



A new species of the sun-spider genus *Mummucia* (Arachnida: Solifugae: Mummucidae) from Piauí, northeastern Brazil

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Abstract

The Brazilian solifuge *Mummucia ibirapemussu* new species (Solifugae, Mummuciidae) from Serra das Confusões National Park, in the semi-arid Caatinga domain, is herein described, with illustrations and SEM pictures of the main taxonomic characters. Geometrical morphometric analyses were also performed and indicated that this new species can be accurately distinguished from *Metacleobis fulvipes* regarding the shape of propeltidium.

Key words: taxonomy, geometric morphometric analysis, solpugid, solifugid, Caatinga

Introduction

Despite the fact that the order Solifugae is less diverse than Acari, Araneae, Opiliones, Scorpiones and Pseudoscorpiones (Harvey, 2002; Rocha and Canello, 2002a), this group is still poorly known in South America (Rocha and Canello, 2002b). It is possible that the low diversity currently known to the Neotropical Region could merely reflect the lack of taxonomists currently working on the group, which resulted in a small number of species described in the current decade (Harvey, 2007). The most important studies on South American species were done by Roewer (1934) and Maury (1970, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1998). A few recent contributions have been published, extending the geographical distribution of Brazilian species (Rocha, 2003; Rocha and Canello, 2002a, c; Rodrigues *et al.* 2007), describing new species from Neotropical domains such as Caatinga (Xavier and Rocha, 2001) and Cerrado (Martins *et al.* 2004; Rocha and Carvalho, 2006), or redescribing species based on recent collected specimens (Rocha and Canello, 2002b).

The known distribution of Solifugae species in Brazil is still fragmentary, with large areas without records (see Rocha and Canello, 2002a). Presently, there are only two records in northeastern Brazil: a single juvenile Ammotrechidae collected at Balsas, State of Maranhão; and the type series of *Mummucia mauryi* Rocha (Mummucidae), whose type-locality is Ibiraba, State of Bahia (Rocha and Canello, 2002a; Xavier and Rocha, 2001).

In this paper we present the first records of Solifugae from the State of Piauí, Northeastern Brazil, describing a new species of the genus *Mummucia* from the Serra das Confusões National Park in the Caatinga domains. We also performed geometric morphometric analyses to compare the new *Mummucia* species with *Metacleobis fulvipes* Roewer 1934 (redescribed by Rocha and Canello, 2002b).