



Two new species of *Seira* (Collembola, Entomobryidae) from Brazilian coast

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Abstract

Two new species of *Seira* Lubbock (Entomobryidae), *S. praiana* **sp. nov.** and *S. potiguara* **sp. nov.**, are described and illustrated. Both species were collected on Brazilian coast. *S. praiana* **sp. nov.** has some similarities with *S. americana* Jacquemart and *S. nunezae* Christiansen & Bellinger while *S. potiguara* **sp. nov.** resembles *S. brasiliiana* (Arlé) and *S. proannulata* (Bonet) in some aspects of the dorsal distribution of the macrochaetae. *Seira* is a very specious genus in Brazil, and with the addition of *S. praiana* **sp. nov.** and *S. potiguara* **sp. nov.**, the number of recorded species for the country increase to 24.

Key words: Brazilian collembolan diversity, chaetotaxy patterns, Seirinae, systematics

Introduction

Seira Lubbock is a predominantly tropical genus of Entomobryidae, with approximately 180 described species worldwide (Bellinger *et al.* 1996–2009, Christiansen & Bellinger 2000). There are 50 species of *Seira* in the Americas, and 22 of them occur in Brazil (Bellinger *et al.* 1996–2009, Mari Mutt & Bellinger 1990, 1996, Mari Mutt *et al.* 1998–2009, Bellini & Zeppelini 2008a, b, Bellini *et al.* 2009). *Seira* specimens are epiedaphic and very active during the day. Many species of *Seira* are found in high temperature dry areas, which indicate a natural resistance of the group to heat and desiccation. The superficial morphology of *Seira* resembles other Entomobryidae, but detailed chaetotaxy analysis indicates a close relation to *Lepidocyrtus* Bourlet or *Entomobrya* Rondani (Szeptycki 1979, Soto-Adames 2008). *Seira* can be distinguished from the two genera by the presence of a falcate mucro (Christiansen & Bellinger 1998, 2000). In northeastern Brazil, *Seira* is not only a diverse genus, with 12 recorded species (Bellini & Zeppelini 2009, Bellini *et al.* 2009), but one of the most abundant. For example, on Paraíba State, on remnants of Restinga forest, it was observed that 75% of the total collected specimens of springtails belong to eight species of *Seira* (Zeppelini *et al.* 2009).

Herein we describe two new species of *Seira* from different areas of the Brazilian coast. The specimens were collected using entomological aspirators and Berlese-Tullgren funnels. The chaetotaxic system used to describe the disposition of dorsal macrochaetae follows that of Christiansen & Bellinger (2000) modified from Jacquemart (1974). Type material is deposited in the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro (CM/MNRJ).

Systematics

Genus *Seira* Lubbock, 1869