New records of six species of subgenus Sophophora (Drosophila, Drosophilidae) collected in Brazil

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Abstract

The Drosophilidae Family of flies is cosmopolitan and is distributed in many types of ecosystems. The knowledge about the distribution of these species in Brazil has grown since the 1940s. However, the large extension of the Brazilian territory and the complexity of its ecosystems accounts for the fact of that this research field is still underexploited. The present study brings together survey data from 12 collection sites in Santa Catarina State, southern Brazil. The flies were collected over fermented banana baits, or over their natural trophic resources. This study expands the knowledge of the geographical distribution of Drosophila ananassae Dolieschall, D. aff. elliptica, D. neosal-tans Pavan & Magalhães, D. pulchella Sturtevant, D. bocainensis Pavan & Cunha and D. bocain-oides Carson, all from the subgenus Sophophora.

Key words: Drosophilidae, Drosophila, Sophophora, new records, geographic distribution, Brazil

Introduction

The genus Drosophila has been used as a model organism in genetic and evolutionary research. Studies on their ecology have provided answers for the sustainable development of the planet (Tidon et al., 2003). According to these authors, Drosophila flies are appropriate for this kind of study by virtue of their wide distribution — both in number of species and individuals — and because they are easily captured and have a short life cycle.

Representatives of these insects can be found practically all over the planet, living in several kinds of ecosystems; some species are endemic to given regions while others are