cirri, five left and six right marginal cirral rows, six transverse cirri and eight dorsal kineties. Adoral zone composed of about 50 membranelles. *Pseudourostyla pelotensis* **sp. nov.** differs from other congeners by the presence of an anterior beak-like projection, two contractile vacuoles instead of one, and a unique combination of other characters including extension of the midventral complex, number of adoral membranelles and of macronuclear nodules.

Key words: Lagoa dos Patos; new species; Rio Grande do Sul; Spirotrichea; taxonomy

Introduction

The composition of psammophilic ciliates from the Brazilian coast is still poorly investigated. As far as we know, the inventorial papers by Kattar (1970) and Wanick & Silva-Neto (2004) are the most comprehensive studies on alpha-taxonomy concerning sand-dwelling ciliates from this region. The first study examined ciliates from the coast of the states of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo and Pernambuco; whereas the more recent study examined ciliates from the margins of Sepetiba Bay, Rio de Janeiro. In the