



Description of a new species *Perissobasis heroni* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Deraeocorinae), found on *Coffea arabica*, and with a key to Neotropical species of the genus

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Abstract

The newly discovered plant bug *Perissobasis heroni* is described from specimens collected in Campos Altos city, Minas Gerais State, Brazil, on coffee (*Coffea arabica*). It was found with a rich arthropod fauna associated with coffee foliage. A diagnosis, description, photographs of the adult male, and selected structures and illustrations of male genitalia are provided to facilitate recognition. A key to species of *Perissobasis* is also included.

Key words: *Coffea arabica* crop, Miridae, Predator, Brazil, *Perissobasis*

Introduction

The monotypic genus *Perissobasis* was described by Reuter (1892) to include the species *P. aurora* Reuter, type species of the genus, collected by M. F. Simon from Venezuela (Carvalho 1982). This Neotropical genus now contains nine species, seven of them occurring in South America, with only two found in Central America: *P. aurora* Reuter recorded from Costa Rica and *P. panamensis* Carvalho from Panama (Schuh 1995). Carvalho (1982) reviewed the literature, diagnosed the genus, and provided a key for the species.

During a study of the scales (Coccoidea) associated with *Coffea arabica*, adults and immatures of *Perissobasis heroni* n. sp. were found on coffee in November at the Municipality of Campos Altos, Minas Gerais State, Brazil. The city is located in the area of the Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba (Fig. 1), latitude: 19° 41' 45" longitude: 46° 10' 30", altitude 994 m. This region is characterized by a medium temperature average of 21°C and an average precipitation of 272 mm (data supplied by Campos Altos City government with regard to the Climatic Zoning of the Coffee Culture).

The *C. arabica* plants sampled belonged to the variety Catuaí and is represented by 20-year old bushes measuring 2.5 m high and nearly 1.8 m wide. The bushes were touching each other in the same plantation line. Within each bush was found a great amount of decomposing organic material such as flowers, fruits, leaves, and branches that apparently accumulated during post harvest. This habitat supported a rich arthropod fauna, mainly insects with a large variety of species having a wide range of feeding habits.

In this paper, we describe the newly discovered plant bug *P. heroni* from Campos Altos, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Provided for *P. heroni* are a diagnosis, description, illustrations of male genitalia, photographs of the holotype and selected structures; and a discussion as a possible predator of small arthropods associated with *C. arabica*. A key to species, illustrations of dorsal habitus, and male genitalia (when known) of the *Perissobasis* species is also added to support the recognition of the other species.