

New species and new occurrences of *Copidognathus* (Acari, Halacaridae) from the northern littoral zone of São Paulo State (Brazil)

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Abstract

Seven species from the northern littoral zone of São Paulo State (Brazil) are here reported. *Copidognathus tupinamborum* sp. nov., *C. sophiae* sp. nov., *C. tamoiorum* sp. nov. and *C. ditadii* sp. nov. are described. *C. modestus* Bartsch, 1984, *C. longispinus* Bartsch & Iliffe, 1985 and *C. floridensis* (Newell, 1947) are obtained from the Brazilian littoral for the first time and their descriptions are extended with descriptions of their protonymphs.

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

Introduction

Copidognathus is the most diverse and widespread of the halacarid genera, comprising more than 300 species found in marine environments ranging from the intertidal zone to abyssal depths, and also in some freshwater habitats. They occur in all environments suitable for halacarid mites including algae, beds of mussels and barnacles, sea grasses, sand and mangroves. A few species are closely associated to crabs.

Currently, the genus *Copidognathus* includes only six Brazilian species. *C. caulifer* (Trouessart, 1901) and *C. basidentatus* (Trouessart, 1901) were collected from Bahia State (Northeast of Brazil) from algal samples. *C. lamellosus* (Lohmann, 1893) and *C. speciosus* (Lohmann, 1893) were obtained from sampling performed by the Plankton Expedition (1889) near the Marajó Island, mouth of Amazon River. Pepato, Santos & Tiago (2005) added two species, *C. menippensis* and *C. libiniensis*, associated with crabs. All these species had been recorded only from the type locality or near to it. *C. lamellosus* was once supposed widespread but the European occurrences proved to be misidentifications (Bartsch, 2000).