



New species and key of *Aeletes* Horn (Coleoptera: Histeridae: Abraeinae) from Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of abraeine histerid, *Aeletes* (s. str.) *nicolasi* **sp. nov.** is described and illustrated from Paraná State, Brazil. An identification key is provided to the known Brazilian species of *Aeletes*. Ecological data are provided for the new species and for the genus, being the first record of *Aeletes* in carrion.

Key words: Acritini, decaying organic matter, forensic entomology, histerid beetle, Paraná

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de Abraeinae, *Aeletes* (s. str.) *nicolasi* **sp. nov.** é descrita e ilustrada do Paraná, Brasil. Uma chave de identificação para as espécies brasileiras conhecidas de *Aeletes* é fornecida. São incluídos dados ecológicos para a espécie e o gênero, sendo o primeiro registro de *Aeletes* em carcaça.

Palavras chave: Acritini, entomologia forense, histerídeo, matéria orgânica em decomposição, Paraná

Introduction

The species of the tribes Acritini and Abraeini (Abraeinae) are minute histerids with a wide geographic distribution. They occur in decaying organic matter (such as plant detritus, litter, tree cavities, under bark, external debris of ants, in and under decaying seaweed, etc.) and usually prey on small invertebrates such as minute insects, mites and probably nematodes (Mazur 1997; 2005). The Acritini is composed of 11 genera, with *Acritus* LeConte, 1853 and *Aeletes* Horn, 1873 containing the most species (Kovarik & Caterino 2005). *Aeletes* is a diverse group, with about 88 species encountered in all zoogeographic regions (Kovarik & Caterino 2005), of which 48 are known in the Neotropical region (Mazur 1997). Mazur (1997) reported *Aeletes* (s. str.) *troglydytes* Wenzel, 1944 as occurring in Brazil. There is also a dubious record of *Aeletes* (*Acritinus*) *floridae* (Marseul, 1862) for this country. It is possible there are many more undescribed species within the genus.

The aims of this work are to describe a new species of *Aeletes* (s. str.), provide an identification key for the known Brazilian species, record the first occurrence of the genus associated with carrion, and provide ecological data for the genus and species.

Material and methods

Dried specimens were placed in water at room temperature for 12 hours in order to study the male and female genitalia. The specimens were glued on a sheet of paper and the sex was verified by pulling the pygidium. The termi-