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New genus, new species and new record of Neanurinae (Collembola, Neanuridae) for the Neotropics

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Abstract

A new genus and a new species of Paleonurini (Collembola, Neanurinae) are described in this paper. The new species *Ectonura snowdeni* **sp. nov.**, is the first record of the austral genus *Ectonura* for the Neotropics. A new genus from Southeast Brazil, *Itanura* **gen. nov.**, is created based mainly on head tubercles arrangement. Its type species is *Neanura brasiliensis* Arlé, 1959 **comb. nov.**, which is redescribed with the designation of a lectotype. Its distribution range is expanded with two new records from high altitude mountains of Southeast Brazil. Specimens from these two localities exhibit small morphological differences with those of the type locality, which are discussed.

Key words: Paleonurini, *Ectonura*, taxonomy, chaetotaxy, Neotropics

Introduction

The Brazilian fauna of Neanuridae is poorly known, with only 59 species recorded to date (Abrantes *et al.* 2012; Queiroz *et al.* 2013; Zeppelini & Palacios-Vargas 2013; Queiroz & Deharveng 2014; Queiroz & Mendonça 2014, 2015). Within this family, even more striking is the low number of species recorded for the subfamily Neanurinae, only five (Abrantes *et al.* 2012; Queiroz & Deharveng, 2014): *Paleonura brasiliensis* (Arlé, 1959), *Paleonura nuda* Cassagnau & Oliveira, 1990, *Pronura amazonica* Cassagnau & Oliveira, 1990, *Australonura gili* Queiroz & Deharveng, 2014 and *Australonura neotropica* Queiroz & Deharveng, 2014.

Three mountain ranges of Southeast Brazil, recently sampled above 2000 m, have revealed several Neanurinae species new for science, which are under study. Among them is one *Ectonura* Cassagnau, 1980, *E. snowdeni* **sp. nov.**, from "Serra do Caparaó" (Fig. 1), Minas Gerais State, which is herein described and illustrated. Up to date, there are 16 *Ectonura* species (Bellinger *et al.*, 2015), restricted to South Pacific islands (mostly New Caledonia) and South Africa. This new species represents the first record of the genus for the Neotropics. On two other mountains, Itatiaia and Serra dos Órgãos in Rio de Janeiro State (Fig. 1), were collected other Neanurinae specimens very similar to *Paleonura brasiliensis*. Unfortunately, the type material of *P. brasiliensis* could not be found in Museu Nacional at Rio de Janeiro for further comparison. However, some specimens from the type locality, Itajubá municipality, Minas Gerais State, donated by Roger Arlé, were represented in the Cassagnau collection. After a close analysis of this material it was found that the extent and arrangement of tubercles on the body of *P. brasiliensis* are, in fact, different from those of other species of *Paleonura* Cassagnau, 1982 and from any other genus of Paleonurini. We propose here to place them in a new genus, *Itanura* **gen. nov.**, with *Itanura brasiliensis* **comb. nov.** as type species. In addition, a lectotype and a few paralectotypes are designated for this species. The specimens collected in Itatiaia and Serra dos Órgãos, hereby illustrated, are very similar to those from the type locality, but differ by a few constant characters, suggesting that they could represent closely related species. The material at hand is however insufficient to evaluate the variability of these characters, and we adopted the conservative conception to keep them provisionally under the name *Itanura brasiliensis* **comb. nov.**