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A new *Hydrometra* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Hydrometridae) from northeastern Brazil, with a key to the species recorded from the country

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Abstract

Hydrometra sapiranga **sp. nov.** is described, illustrated, and compared with similar species. An identification key to the species of *Hydrometra* recorded from Brazil is also presented.

Key words: Aquatic insects, Heteroptera, Neotropics, taxonomy, water striders

Resumo

Hydrometra sapiranga **sp. nov.** é descrita, ilustrada, e comparada com espécies similares. Uma chave de identificação para as espécies de *Hydrometra* registradas no Brasil também é apresentada.

Palavras chave: Heteroptera, insetos aquáticos, Região Neotropical, taxonomia

Introduction

The family Hydrometridae comprises a group of small to medium semiaquatic bugs, most of which can be identified by the extremely slender head and body and almost threadlike appendages (Andersen 1982). The family is most diverse in the tropics; only species belonging to the genus *Hydrometra* Latreille, 1796 occurring elsewhere (Schuh & Slater 1995). Representatives of *Hydrometra* can be collected on the vegetated margins of lentic or lotic freshwater bodies, walking on the surface of the water, or on aquatic plants. They are also occasionally found on brackish or marine environments and above rocks on moist terrestrial environments (Mazzucconi *et al.* 2009).

According to Polhemus and Polhemus (2008), 37 species of Hydrometridae occur on the Neotropical Region, eleven of which have been recorded from Brazil (Moreira *et al.* 2011; Moreira and Campos 2012). *Bacillometra ventralis* Esaki, 1927 was described from French Guiana and later recorded from northern Brazil and Venezuela (Esaki 1927; Nieser 1970; Polhemus & Polhemus 2010), *Veliometra schuhi* Andersen, 1977 is known only from a forest reserve in northern Brazil (Andersen 1977), *Limnobotodes paradoxus* Hussey, 1925 has been recorded from the country without further details (Cobben 1968; Andersen 1977); and eight species of *Hydrometra* generally have wider distributions in the country, except for *H. metator* White, 1879, known from a single locality in southern Amazonas State.

As explained by Moreira *et al.* (2011), the Northeast Region of Brazil is the least studied in terms of aquatic and semiaquatic Heteroptera, and of the *Hydrometra* only the widespread *H. argentina* Berg, 1879 has been recorded up to the present (Moreira *et al.* 2009; Moreira & Campos 2012). Based on material collected in coastal Bahia State, a new species of the genus is herein described and included in an identification key for the species of *Hydrometra* known from Brazil.