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Description of two new species of *Portanus* Ball, 1932 (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Portanini) from Northeastern Brazil

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Abstract

Two new species of *Portanus* Ball, 1932 are described and illustrated from Brazil. *P. hastatus* **sp. nov.** from Ceará State, can be recognized by its acute pygofer apex and aedeagus with pair of apical processes directed dorsally. *Portanus phoenicius* **sp. nov.** from Piauí State, can be recognized by its rounded pygofer lobe with dorsal tooth turned inwardly, aedeagus apex with pair of elongate processes and pair of rounded flanges directed ventrally. *Portanus boliviensis* is newly recorded from Brazil. These findings double the number of species of Portanini recorded from Northeastern Brazil.

Key words: leafhopper, taxonomy, Northeastern Brazil, Caatinga

Introduction

Ball (1932) described the genus *Portanus* Ball, 1932 based on the type-species *Scaphoideus stigmatosus* Uhler, 1895 and also included in it, *S. longicornis* Osborn, 1923. The author associated this new genus to the deltocephaline genera *Scaphoideus* Uhler, 1889 and *Osbornellus* Ball, 1932 due to its general appearance and venation, but distinguished it from the others by the presence of white rounded maculae along the forewing veins and ocelli positioned equidistant from the compound eyes and crown apex. Later, Linnavuori (1959) transferred two additional *Scaphoideus* species to this genus and described six new species. Linnavuori (op. cit.) redescribed *Portanus* and added as diagnostic features of the genus the presence of three antepical cells (inner one open) on the forewings and hind femoral setal formula 2+2+1. Until 2009, one more species was transferred to *Portanus* and 41 new species were described (DeLong 1976, 1980, 1982, Kramer 1961, 1964, DeLong & Linnavuori 1978, Linnavuori & DeLong 1979, Carvalho & Cavichioli 2001, 2003, 2004a, 2004b, 2005), so the genus then included 52 described species, all from the Neotropical region.

Based on *Portanus*, Linnavuori (1959) also erected the tribe Portanini within Xestocephalinae including the following diagnostic features: lora large, extending to lower margin of gena; antennae unusually long; crown triangular; and male styles with apophysis short, claw-like. Recently, Dietrich (2005) treated Xestocephalinae as a synonym of Aphrodinae, following Hamilton's (1983) treatment of Xestocephalina as a subtribe of Aphrodini. Nevertheless, the three tribes of Aphrodinae (*sensu* Dietrich 2005), Xestocephalini, Portanini, and Aphrodini, did not form a monophyletic group in morphological (Dietrich 1999) or molecular (Dietrich et al. 2001) phylogenetic analyses, so the status and position of these taxa remain uncertain.

Carvalho & Cavichioli (2009) erected a second genus in Portanini, *Paraportanus* Carvalho & Cavichioli, 2009, based on the type-species described in the same work, *P. jenniferae* Carvalho & Cavichioli, 2009. In addition, nine *Portanus* species were transferred to *Paraportanus*. The two genera can be distinguished because *Portanus* has the following synapomorphic features: (1) subgenital plates with transverse unpigmented line at basal third (absent in *Paraportanus*) and (2) connective with basiventral short process (absent in *Paraportanus*). More recently, one new species of *Paraportanus* (Carvalho 2012a) and another one of *Portanus* (Carvalho 2012b) were described, both from Brazil. In the former paper, a key to all *Paraportanus* species is given, however, no key to all

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