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A new Brazilian species of *Stenochironomus* Kieffer mining decayed leaves in bromeliads (Diptera: Chironomidae)

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Abstract

All life stages of *Stenochironomus atlanticus* Pinho & Mendes sp. n. are described and figured. The larva mines decaying leaves held in the water of several bromeliad species (*Canistrum lindenii* (Regel) Mez, *Neoregelia laevis* (Mez) L.B. Smith, *Nidularium innocentii* Lemaire, *Vriesea philippocoburgii* Wawra, and *Vriesea vagans* (L.B. Smith) L.B. Smith.) in the Atlantic Rain Forest in southern Brazil [Desterro Environmental Conservation Unit (Unidade de Conservação Ambiental Desterro – UCAD), Santa Catarina Island]. *Stenochironomus atlanticus* is the only species in the genus found in the phytotelmata habitat, and it apparently is restricted to this environment.

Key words: Chironomidae, *Stenochironomus*, new species, Neotropical, phytotelmata

Introduction

The genus *Stenochironomus* was erected by Kieffer (1919). The type species is *Chironomus pulchripennis* Coquillett 1902, designated by Townes (1945). (See discussion in Spies & Sæther 2004). The genus was revised by Borkent (1984). The larvae mine submerged leaves and wood in both standing and flowing waters (Cranston *et al*. 1989). However, according to Borkent (1984), first-instar larvae are free living and search for suitable substrates where they construct the mines.

Stenochironomus occurs in all biogeographic regions except Antarctica. According to Spies & Reiss (1996), 23 species are found in the Neotropical Region, of which 14 are listed from Brazil. All the Brazilian species were described by Borkent (1984), based on

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