



José Augusto Pereira Barreiros (1977–2007)

José Augusto Pereira Barreiros (Guto, as he liked to be called) passed away, at the age of 29, on May 15, 2007, due to complications resulting from acute leukemia, which had been diagnosed only two months previously.



Guto's interest in the study of arachnids began in 2000 when, as an undergraduate student, he joined the staff of the recently established Arachnology Laboratory at the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi in Belém, Brazil. He graduated a year later from the Universidade Federal do Pará (UFPA), and presented, as a final monograph, a structured inventory of the soil spider fauna from an urban park in the city of Belém, in which he compared the efficiency of three sampling techniques. His interest in soil spiders led him to propose, as an M.Sc. dissertation project, a comprehensive structured inventory of soil spiders of the Ferreira Penna Scientific Station, in the Caxiuanã National Forest, Eastern Amazonia. Shortly after he obtained his M.Sc. in 2004, he commenced his Ph.D. research, dealing with community ecology of both soil and arboreal spiders in Caxiuanã. In the first two years of his Ph.D. project he completed the most intensive collecting program of spiders ever carried out in a single locality in Eastern Amazonia, applying a sampling protocol composed of several collecting techniques.

Guto was, by nature, a field scientist. He organized and coordinated several collecting expeditions throughout Brazilian Amazonia. We estimated that those expeditions resulted in the collection of more than 20,000 adult spiders. Despite the fact that his research lines were already well defined, Guto had a wide range of interests in arachnology and

knew how to explore the research opportunities resulting from his extensive fieldwork. He had time to publish only five papers: two on spider taxonomy, one on the ecology of soil spiders, one on scorpions, and one on the phenology of Ricinulei. He left several papers in preparation, including a catalog of haplogyne spiders occurring in Brazilian Amazonia, and a field guide to Opiliones from Caxiuanã. In his last few months, despite illness, he was working intensely on oonopid spider taxonomy, separating and identifying all material deposited in the Goeldi Museum's collection as part of a Planetary Biodiversity Inventory currently being carried out on this family.

Guto was a good student, a good colleague and a good friend. Amazonian Arachnology will miss the promise he represented, and the joy and enthusiasm with which he worked will not be forgotten.

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