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***Tabasconura tapijulapana* gen. nov. sp. nov. (Collembola: Neanuridae) from Tabasco, México**

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Abstract

Tabasconura gen. nov. (Neanuridae) and type species *T. tapijulapana* sp. nov., are described and illustrated. The new genus possesses all characters of the tribe Sensillanurini Cassagnau, and is characterised by the presence of slightly elongated tubercles on the body and also elongation and thickening of the sensillum S2 as well as S7 on antennal segment IV. Development of S7 is a character of the tribe.

Key words: tubercles, antennal sensillum S2, taxonomy, Sensillanurini, morphology

Introduction

This tribe Sensillanurini contains only three genera, *Americanura* Cassagnau, 1983 with a wide distribution in North America; México, Central America and North of South America, *Palmanura* Cassagnau, 1983 with a Neotropical distribution from Central México to North of South America and *Sensillanura* Deharveng, 1981 with Holarctic and Nearctic distribution. The Sensillanurini is important in the study of evolution of the setal morphology in the family Neanuridae, because they have setae of various sizes and shapes, being either smooth, with ciliations, barbulations or other ornamentations. The tribe is also characterised by hypertrophy of the sensillum S7 on Ant. IV (Palacios-Vargas *et al.* 2009).

Abbreviations. Abd.=abdominal segment, Th.=thoracic segment, Ant.=antennal segment, BM.=barbulate macrosetae, bm.=barbulate microsetae, S=cylindrical sensilla on Ant. IV, ss=sensorial setae on body, Af.=cephalic antenno-frontal tubercle, Cl.=clypeal tubercle, Oc.=ocular tubercle, Oca.=ocular anterior seta, Ocm.=ocular median seta, Ocp.=ocular posterior seta, Di.=dorsointernal tubercle, De.=dorsoexternal tubercle, DL.=dorsolateral tubercle, L.=lateral tubercle, So.=sub-ocular tubercle.

Description of the genus

***Tabasconura* gen. nov.**

Type species: *Tabasconura tapijulapana* sp. nov.

Neanurinae lacking body pigment, but with 2+2 pigmented eyes. Body tubercles slightly elongated, more pronounced towards the abdominal region. Body lacking hypodermic blue pigment. Mouthparts typical of the family. Body sensillary chaetotaxy typical for the tribe. Ant. IV with S7 and S2 hypertrophied, both at least twice as thick as other sensilla. Cephalic seta Di1 isolated from De1. Lateral cephalic region with fusion of tubercles: DL+L+So. Lacking tubercle Di on Th. I. Abd. IV with tubercles De and DL fused, Abd. V with tubercles De+DL+L fused.

Discussion

Tabasconura tapijulapana sp. nov., possesses two characters which differ from other genera in the tribe. Firstly, the elongation and thickening of S2, similar to but slightly thinner than S7 on Ant. IV, which is not present in other genera or species in the tribe. Secondly, the slightly elongated tubercles on the body differ from species in other genera. Distinguishing characters of *T. tapijulapana* sp. nov. as well as species in genera *Americanura*, *Palmanura* and *Sensillanura* are: presence of three plesiomorphic setae on ocular zone (Oca, Ocm, Ocp), fusion of cephalic tubercles (De+DL+L), fusion of body tubercles (De+DL on Abd. IV and De+DL+L on Abd. V), presence and number of setae on Di on Abd. V (Table 2). There are other genera in Neaururini with digit shaped tubercles, but they belong to other tribes, and the presence of this character plus the hypertrophied sensillum S7, and reduction of dorsal chaetotaxy is typical for the tribe Sensillanurini.

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