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New species of *Paracerura* (Collembola: Isotomidae) from Minas Gerais State, Brazil

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Abstract

The present paper describes *Paracerura gandarela* **sp. nov.** based on material from the Serra do Gandarela Mts., Municipality of Caeté, State of Minas Gerais. The new species is the sixth of the Neotropical genus *Paracerura* Deharveng & Oliveira, 1994 with distribution limited to Brazil. *P. gandarela* **sp. nov.** differs from other congeners especially by sensillary set on abdominal segments IV–V and characteristic pigmentation of the body. An identification key to species of the genus is given.

Key words: taxonomy, chaetotaxy, Iron ore soil, southeastern Brazil

Introduction

Paracerura Deharveng & Oliveira, 1994 is a Neotropical genus known only within Brazil, which stands out by conspicuous colour of their species. Up to the present the genus comprised five species altogether. Two of them, *P. virgata* Deharveng & Oliveira, 1994 and *P. airesi* Mendonça *et al.*, 2009 are distributed in northern Brazil while the others, *P. itatiaiensis* (Arlé, 1959), *P. serrana* Mendonça *et al.*, 2009 and *P. pindorama* Queiroz & Mendonça, 2010 appear in Brazilian southeast. The study of the Collembola fauna carried out in Minas Gerais State (southeast Brazil) revealed a new species of *Paracerura* found in the mountain range of Gandarela situated in the “Quadrilátero Ferrífero” (Iron Quadrangle) which extends over 7.200 km². The soil is basically formed of iron ore and the vegetation can be classified into three major types, namely, rainforest (Atlantic forest), open pasture with patches of stunted vegetation (“Cerrado”) and vegetation growing in clayey iron ore soil (“Canga”). *Paracerura gandarela* **sp. nov.** is described and illustrated based on specimens collected in litter from Atlantic forest which grows up on the slopes of Serra do Gandarela. The new species differs easily from others belonging to the genus by a characteristic sensillary set on abdominal segments IV–V and characteristic colour pattern of the body.

Material and methods

The studied specimens were collected from litter and soil on montane vegetation in range of “Serra do Gandarela” whose soil is basically formed of iron ore. The material was extracted with Berlese-Tullgren funnels, bleached, and mounted on glass slides with liquid of Arlé & Mendonça (glycerine, lactic acid and chloral hydrate). The type-material has been deposited in the Collembola Collection at Departamento de Entomologia, Museu Nacional/UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro-RJ, Brazil, under the acronym CM/MNRJ.

Abbreviations used: Ant.—antennal segments, Abd.—abdominal segments, Tita—tibiotsarsus, a—anterior, c—central, d—dorsal, p—posterior, v—ventral.