



## Five new species of *Protimesius* from Brazil (Opiliones: Stygnidae)

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### Abstract

Five new species of the harvestmen genus *Protimesius* Roewer, 1913 are described from Brazil: *P. foliadereis* n. sp. (type-locality: Jurueña, Mato Grosso), *P. junina* n. sp. (type-locality: Gruta Califórnia, Pau Brasil, Bahia), *P. cirio* n. sp. (type-locality: Ananindeua, Pará), *P. boimbumba* n. sp. and *P. carnaval* n. sp. (type-locality for both: Rio Moa, Parque Nacional da Serra do Divisor, Acre). *P. apiacas* Pinto-da-Rocha, 2000 is recorded from Rondonia State (Brazil) for the first time.

**Key words:** Harvestmen, Neotropics, taxonomy, Laniatores

### Introduction

The harvestmen family Stygnidae comprises 78 species distributed in central to northern South America and Lesser Antilles (Pinto-da-Rocha 1997, 2000; Villarreal-Manzanilla 2004; Villarreal-Manzanilla & Rodríguez 2004). *Protimesius* Roewer, 1913 belongs to the subfamily Stygninae, which was hitherto composed of eleven species (Pinto-da-Rocha 1997, 2000) distributed from northeastern and northern Brazil to the Peruvian Amazonian region, French Guiana and Surinam. Most previously known species (and the herein described ones) were recorded from tropical rain forests (Amazonian and Atlantic) and rarely from the Brazilian savanna (*cerrado*). The genus is characterized by: Large body size and long legs, pedipalps about four times longer than the dorsal scute, two long spines on area II, prosoma without a spine, a well-developed tarsal process, and setae sockets on pedipalpal tibia bifid (Pinto-da-Rocha 1997). *Protimesius* is considered as the sister-group of *Pickeliana* Mello-Leitão, 1932 on the basis of its very long pedipalpal patella and scopula on the legs (Pinto-da-Rocha 1997).

In this paper five new species of *Protimesius* are described from Brazil and *P. apiacas* Pinto-da-Rocha, 2000 is recorded for the first time from the Rondonia State in Brazil.