

New record of Tettigarctidae (Insecta, Hemiptera, Cicadoidea) from the Lower Cretaceous of Brazil

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ABSTRACT

Tettagalma striata, new genus and species of Tettigarctidae (Hemiptera: Cicadoidea), is described from the Lower Cretaceous laminated limestones of the Crato Formation, Brazil. The new discovery represents the first certain record of this family in Brazil and confirms its presence in the Southern Hemisphere during the early Cretaceous. *Architettix* Hamilton, 1990, from the same formation, and all the taxa originally placed in Cicadoprosbolidae, are also included in Tettigarctidae, as the former is considered a synonym.

Key words: Hemiptera, Cicadoidea, Tettigarctidae, *Tettagalma*, early Cretaceous, Crato Formation, Brazil, Cicadoprosbolidae, Prosbolidae

INTRODUCTION

Tettigarctidae is a relict cicadoid family with only two living species: *Tettigarca crinita* Distant, 1883 and *Tettigarcta tormentosa* White, 1845, both confined to high altitude habitats in continental South Australia and Tasmania (Carver *et al.* 1992). The fossil record of this family is poor and dates back to the late Triassic (Popov *et al.* 1994), with representatives mainly in the Northern Hemisphere: *Turutanovia* Bekker-Midgisova, 1949, from the late Jurassic of Kazakhstan; and *Liassotettigarcta* Nel *et al.* 1998, from the early Jurassic of Germany and Tunisia. Other fossil genera included in this family are *Liassocicada* Bode, 1953; *Elkinda* Shcherbakov, 1988; and *Protabanus* Hong, 1982. The new species described here confirms the presence of Tettigarctidae in the Southern Hemisphere during the early Cretaceous.