



Article

A new species of *Tyrannoseira* (Collembola, Entomobryidae, Seirini) from Paraíba, Northeastern Brazil

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Abstract

A new species *Tyrannoseira gladiata* **sp. nov.** is described from *Pedra da Boca* State Park, municipality of Araruna, this is the fifth species for this genus, the third found in the State of Paraíba, Brazil. The species is part of a monophyletic group which shares a striking sexual dimorphism, with modifications of the first legs of adult males. The genus is composed of species distributed in a mosaic of micro-habitats along the semi-arid region, in Northeastern Brazil.

Key words: systematics, sexual dimorphism, semi-arid, Entomobryomorpha

Introduction

The genus *Tyrannoseira* (Entomobryinae, Seirini) comprises four known and one new species endemic to the semi-arid region of Northeastern Brazil. The recently described genus (Bellini & Zeppelini 2011) is characterized by the presence of striking morphologic modifications in adult males fore legs. The new species, described below, presents the remarkable sexual dimorphism and general behavioral pattern observed in field conditions, typical for the genus, specimens of all developmental stages dwelling on the interface of leaf litter and open rock surfaces.

The *Tyrannoseira* species found so far are distributed in a mosaic pattern, isolated from each other by discontinuity in their micro-habitats. Knowledge about diversity of Collembola in Northeastern Brazil is deficient (Abrantes *et al.* 2010, 2012; Bellini & Zeppelini 2009; Culik & Zeppelini 2003), and new species of *Tyrannoseira* are being discovered as collection effort increases. The new data suggest that the genus is likely to be distributed all over the semi-arid habitats of northeast in Brazil, extending up to Maranhao State (at least one undescribed species collected).

In the present contribution the fifth species for the genus *Tyrannoseira* is described, illustrated and compared with related species. For dorsal macrochaetae distribution we followed Christiansen and Bellinger (2000), abdominal II-III chaetotaxies followed Szeptycki (1979), labial chaetotaxy followed Gisin (1963, 1964a,b).

Systematics

Family ENTOMOBRYIDAE Schäffer, 1896

Subfamily ENTOMOBRYINAE Schäffer, 1896

Tribe Seirini Yosii, 1961