



New Neotropical cunaxine species (Acari: Prostigmata: Cunaxidae)

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Abstract

Four new Brazilian cunaxine species, namely *Armascirus brasiliensis* Den Heyer **sp. nov.**, *A. bahiaensis* Den Heyer **sp. nov.**, *Dactyloscirus saopauloensis* Den Heyer **sp. nov.** and *Riscus austroamericanus* Den Heyer **sp. nov.** are described and figured. A key to the new species, as well as the known species of *Riscus*, is provided.

Key words: Bdelloidea, *Armascirus*, *Dactyloscirus*, *Riscus*, Neotropical fauna, keys

Introduction

Since 2006 the bdelloid fauna, especially that of the Neotropical region, has received significant systematic attention (Den Heyer & Castro 2008 a,b,c; Castro & Den Heyer 2008, 2009; Hernandez & Feres 2006; Hernandez *et al.* 2007, 2008, 2011). Quite a number of new bdellid and cunaxid genera have been erected as a result of this work, viz. *Tetrabdella*, *Allocunaxa*, *Cunaxatricha*, *Dunaxeus*, *Qunaxella* and *Lupaeus*; and many new species have been added to these and other genera. The material studied for this paper has been collected in a wide range of geographical areas in Brazil and Peru. In this manuscript we describe four new species from the genera *Armascirus*, *Dactyloscirus*, and *Riscus*.

The genus *Armascirus* contains 38 species (Den Heyer 2011). It was erected, described, figured and historically reviewed by the senior author (Den Heyer 1978) to accommodate four southern African species as well as species such as *Scirus taurus* Kramer, 1881 and *S. bison* Berlese, 1888. Based mainly on southern African specimens he also redescribed the genus *Dactyloscirus* Berlese, 1916 (Den Heyer 1979b). Den Heyer (2006) erected the genus *Riscus* from Thailand.

Materials and methods

Mite specimens were collected by means of a Berlese funnel and mounted on slides with Hoyer's medium. Kethley's (1990) setal notation for the dorsal chaetotaxy, as adapted by Den Heyer & Castro (2008c) for the Bdelloidea, is followed; the appendages follow that of Den Heyer (1981). The abbreviations and symbols used in this paper for the leg chaetotaxy are: asl, sharply-pointed solenidion; bsl, blunt-pointed solenidion; dtsl, dorsoterminal solenidion; fmls (= peo), famulus in depression; ms, macro seta; tsl, terminal solenidion; T, trichobothrium; { }, setae between such brackets indicate duplex or triplex conditions. Setae referred to only by its notation are simple tactile setae (sts). Figures of legs represent only the distal portion of the telofemur, genua, tibiae and proximal parts of tarsi. All measurements are given in micrometers (µm). Measuring bars in figures indicate 100 µm unless stated otherwise; in that case the number of micrometers straddles the measuring bar.

The senior author has studied a collection of Neotropical material of the genus *Armascirus* and *Riscus*. That collection (= Neotropical cunaxine collection for this paper) consisted of about 65 specimens of the former genus