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First record of genus *Atherimorpha* (Diptera: Rhagionidae) in Brazil, with description of a new species

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Abstract

Four of the 22 genera of Rhagionidae have been reported from the Neotropical region, of which only *Chrysopilus* Macquart has been found in Brazil. The first occurrence of the genus *Atherimorpha* White is reported from Brazilian territory, and *Atherimorpha lamasi* sp. n. is described and illustrated.

Key words: *Atherimorpha*, Rhagionidae, Diptera, Neotropics, Taxonomy

Introduction

The family Rhagionidae (Diptera, Brachycera) is worldwide, with 22 extant genera and about 500 described species (Nagatomi 1982b, Stuckenberg 1997). Rhagionids are medium to large-sized flies, leaf-perching inhabitants of herbage and shrubbery in tropical forests and woodlands. Knowledge on fossil rhagionids is limited, and their early evolution is uncertain. *Palaeobolbomyia* Kovalev 1982 is the oldest known fossil, from Lower Jurassic, 187 million years ago before present (Mostovski 2000). *Taschigatra*, another Lower Jurassic genus, described by Mostovski and Jarzembowski (2000), was first placed in the Rhagionidae, but this position is controversial, since only isolated wings are known. Other rhagionid-like fossils are known from the Jurassic of Kazakhstan (Rohdendorf 1938), Siberia (Kovalev 1981) and China (Zhang 1993).

The monophyly of the current genera placed in the Rhagionidae is still debatable, as well as the reliability of its synapomorphies. Historically, the Rhagionidae has included a large number of genera (James & Turner 1981) now accepted to be more related to other families of lower Brachycera (Stuckenberg 1973, Nagatomi 1982b). Nevertheless, conclusions on the boundaries and the cladistic relationships within the family are still wanting

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