



Revision of the genus *Austrogastrura* Thibaud & Palacios-Vargas, 1999 (Collembola: Poduromorpha: Hypogastruridae)

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Abstract

A study of type material of *Austrogastrura travassosi* (Arlé, 1939) and fresh specimens of the genus from several Brazilian regions revealed that the present interpretation of the species is not correct. In this paper we redescribe the type-species of the genus *Austrogastrura*, *A. travassosi*, and described a new one, *A. marambaia* **sp. nov.** Both species share a remarkable bright orange color pattern of alive specimens. The revision of *A. travassosi* also showed that *A. edaphica* (Rapoport, 1962) is a valid species. A complete diagnosis of the genus *Austrogastrura* and a comparative table of the known species are also given. At the present time, *Austrogastrura* has only four known species, two of them recorded from Brazil.

Key words: Brazilian collembolan diversity, chaetotaxy, soil fauna, systematics

Introduction

Austrogastrura Thibaud & Palacios-Vargas is a tropical genus of Hypogastruridae with only two described species: *A. travassosi* (Arlé) from Mato Grosso State, Brazil, and *A. lobata* (Yosii) from South Africa (Yosii 1959, Thibaud & Palacios-Vargas 1999). Known representatives of the genus are characterized by 5+5 eyes, postantennal organ with four or five lobes, partly reduced dorsal chaetotaxy of body, dens with six dorsal setae and have no unguiculi and anal spines (Thibaud & Palacios-Vargas 1999). The closest genus to *Austrogastrura* is *Mesogastrura* Bonet, and they both share a similar shape of the postantennal organ, the absence of anal spines and an overall reduction of body pigmentation.

Herein we revise the diagnosis of *Austrogastrura*; redescribe *A. travassosi* (Arlé 1939) based on the type material and new collections made in northeastern Brazil; and describe *A. marambaia* **sp. nov.** from Restinga da Marambaia, incorrectly identified as *A. travassosi* by Thibaud & Palacios-Vargas (1999). Type material of *A. marambaia* **sp. nov.** is deposited in the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro (CM/MNRJ).

Systematics

Genus *Austrogastrura* Thibaud & Palacios-Vargas, 1999

Diagnosis. Habitus typical of Hypogastruridae; body chaetotaxy with smooth or ciliated setae; 5+5 eyes in strongly pigmented eyepatches, postantennal organ formed by one vesicle with a strong tendency to division into four or five lobes; antennal segment IV with 5–8 sensilla; tibiotarsi without unguiculi, tenent hair pointed