



Three new species of *Bidessodes* Régimbart (Insecta, Coleoptera, Dytiscidae) from the Amazon river floodplain

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Abstract

Three new species of *Bidessodes* (Coleoptera, Dytiscidae) are described and illustrated from the Amazon river floodplain (“várzea”): *B. nessimiani* **sp. nov.**, *B. hamadae* **sp. nov.**, and *B. demarcoi* **sp. nov.** *Bidessodes evanidus* Young is recorded for the first time from Amazonas and Pará states, Brazil. All species are included in the subgenus *Bidessodes s. str.* An identification key of *Bidessodes s. str.* species, modified from Young (1986), is provided.

Key words: Neotropics, Brazil, Bidessini, *Bidessodes*, new species, identification key

Introduction

The genus *Bidessodes* Régimbart contains 18 species known from the Neotropical and Australian regions (Nilsson 2001), most of them occurring in South America. Although 13 species have been recorded from Brazil (Young 1986), at the moment, only *B. acharistus* Young and *B. charanicus* Young are known to occur in the Amazon region. The genus is characterized by its fairly oblong body; head without cervical stria; pronotum with basal striae, but without a transverse furrow between them; elytral striae, keels, and sutural lines absent; elytral punctures not aligned in rows; epipleurae without transverse carina (Biström 1988). Because species of *Bidessodes* are very similar externally, it is necessary to examine their male genitalia to determine species.

In this paper, three new species of *Bidessodes* are described from the Amazon River floodplain (“várzea”), Brazil, collected during a field trip in September and October of 2003 with the Preservation Program of the Amazon floodplain – Pró-Várzea/IBAMA. The three new species are placed in *Bidessodes s. str.*, which is characterized by the following characters: the prosternal process anterior to the procoxae neither distinctly ridged nor partly carinate in males; and trochanters of the hind leg large, sometimes slightly modified in males but not conspicuously modified in either sex (Young 1986). In addition to the new species material, *Bidessodes evanidus* Young was collected, the first record of the species from Amazonas and Pará states, in Brazil. This species was previously described from Mato Grosso (Parque Nacional do Xingu) and Rio de Janeiro (Conceição [sic] do Marupa?) states (Young 1986).

The holotypes and part of the paratypes were deposited in the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA) and the remaining paratypes, in the Coleção Entomológica Prof. José Alfredo Pinheiro Dutra, Departamento de Zoologia, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (DZRJ).