



## A new genus, with a new species, from Brazil (Acari: Prostigmata: Cunaxidae)

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### Abstract

A new cunaxid genus from Brazil, *Cunaxatricha* **gen. nov.**, is erected and its type species, *Cunaxatricha tarsospinosa* **sp. nov.** is described and figured. A key to the genera of the subfamily Cunaxinae, to which this new genus belongs, is provided.

**Key words:** Bdelloidea, Cunaxinae, predatory mite, identification key, taxonomy

### Introduction

Members of Cunaxidae are all free-living and predacious, forming an integral part of soil, plant or stored food ecosystems (Meyer & Ryke 1959, Muma 1960, Gerson *et al.* 2003). They prey mostly on nematodes and small arthropods, mainly mites and Collembola; some species have also been observed feeding on fungi (Walter & Kaplan 1991). Three cunaxid species were previously reported from Brazil namely, *Cunaxa denmarki* Smiley, *Scutascirus braziliensis* Den Heyer and *Dactyloscirus bison* (Berlese). Faunistic studies of mites from Brazilian natural ecosystems (Arruda Filho & Moraes 2002, Zacarias & Moraes 2002, Castro & Moraes 2007) and from plants of agricultural importance (Ferla & Moraes 1998, Feres 2000, Feres *et al.* 2002, Ferla & Moraes 2002, Barbosa *et al.* 2005) reported the Cunaxidae only at generic level. One of these studies reported a considerable diversity of this predatory group in the Atlantic Forest, one of the most important natural ecosystems of Brazil (Castro & Moraes 2007). In a recent study of the mentioned Brazilian cunaxid fauna Den Heyer & Castro (2008a & b) revised the genus *Pseudobonzia* Smiley, divided it and described two new species of a new genus *Coleobonzia* Den Heyer & Castro; they also described three new species of *Neoscirula* Den Heyer. In this paper a new genus found from those natural ecosystems on different plant families of this ecosystems as well as from rubber tree plantations is described.

### Material and methods

Mites were sampled from plants of the Atlantic Forest in Cananéia, Pariquera-Açu and Piracicaba in the State of São Paulo during the Biota project (97/7099-0), and from rubber tree, *Hevea brasiliensis* Muell. Arg., plantations in Piracicaba and Votuporanga in the State of São Paulo and in Selvíria in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul.