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***Ribautia lewisi* sp. nov., a new centipede from Argentina with unusual tentorial process (Chilopoda: Geophilomorpha, Geophilidae)**

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Abstract

Ribautia lewisi sp. nov. (Chilopoda: Geophilomorpha, Geophilidae) is herein described and illustrated after the holotype (male), paratypes (males and females), and additional non type specimens from Northeastern Argentina (Mesopotamian region). The new species is characterized by having a cluster of coxal organs in each coxopleuron of the ultimate leg-bearing segment and a claw-like pretarsus in the ultimate legs, bearing a very unusual feature, in that the internal limbs of tentorium have a conspicuous tooth-shaped sclerotized process directed inward. *R. lewisi* sp. nov. is only the second confirmed record of the genus *Ribautia* from Argentina, the other being *R. jakulicai* Pereira, 2007 from Northwestern region of the country (Yungas biogeographical province).

Key words: Chilopoda, Geophilomorpha, Geophilidae, *Ribautia*, new species, Neotropical Region

Introduction

The genus *Ribautia* Brölemann, 1909 is one of the most diversified and widespread of the geophilid genera, showing a pantropical pattern of distribution (Pereira *et al.* 1997; Minelli 2006; Pereira 2007, 2008, 2010; Bonato *et al.* 2009). Of the 52 species currently recognized in the taxon, nine occur in Australia (one of which also occurs in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands), one in the Arabian Peninsula (Yemen), one in New Zealand, four in New Caledonia only, one in the Loyalty Islands only, nine in mainland Africa, one in Madagascar and 26 in the Neotropics.

Among the Neotropical species, 11 are characterized by having all the coxal organs opening separately: *Ribautia bouvieri* Brölemann, 1909 (from Brazil), *R. donatellae* Pereira, Uliana & Minelli, 2006 (from Brazil), *R. ducalis* Pereira, Minelli & Barbieri, 1995 (from Brazil), *R. fuhrmanni* Ribaut, 1912 (from Colombia and Guyana), *R. onycophaena* Pereira, Foddai & Minelli, 2000 (from Brazil), *R. pacifica* Kraus, 1954 (from Peru), *R. phana* (Chamberlin, 1955) (from Peru), *R. proxima* Pereira, Minelli & Barbieri, 1995 (from Brazil and French Guiana), *R. rossi* Chamberlin, 1957 (from Ecuador), *R. tropica* (Brölemann, 1898) (from Venezuela), and *R. vivasberthieri* Chamberlin, 1941 (from Venezuela).

Of the 15 remaining taxa, *R. combinata* Pereira, Uliana & Minelli, 2006 (from Peru), is distinguished from the others by having an independent, freely opening coxal organ and a cluster of coxal organs in each coxopleuron. For the other 14 (in addition to the new species described below), all the coxal organs are grouped in clusters as follows: one cluster in each coxopleuron in *R. jakulicai* Pereira, 2007 (from Argentina), *R. limaensis* Kraus, 1957 (from Peru), and *R. silvana* Kraus, 1954 (from Peru); two in *R. andecola* Kraus, 1954 (from Peru), *R. colcabensis* Kraus, 1957 (from Peru), and *R. roigi* Pereira, 2008 (from Bolivia); two (or three?) in *R. seydi* Ribaut, 1923 (from Peru); three in *R. carpisha* (Chamberlin, 1957) (from Peru), *R. centralis* (Silvestri, 1907) (from Colombia and Brazil), *R. difficilis* Pereira, Minelli & Barbieri, 1995 (from Brazil), *R. junina* (Chamberlin, 1957) (from Peru), *R. montana* Kraus, 1954 (from Peru), *R. peruana* Verhoeff, 1941 (from Peru), and *R. titicacae* (Turk, 1955) (from Peru).