



Squamatinia algharbica gen. n. sp. n., a remarkable new Coletiniinae silverfish (Zygentoma: Nicoletiidae) from caves in southern Portugal

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Abstract

A new genus of Coletiniinae silverfish (Nicoletiidae) similar to *Coletinia* Wygodzinsky and *Lepidospora* Escherich is described to accommodate the new species *Squamatinia algharbica* gen. n. sp. n. Many individuals were collected over all seasons of the year in four caves of the Algarve karst massif in the south of Portugal. An identification key for the known genera of Coletiniinae is provided, as well as some biogeographical and ecological comments.

Key Words: Thysanura, new genus, new species, hypogean, cave-dwelling, troglobiont, karst, Algarve, Iberian Peninsula.

Resumo

Um novo género de tisanuro da subfamília Coletiniinae semelhante a *Coletinia* Wygodzinsky e a *Lepidospora* Escherich é descrito, para incluir a nova espécie *Squamatinia algharbica* gen. n. sp. n. Um surpreendente número de indivíduos foi recolhido, ao longo de todas as estações do ano, em quatro grutas do maciço calcário do Algarve, no sul de Portugal. Este estudo fornece uma chave genérica para a subfamília Coletiniinae, bem como considerações ecológicas e biogeográficas sobre a fauna cavernícola do Algarve.

Introduction

Only two species of nicoletiid thysanurans have been recorded previously from Portugal: the epigeal panmyrmecophilous and peri-Mediterranean *Proateturina pseudolepisma* (Grassi & Rovelli, 1890) (Atelurinae) known southwards from the Montejunto-Estrela mountains, and *Coletinia mendesi* Wygodzinsky, 1980 (Coletiniinae). The latter species, which has been collected from several Portuguese biotopes but almost always as a deep edaphobiont, was described from specimens collected in a nest of *Messor* sp. (Formicidae) near Castro Marim and from under a large stone in a ploughed field in the vicinity of Silves, in the Arade River basin, both localities in the Algarve (Wygodzinsky 1980). The species was later reported from the Colaride Cave (Sintra district) and during archaeological research at the Lisbon Cathedral (Mendes 1996), but the identification of this material is now under revision. *Coletinia mendesi* is also known from southern Spain, where it was collected under a large, deeply buried stone near the Arroyo de la Minilla, Sierra Morena, in Córdoba province, Andalusia (Bach de Roca *et al.* 1985); it also occurs, again as an edaphobiont, in other southern Spanish localities from Córdoba to Cádiz provinces (Molero-Baltanás *et al.* 2009).

A new genus and species of Coletiniinae, collected in several caves along the Jurassic karst massif of north-central Algarve, is here described. The Algarve is the southernmost administrative province of Portugal and