



First record of the genus *Australonura* Cassagnau 1980 (Collembola: Neanuridae) in the New World, with description of a new species from Paraguay

JOSÉ G. PALACIOS-VARGAS¹ & LOUIS DEHARVENG^{2,3}

¹Laboratorio de Ecología y Sistemática de Microartrópodos, Dpto. Ecología y Recursos Naturales, Facultad De Ciencias, UNAM, 04510, México, D. F., México. E-mail: troglolaphysa@hotmail.com

²Museum national d'Histoire naturelle, UMR7205, 45 rue Buffon, Paris, 75005 France. E-mail: deharven@mnhn.fr

³Corresponding author

Abstract

The genus *Australonura* Cassagnau 1980 is newly recorded from South America. The Patagonian species *Paleonura limnophila* (Cassagnau & Rapoport, 1962) and *Paleonura friasica* Cassagnau & Oliveira, 1990 are redescribed from type material and recombined in *Australonura*. A new species, *A. paraguayensis* sp. nov., is described from Paraguay and assigned to *Australonura* for its head tubercle arrangement. It differs from other species of the genus by its adjacent but separate dorso-internal tubercles of Abd. V.

Key words: taxonomy, biogeography, southern America

Introduction

The genus *Australonura* was erected by Cassagnau (1980) for *Neamura grossi* Yosii, 1966 from Australia and defined by tubercle arrangement on head. Later, several species were described in or transferred to this genus mainly by Greenslade & Deharveng (1990) and Deharveng & Greenslade (1990). A total of 16 species are presently known in the genus, all distributed in the Southern hemisphere (Australia, New Caledonia, Melanesia), but the genus has not been reported so far from South Africa, New Zealand and South America. However, Cassagnau & Oliveira (1990) redescribing *Paleonura limnophila* from Argentina, stressed its similarity with the genus *Australonura*: "il est tentant de voir en *P. limnophila* la souche de la lignée australonurienne dont l'histoire semble liée au démantèlement de la Paleantarctide". In Cassagnau collection, both *P. friasica* and *P. limnophila* were labeled as *Australonura*. In this paper, we formally transfer these two species to *Australonura*, and we describe from Paraguay a new species of the genus, extending its distribution 2300 km towards NNE of South America (Fig.1).

Material and methods

The material studied in this paper comes from Cassagnau collection, Geneva Museum collection and D'Haese recent samples in southern America.

Terminology. The terminology used in the text and tables is derived from that of Hüther (1962), Deharveng (1983), Deharveng & Weiner (1984), and Smolis & Deharveng (2006).

Abbreviations. Body parts: Abd. I–VI—abdominal segment I–VI, Ant. I–IV—antennal segment I–IV, Cx—coxa, Fe—femur, Scx2—subcoxa 2, Tita—tibiotalar, Th. I–III—thoracic segment I–III, Tr—trochanter, VT—ventral tube, Fu—furcal vestige.

Groups of chaetae: Di—dorso-internal, De—dorso-external, DL—dorso-lateral, L—lateral, Ag—antegenital (=pregenital), hr—anal chaetula, Ve—ventro-external, Vi—ventro-internal, VL—ventro-lateral.

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