

Two new species of *Agauopsis* (Halacaridae, Acari) from Southeastern Brazil

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Abstract

Mites belonging to two new species of *Agauopsis* (Halacaridae, Acari) were obtained from seaweed, coarse sand and coarse shell debris taken from several sites in Northern Coast of São Paulo State. *Agauopsis legionium* sp. nov., which belongs to the *brevipalpus* group and *Agauopsis itassussensis* sp. nov., closely related to *A. okinavensis* Bartsch, 1986 are described.

Key words: Halacaridae, *Agauopsis*, Acari, Brazil, Southwestern Atlantic

Introduction

The genus *Agauopsis*, which includes 77 species with valid names (Bartsch, 2003a, b; Pepato and Tiago, 2003), is easily separated from most halacarid genera by its specialized first pair of legs that bears stout medial and ventral spines. Up to date, this genus has been found twice in Brazilian coastline: *Agauopsis bilophus* Pepato and Tiago, 2003 was recorded to the Southeastern Brazilian coast and *A. brevipalpus* (Trouessart, 1889) was referred by Lohmann (1893) to the region off the mouth of Amazonas River. However, the last record requires further verification since most occurrences of *A. brevipalpus* outward of European coast have proved to be erroneous (Bartsch, 1996, Bartsch and Chatterjee, 2001, Chatterjee, Annapurna and De Troch, 2004).

Most of the *Agauopsis* species can be referred to species groups (Bartsch, 1986). This article deals with the description of two new *Agauopsis* species from Southeastern Brazil. *Agauopsis legionium* sp. nov. belongs to the *brevipalpus* group, one of the largest species group within *Agauopsis*, and *A. itassussensis* sp. nov. belongs to the *okinavensis* group, the smallest one, named after *A. okinavensis* Bartsch, 1986, with only two species and an undetermined occurrence (Otto, 1999, Bartsch, 1986).