



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:BC0C8F98-4842-4F03-97BE-0C63BFE56C8E

Two New Species of Halictophagidae (Insecta: Strepsiptera) from the Brazilian Amazon Basin

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Abstract

A sample of ca. 130 specimens from the Collection of Strepsiptera of the National Institute for Amazon Research (INPA) contained species in four families: Corioxenidae, Bohartillidae, Myrmecolacidae, and Halictophagidae. First results of the study of that sample are presented with descriptions of two new species of Halictophagidae: *Halictophagus urucui* **sp. n.** and *Coriophagus jennyae* **sp. n.** The latter species is the first record of *Coriophagus* in the Western Hemisphere; the genus distribution had been limited so far to Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and the Solomon Islands. These new records contribute to an expanded view of the biodiversity of the Strepsiptera fauna in the Brazilian Amazon Basin.

Key words: *Halictophagus*, *Coriophagus*, Neotropical Strepsiptera, Amazonian biodiversity

Resumo

Uma amostra contendo ca. 130 espécimes da Coleção de Strepsiptera do Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa da Amazônia (INPA) inclui espécies em quatro famílias: Corioxenidae, Bohartillidae, Myrmecolacidae e Halictophagidae. Resultados iniciais do estudo desta amostra são apresentados com a descrição de duas espécies novas de Halictophagidae: *Halictophagus urucui* **sp. n.** e *Coriophagus jennyae* **sp. n.** Esta última espécie representa o primeiro registro de *Coriophagus* no hemisfério ocidental; a distribuição do gênero até o presente era limitada à África, Austrália, Nova Zelândia e Ilhas Salomão. O registro destas espécies contribui para estender o conhecimento da biodiversidade de Strepsiptera na Amazonia brasileira.

Palavras chave: *Halictophagus*, *Coriophagus*, Strepsiptera Neotropicais, biodiversidade da Amazonia

Introduction

Despite the conceivable richness of the Neotropical Strepsiptera fauna, expansion of knowledge about this insect group in the region has been slow. Before systematic studies of Brazilian Strepsiptera started in 1957 (Kogan 1958), only one species was on record: *Paraxenos* (= *Ophthalmochlus*) *westwoodi* (Templeton 1841), a parasite of *Sphex ichneumoneus* L.; in addition there were 11 records of stylopized Vespidae and Sphecidae, lacking specific identification or description of the parasites (Oliveira & Kogan 1959). Since then collections have been made in the state of Amazonas and additional species have been described from other Brazilian regions, either males collected in light traps or stylopized females in host species found mainly in established museum collections. The recent description of a new family, Bahiixenidae (Bravo et al. 2009), based on a single specimen collected in a remote, semi-arid region of the state of Bahia by Alberto Silva Neto, suggests that hidden in the vast Brazilian territory there might be an as yet untapped treasure of Strepsiptera awaiting discovery.

The Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia (INPA) holds an extensive collection of Strepsiptera, mostly male specimens collected in black-light traps over a period of several decades. The specimens are generally preserved in glass vials, in 70% ethanol, sorted by day (or night) of collection, location, and name(s)