A new species of Brazilian Dendrocephalus (Anostraca, Thamnocephalidae)

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Abstract

Dendrocephalus thieryi nov. sp., discovered in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, is described. The new species is defined by a unique morphology of its male frontal appendage and of the endopodites of the first four thoracopods. A dichotomous key to all known Dendrocephalus species based on male morphology is presented.

Key words: Anostraca, Thamnocephalidae, new species

Introduction

The Anostracan genus Dendrocephalus Daday (1908) was redefined and diagnosed following the modern standards provided by Pereira (1983), Brendonck & Belk (1997), and Rogers (2006). Fifteen species are currently recognized in two subgenera (Belk & Brtek, 1995; Belk & Brtek, 1997; Rogers, 2006). All species in the subgenus Dendrocephalus (sensu stricto) are distributed in tropical or subtropical warm climate regions of Central and South America from Costa Rica to Argentina, and on the Galapagos Islands (Rabet & Thiéry, 1996). To date only three species are known from Brazil: D. brasiliensis Pesta, 1921, D. orientalis Rabet & Thiéry, 1996, and D. goiasensis Rabet & Thiéry, 1996. Here I describe a new Dendrocephalus species from Minas Gerais state in the south-eastern region of Brazil.

Material and methods

Thirty-three female and 18 male specimens of Dendrocephalus was collected by W. Costa,