A new species of Simrothula (Gastropoda, Soleolifera, Veronicellidae) from Northern Brazil

SUZETE RODRIGUES GOMES1,2, JULIANE BENTES PICANÇO2, INGA L. VEITENHEIMER MENDES1 & JOSÉ WILLIBALDO THOMÉ2

Abstract

Simrothula paraensis sp. nov. is proposed based on specimens from Serra de Carajás, State of Pará, northern Brazil. The morphology, anatomy, jaw and radula are described and illustrated. S. paraensis differs from the other Simrothula species by having an expansion on one side of the penis glans, near the distal extremity of the penis base, a longer bursa copulatrix duct and a stronger developed accessory gland. The species is compared with the other species of the genus Simrothula, and S. prismatica is synonymized with S. fuhrmanni. This is the first record of Simrothula from Brazil.

Key words: Veronicellidae, Simrothula, morphology, anatomy, land slug, Neotropical region

Introduction

Veronicellidae Gray 1840 is a group of land slugs belonging to the Soleolifera Simroth, 1890, the only pulmonate taxon other than the well known and much more numerous Stylomatophora with terrestrial shell less members. They are distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical regions in primary and secondary forests (Thomé 1993; Barker 2001). They are nocturnal and herbivorous, being found daytime resting under logs and stones. Some species are extremely damaging to agricultural crops, and others are intermediate hosts of human parasites (Thomé 1993).

According to Thomé (1975) there are 18 genera in the Neotropical region, among which is Simrothula Thomé, 1975. This genus contained three species: S. columbiana, S. prismatica and S. fuhrmanni. All were originally described by Simroth (1914) based on