

## ***Podonomus pepinellii* n. sp., first record of the genus and subfamily from Brazil (Diptera: Chironomidae: Podonominae)**

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### **Abstract**

The subfamily Podonominae and the genus *Podonomus* Philippi, 1865, are reported from Brazil for the first time. *Podonomus pepinellii* n. sp. is described and figured from a single male and associated pupal exuviae.

**Key words:** Brazil, Chironomidae, Diptera, Neotropics, Podonominae

### **Introduction**

In the Neotropics, 10 of the 11 recognized subfamilies of Chironomidae have been documented (Spies & Reiss 1996). However, the subfamilies Aphroteniinae, Diamesinae, Chilenomyiinae, and most Podonominae so far have been reported only from the Andean/Patagonian subregion. The largely cold-stenothermic habitats of most podonomines (Brundin 1966) made the occurrence of these chironomids in Brazil little expected, except possibly near the tops of some mountains along the Atlantic coast that have long been recognized as matching the Andes and Patagonia in harboring cold-stenothermic forms of aquatic insect groups (e.g., Illies 1969).

While conducting a qualitative stream survey of the Simuliidae in one of the highest-elevation regions in Brazil — the Serra da Mantiqueira in São Paulo and Minas Gerais states — Mateus Pepinelli and Neusa Hamada collected and reared specimens of Chironomidae, among them a previously unknown species of *Podonomus* Philippi.

The new species is here described and figured. This discovery constitutes the first record of Podonominae from Brazil, particularly from the Atlantic rain forest.