



***Rhynchocyrtus* gen. nov. (Collembola, Entomobryidae) from the Southeast and Northeast Brazilian regions**

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Abstract

Rhynchocyrtus **gen. nov.** is described and illustrated with a new type species: *Rhynchocyrtus klausi* **sp. nov.** from National Park of Tijuca (Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil). This work also includes a new record of *Rhynchocyrtus* **gen. nov.** and a new species from a remnant rainforest area of the Northeast region, in Pernambuco State, Brazil.

Key words: Brazil, Collembola, Lepidocyrtini, new genus, *Rhynchocyrtus*, taxonomy

Introduction

During our research on the Brazilian springtail in rainforest ecosystem, we found a new genus and a new species of Lepidocyrtini widely distributed throughout National Park of Tijuca and State Park of Serra da Tiririca (Rio de Janeiro State) litter. Recently collected samples from Restinga de Maricá (RJ) revealed the presence of the new species and extended its occurrence to coastal ecosystems. Parallel studies on the Collembola biodiversity in remnant rainforest area of the Northeast Brazilian region (Pernambuco State) show another species, probably new, with distinct color pattern that shares the generic characters with the new species.

Comparison between this new taxon and others from Lepidocyrtini, based on the literature (Bellinger *et al.* 1996–2007), revealed its similarity to *Lepidocyrtus* Bourlet, 1839, a diverse complex of widely distributed species. In Neotropical region, this genus has about 50 known species, most of which are from Puerto Rico described by Mari-Mutt (1986, 1988), who remarkably contributed to the diversity and taxonomic knowledge of the group. In Brazil, this genus is represented by just *L. pallidus* Reuter, 1890, with records for Rio Grande do Sul State. Besides the similarity between the new genus and *Lepidocyrtus*, a comparative analysis also indicated similarities to *Cinctocyrtus* Yoshii & Suhardjono, 1989, characterized by the rounded dental appendix and absence of scales on antenna, legs and ventral tube. However, the *Cinctocyrtus* concept was not well assimilated, as recently described species (Christiansen & Bellinger 1992) have still been included in *Lepidocyrtus sensu lato*, which highlights the taxonomic and phylogenetic problems of this group.

Based on what was revealed before as well as on the elongated mouth parts of the new taxon described here, incontestably different from the rhombic form in *Lepidocyrtus* and *Cinctocyrtus* species, its improper inclusion in these genera or in any other available ones in Lepidocyrtini was demonstrated. For this reason *Rhynchocyrtus* **gen. nov.** and the new species *Rhynchocyrtus klausi* **sp. nov.** from the Southeast Brazilian Atlantic rainforest are proposed in the present article.

Type material deposited in the Collection of Collembola, Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro is abbreviated as CM/MNRJ.