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118

Pristina trifida sp. nov., a new soil-dwelling microannelid (Oligochaeta: Naididae) from Amazonian forest soils, with comments on species recognition in the genus

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Abstract

A new species of the oligochaete genus *Pristina* (Naididae) is described from Central Amazonian soil and litter samples. Investigations were carried out on living and preserved material, with emphasis on characters of the soft-bodied anatomy as seen in living specimens, including the sexual organs. Regarding the chaetal pattern, *Pristina trifida* is almost indistinguishable from the syntopic *P. silvicola* Collado & Schmelz, 2000. Conspicuous differences exist, however, in the presence of a stomach with intracellular canals, in the location of the first nephridium in segment IX, and in details of the male reproductive system such as a large prostate gland and a widening of the distal part of the vas deferens. The new species resembles also a group of taxonomically problematic species, *P. sima*, *P. minuta*, and *P. osborni*, whose synonymy has been assumed by several authors. *Pristina trifida* differs from this group mainly by smaller needle and ventral chaetae and by equally long teeth in the anterior ventral chaetae. The high similarity in the chaetal pattern between *P. trifida* and *P. silvicola* implies that there are more species in *Pristina* than the chaetae might suggest. It further questions the accuracy of chaetae-based species identifications and synonymizations in the group of *P. osborni*, *P. minuta*, and *P. sima*, and possibly the genus in general.

Key words: Taxonomy, new species, Clitellata, Annelida, Naididae, *Pristina*, Brazil, live observation, chaetotaxy

Introduction

Five species of *Pristina* Ehrenberg, 1828, three of them new to science, have recently been described from soil and litter samples of a primary rain forest plot at the Brazilian Agroforestry Research Facility (EMBRAPA-CPAA: Empresa Brazileira de Pesquisa

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