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Two new species of *Protimesius* from northern Brazil (Opiliones: Laniatores: Stygnidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of *Protimesius* Roewer, 1913 (Stygnidae), are described from northern Brazil. *Protimesius regalo* **sp. nov.** is described from Lageado, state of Tocantins. This is a large species and can be easily distinguished from the already described species of *Protimesius* by the presence of four apical mesal acute tubercles on tibia IV and two dorsal rows of tubercles on male patella IV. *Protimesius jirau* **sp. nov.** is described from Porto Velho, state of Rondônia. This species is similar to *P. cirio* in having a large, pointed, dorso-apical apophysis on the male trochanter IV. However, it can be distinguished from *P. cirio* by the absence of a ventral row of tubercles on the male femur IV, as well as the presence of a ventral row of tubercles and two postero-distal apophyses on the male tibia IV. A new cladistic analysis for the genus is presented, and a key is given for the 18 species of *Protimesius* for which males are known.

Key words: Stygnidae, harvestmen, taxonomy, Neotropics

Introduction

The family Stygnidae comprises 96 species (Villarreal-Manzanilla & Pinto-da-Rocha 2006, Pinto-da-Rocha 2007, Hara & Pinto-da-Rocha 2008, Kury & Pinto-da-Rocha 2008; Pinto-da-Rocha & Carvalho 2009; Pinto-da-Rocha & Tourinho, 2012) and is characterized by harvestmen with medium-sized bodies that are without a common ocularium, with a subrectangular dorsal scute, and usually with elongate pedipalps possessing strong raptorial tibia + tarsus (Pinto-da-Rocha, 1997). The known species of Stygnidae are distributed in the Andes/Amazonia, also reaching the Lesser Antilles and Central and Northeastern Brazil (Pinto-da-Rocha 2007; Kury 2009).

The genus *Protimesius* Roewer, 1913, is diagnosed as having a medium to large sized, square bodies and long legs, pedipalpi about four times longer than the dorsal scute, two long spines on area three, and a well-developed tarsal process (Pinto-da-Rocha 1997). It comprises 18 species to date, and its distribution includes central-western (Mato Grosso state), northeastern (Bahia, Maranhão, and Paraíba states), northern Brazil (Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará, and Rondônia states), and out to the Peruvian Amazonian region, French Guiana and Suriname (Kury 2003; Villarreal and Pinto-da-Rocha 2006; Kury and Pinto-da-Rocha 2008; Pinto-da-Rocha and Villarreal 2009). In Brazil, there is a recently described species from Espírito Santo state (Kury and Pinto-da-Rocha 2008).

According to Pinto-da-Rocha & Villarreal-Manzanilla, 2009, *Protimesius* is a monophyletic group, supported by presenting the apex of the pedipalpal tibia sockets as bifid and having scopulae with non-spatulated hairs. It is considered to be the sister-group of a clade composed of five genera (*Phareus* Simon, *Auranus* Mello-Leitão, *Verrucastygne* Pinto-da-Rocha, *Stenostygnoidea* Roewer and *Stenophareus* Roewer). These genera are mainly associated with the Guiana Shield and the Amazonian basin, with two species in northwestern South America (*Phareus*) (Pinto-da-Rocha & Villarreal-Manzanilla 2009).

In this paper two new species of *Protimesius* are described, representing the second record published for the genus and also for Stygnidae from the Brazilian state of Tocantins (central-western Brazil), which is poorly represented in Brazilian collections (Kury *et al.* 2010). A cladistic analysis confirmed the inclusion of the two new species in the genus *Protimesius*, as well as allowed us to propose a new phylogenetic hypothesis among the different species of this genus.