



A new species of *Branchinecta* (Crustacea: Anostraca) from Brasil

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Abstract

Branchinecta ferrolimneta, a new species of fairy shrimp, is described from shallow temporary pools from west of Nova Lima, about 10 km south-southeast of Belo Horizonte, in southeastern Brasil. This new species is the second species of *Branchinecta* to be described from Brasil. *B. ferrolimneta* is unique among *Branchinecta* species in the form of the male second antenna, and the female brood pouch and dorsolateral ornamentation. Observations on the ecology of *B. ferrolimneta* are discussed.

Sumário

Uma nova espécie de Anostraca, *Branchinecta ferrolimneta*, é descrita. Esta espécie habita ambientes aquáticos rasos e temporários situados na porção oeste do município de Nova Lima, aproximadamente a 10 km a sul-sudeste da cidade de Belo Horizonte, na região sudeste do Brasil. Trata-se da segunda espécie de *Branchinecta* descrita para o Brasil. *B. ferrolimneta* é única entre as espécies de *Branchinecta* no que se refere à forma do segundo par de antenas do macho e à ornamentação da bolsa ovígera e da porção dorsolateral da fêmea. Observações a respeito da ecologia da *B. ferrolimneta* são discutidas.

Key words: fairy shrimp, Branchinectidae, Branchiopoda, Brazil, Minas Gerais

Introduction

We present a new and unique *Branchinecta* species from the Nova Lima area of Brasil. The vast majority of *Branchinecta* species are endemic to the Americas, with most species occurring in seasonal wetlands in Argentina and the western United States (Rogers 2006). One species is reported from the Antarctic (Jurasz et al. 1983), and six species are known from Eurasia (Belk and Brtek 1995).

This new species was discovered during the course of an environmental assessment for a newly proposed ironore mine (Ferreira and Dabés, 2002). During preliminary surveys of the Nova Lima area in 2001, we were able to find one additional population, and then another in 2004. More surveys need to be conducted to determine the distribution of this species.

Methods

Live animals were collected from the wild in March of 1999 and 2001, and January 2005. Collections were made with a dip net. Dry soil samples were collected in August 2001, and May of 2004. Aliquots of the top 2-5 cm of soil from the deeper portions of dry pools were collected, stored and labeled in resealable plastic