



A new species of *Nemopalpus* Macquart (Diptera, Psychodidae, Bruchomyiinae) from caverns in Minas Gerais State in southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Nemopalpus* Macquart collected in caverns in the state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil, is described and named *Nemopalpus spinosus* **sp. nov.** A current list of the western hemisphere species of the genus is provided.

Key words: taxonomy, Neotropical region, Diamantina, species list

Introduction

Nemopalpus Macquart is one of three genera of Bruchomyiinae (Psychodidae) and is easily recognized by having 14 antennal flagellomeres and wing vein CuA₂ short, whereas *Bruchomyia* Alexander (Neotropical genus) and *Eutonnoira* Alexander (African genus) have more than 20 flagellomeres and CuA₂ long (Barretto & D'Andretta 1946). A majority of the described species of *Nemopalpus* are distributed in the southern hemisphere (Quate & Alexander 2000) with no extant species known to occur above 28° N (Williams 2003). Three fossil species have been described from Baltic Amber from the Palearctic region, and another species was described from Dominican Amber from the Neotropical region (Wagner 2006). In a review of extant species of *Nemopalpus*, Williams (2003) cited 29 species worldwide and included in his checklist all 19 western hemisphere species recognized by Quate & Alexander (2000). Of those 19 species, 18 are distributed in the Neotropical region with only one species (*N. nearcticus* Young) from the Nearctic region. The key to the *Nemopalpus* males of the Americas provided by Quate & Alexander (2000) omitted two species: 1) *N. pallipes* Shannon & Pontes, because this species is known only from females and, according to Fairchild (1952), the taxonomic status of this species is debatable; and 2) *N. moralesi* de Leon, which, according to Fairchild (1952), is poorly known and is probably a synonym of *N. arroyoi* de Leon. Two species previously described from the Neotropical region were not included in the revision prepared by Quate & Alexander (2000) or in the checklist of Williams (2003): *Nemopalpus multisetosus* Alexander, 1979 from Ecuador; and *Nemopalpus youngi* Wagner, 1999 from the Dominican Republic. In addition, three Neotropical species were described by Santos *et al.* (2009) after 2003, all of them from the state of Espírito Santo, Brazil: *Nemopalpus brejetubensis* Santos, Falqueto & Alexander; *Nemopalpus capixaba* Santos, Falqueto & Alexander; and *Nemopalpus espiritosantoensis* Santos, Falqueto & Alexander. In the present paper, we describe a new species of *Nemopalpus* collected from caverns in Minas Gerais State, Brazil, and we provide an updated checklist of the western hemisphere species of *Nemopalpus*.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected with HP light traps (Pugedo *et al.* 2005) between May 2010 and July 2011 in two caverns in the municipality of Diamantina, Minas Gerais State, Brazil: Cavern Monte Cristo (18°17'49"S;