



Three new species of *Alepia* Enderlein (Diptera, Psychodidae, Psychodinae) from the Brazilian semi-arid region

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Abstract

Three new species of *Alepia* Enderlein from the semi-arid region of Bahia State, northeastern Brazil are described: *A. montana* **sp. nov.**, *A. arenivaga* **sp. nov.**, and *A. fervida* **sp. nov.** Currently, eight species of Psychodidae are known from the semi-arid area (including the three species here described)—a region characterized by a long dry season (6–11 months) and low precipitation levels (300–1000 mm/year). A list of the eight species of Psychodidae from the Brazilian semi-arid region is provided.

Key words: Diptera, Psychodidae, Psychodinae, *Alepia*, new species, Caatinga, Brazil

Introduction

Alepia Enderlein, 1937 is one of the most diverse genera of the Neotropical psychodid fauna (Quate & Brown 2004), with forty-four described species (Bravo et al. 2004, Quate & Brown 2004, Wagner & Hribar 2004, Wagner & Svensson 2006). Seventeen species of *Alepia* have been recorded from Brazil (Bravo et al. 2004, Quate & Brown 2004). *A. vaga* Wagner & Svensson, 2006 is a peculiar species of *Alepia* because it was collected in Sweden - but the flies apparently emerged from immatures carried to Europe in a Brazilian bromeliad (Wagner & Svensson 2006). Two other species of *Alepia* have been associated with bromeliads: *A. symmetrica* Wagner & Hribar, 2004 and *A. tricolor* (Knab, 1914) (Duckhouse 1974, Wagner & Hribar 2004). In Brazil, all the known species of *Alepia* are from the Amazonian region or the Atlantic Forest (Duckhouse 1974, Quate & Brown 2004, Bravo et al. 2004), with no recorded collections from the Cerrado or semi-arid regions. The present paper describes three new species of *Alepia*, all of them from the Brazilian semi-arid region (Caatinga) in Bahia State, northeastern Brazil.

Material and methods

The moth flies studied were captured with a light trap. All specimens were treated with 10% KOH, dissected and mounted in slide. Terminology for the morphological descriptions of the species of *Alepia* follows that of McAlpine (1981) for Diptera in general. The specific morphological terminology of Psychodidae follows that of Duckhouse (1990) and Bravo (2006). The specimens were deposited in the *Coleção Entomológica Prof. Johann Becker do Museu de Zoologia da Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil* (MZUEFS).