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A taxonomic revision of the neotropical termite genus *Ruptitermes* (Isoptera, Termitidae, Apicotermatinae)

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Abstract

The taxonomy of *Ruptitermes* Mathews 1977 is revised. Nine new species are described: *R. araujo*i, **sp. n.** (from Brazil), *R. atyra*, **sp. n.** (from Brazil, Peru, and Panama), *R. bandeirai*, **sp. n.** (from Brazil), *R. cangua*, **sp. n.** (from Brazil), *R. kaapora*, **sp. n.** (from Paraguay and Brazil), *R. krishnai*, **sp. n.** (from Trinidad), *R. maraca*, **sp. n.** (from Brazil), *R. piliceps*, **sp. n.** (from Brazil), and *R. pitan*, **sp. n.** (from Brazil). *Ruptitermes franciscoi* (Snyder 1959), new combination, is transferred from *Anoplotermes* Fr. Müller to *Ruptitermes*. *Ruptitermes proratus* Emerson 1949 is placed under the synonymy of *R. reconditus* (Silvestri, 1901). The genus is redescribed to accommodate all the species included. *Ruptitermes arboreus*, *R. reconditus* and *R. xanthochiton* are redescribed based on the examination of large series. A key to the 13 species of the genus based on the external morphology of workers is provided. The enteric valve armature is described and illustrated for all species except *R. kaapora*. Distribution maps are presented for all species.

Key words: soldierless termite, *Anoplotermes*-group, South America, litter-feeder