

Two new species of the sharpshooter genus *Desamera* from northern Brazil (Insecta: Hemiptera: Cicadellidae)

RACHEL A. CARVALHO^{1,2} & GABRIEL MEJDALANI¹

¹*Departamento de Entomologia, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Quinta da Boa Vista, São Cristóvão, 20940-040, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil. Email: rachel_alexandre@yahoo.com.br; mejdalan@acd.ufrj.br*

²*Programa de Pós-graduação em Zoologia, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro.*

Abstract

Two new species of the Neotropical sharpshooter genus *Desamera* Young are described and illustrated from Brazil: *Desamera eliasi* **sp. nov.** from Amazonas and Rondônia States and *D. paraensis* **sp. nov.** from Pará State. *Desamera* is for the first time recorded from northern and west-central Brazil. The two new species can be recognized mainly by the aedeagal morphology. The female genitalia in *Desamera* are for the first time described in detail. Additional notes on the only other known species of the genus, *D. intersecta* (Germar), are provided.

Key words: Neotropics, Auchenorrhyncha, Cicadellinae, Proconiini, leafhopper, morphology, taxonomy.

Introduction

The subfamily Cicadellinae is composed of leafhoppers that feed on the xylem of vascular plants. The copious amounts of watery excreta forcibly excreted by these insects during feeding has given rise to their common name of sharpshooters. Most genera of this economically important leafhopper subfamily (all species being potential vectors of xylem-borne phytopathogenic bacteria) are still in need of taxonomic studies (Takiya & Mejdalani 2004). According to Young (1968), the subfamily is divided into two tribes: a cosmopolitan Cicadellini, and a New World Proconiini, which is especially rich in the Neotropical region (Linnavuori 1979; Nielson & Knight 2000). The Proconiini currently comprises 58 genera and about 350 species (Mejdalani 1998), including two recently described genera (Godoy 2005; Rakitov & Godoy 2005).

The monotypic proconiine genus *Desamera* was described by Young (1968) based on the species *Tettigonia intersecta* Germar, 1821. This genus is recorded from Peru,