



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4021.4.8>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:9D1BCE6A-CF59-4BBC-A190-12C86277A9BD>

New species and records of *Pseudacteon* Coquillett, 1907 (Diptera, Phoridae), parasitoids of the fire ant *Solenopsis geminata* group (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

THALLES PLATINY LAVINSCKY PEREIRA¹, JACQUES HUBERT CHARLES DELABIE² & FREDDY BRAVO³

¹Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, rua do Matão, travessa 14, n. 101, 05508-900, Cidade Universitária, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. E-mail: thallesplp@gmail.com

²Laboratório de Mirmecologia, CEPEC–CEPLAC & Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz, Rod. Jorge Amado, Ilhéus–BA. E-mail: jacques.delabie@gmail.com

³Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana – UEFS; Avenida Transnordestina, S/N; 44.036–900, Bairro Novo Horizonte, Feira de Santana, BA, Brazil. E-mail: fbravo@uefs.br

Abstract. The genus *Pseudacteon* Coquillett (Diptera, Phoridae) has a worldwide distribution and comprises parasitic myrmecophilous species that decapitate host ants. Seventy one species are known in the genus, 41 of them occur in the Neotropical Region and are 25 from Brazil. In northeastern Brazil, there are only records for two species, *Pseudacteon dentiger* Borgmeier and *Pseudacteon antiguensis* Malloch. In this paper, two new species of the genus are described from female specimens, *Pseudacteon pesqueroi* new spec. and *Pseudacteon plowesi* new spec., and also, new records of three *Pseudacteon* species for the Brazilian Northeast are given.

Key words: *S. saevissima*, Northeastern Brazil, Neotropical Region

Resumo. O gênero *Pseudacteon* Coquillett (Diptera, Phoridae) possui distribuição mundial e é constituído por espécies parasitas mirmecófilas que decapitam as formigas hospedeiras. Setenta e uma espécies são conhecidas no gênero, entre as quais 41 ocorrem na Região Neotropical e dessas, 25 no Brasil. No Nordeste do Brasil, há registros apenas para as espécies *Pseudacteon dentiger* Borgmeier e *Pseudacteon antiguensis* Malloch. Neste trabalho são descritas duas novas espécies a partir de exemplares fêmeas, *Pseudacteon pesqueroi* sp. nov. e *Pseudacteon plowesi* sp. nov. além de proporcionar novos registros de *Pseudacteon* para o Nordeste brasileiro.

Palavras-Chave: *S. saevissima*, Nordeste do Brasil, região Neotropical.

Introduction

The genus *Pseudacteon* Coquillett, 1907 (Diptera, Phoridae) has a cosmopolitan distribution with records from 62 countries through Nearctic, Neotropical, Palaearctic and Oriental regions (Patrock *et al.* 2009). Diagnostic characters of the genus are: presence of two post-antennal bristles, four rows of bristles on frons that follow the sequence 2–4–4–4 or 2–2–4–4, thorax with two dorsocentral bristles, scutellum with 2–4 bristles (Borgmeier 1925). All species of this genus are myrmecophilous (Borgmeier 1925). There are 71 species recognized in the genus, being 41 of them recorded from the Neotropical Region and 25 from Brazil (Borgmeier 1925, 1962, 1969; Borgmeier & Prado 1975; Malloch 1912; Mattos & Orr 2002; Pesquero 2000; Plowes *et al.* 2009.). The Northeastern region of Brazil occupies 18% of the Brazilian territory and is historically poorly sampled for fauna (Marques & Lamas 2006). Only two species of *Pseudacteon* are known from this Brazilian region, *Pseudacteon dentiger* Borgmeier, 1962 (recorded from the Brazilian states of Amazonas, Bahia, Goiás, Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraná, Pernambuco and São Paulo) and *P. antiguensis* Malloch, 1912 (recorded from the Brazilian states of Minas Gerais and Pernambuco) (Patrock 2010). In this paper, two new species and new records of *Pseudacteon* from Brazil and other Neotropical countries are given.