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Two new species of moth flies (Diptera, Psychodidae) from the semi-arid region of Brazil

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Abstract

Two new species of Psychodinae, Psychodidae, from the semi-arid region of Brazil are described and illustrated: *Arisemus rubeni* sp. nov. and *Lepidiella olgae* sp. nov. Only nine psychodid species were previously known from that region.

Key words: Psychodinae, *Arisemus*, *Lepidiella*, Neotropical region

Introduction

More than 500 species of Psychodidae (excluding the Phlebotominae) have been described from the Neotropical region and approximately 150 are known to occur in Brazil. The family is poorly represented in the semi-arid region of Brazil, with only nine described species, all psychodines: *Alepia arenivaga* Bravo; *A. fervida* Bravo; *A. montana* Bravo; *Australopericoma dissimilis* Bravo; *Psychoda alternicula* Quate; *P. dantilandensis* Bravo, Cordeiro & Chagas; *P. divaricata* Bravo, Cordeiro & Chagas; *P. serraarobonensis* Bravo, Cordeiro & Chagas; and *P. zetoscota* Quate (Bravo 2007, 2008, Bravo *et al.* 2006, Cordeiro *et al.* 2011). Brazil's semi-arid biome covers an area of 969.590 km² in the northeastern part of the country and is characterized by a long dry season (6–11 months) and mean annual rainfall levels of less than 800 mm, usually falling between November and March (Behling *et al.* 2000, Ministério da Integração Nacional 2005). In the present paper, we describe two new species of Psychodinae, both of them from the semi-arid region of northeastern Brazil.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected with “Luiz de Queiroz” light traps and preserved in 70% ethanol, cleared with hot 10% sodium hydroxide, and mounted in Canada balsam. The terminology of the morphological descriptions follows principally Cumming and Wood (2009). The triangular lobe at the base of the wing is referred to as the jugum, following the recommendation of Duckhouse (1987). All of the specimens described are deposited in the Prof. Johann Becker Entomology Collection at the Zoological Museum of the Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana, Brazil (MZFS).

Taxonomy

***Arisemus rubeni* Bravo & Araújo, sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1A–I)

Type material. Holotype, male: BRAZIL, Ceará, Chapada do Araripe, Parque Estadual Sitio Fundão (mata ciliar),