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Brazilian Histerini (Coleoptera, Histeridae, Histerinae): a new species, key to the genera, and checklist of species

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Abstract

A new species of the *Hister coenosus* group from southern Brazil is described. *Hister lucia* sp. nov. is the largest *Hister* sp. in the New World, and is also distinguished by its dorsally and laterally concave mandibles. The three genera of Histerini recorded from Brazil are keyed, and a checklist of species of the tribe recorded from Brazil is presented. In total, seventeen described species of Histerini are recorded from Brazil, including fifteen of *Hister* Linnaeus, one of *Atholus* C. Thomson, and one of *Margarinotus* Marseul.

Key words: biodiversity; Histeroidea, South America, taxonomy

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Hister* grupo *coenosus* é descrita para o sul do Brasil. *Hister lucia* sp. nov. é a maior espécie dentre os *Hister* ocorrentes no Novo Mundo e também pode ser diferenciada das demais espécies por apresentar mandíbulas dorsalmente e lateralmente côncavas. É apresentada uma chave de identificação para os três gêneros de Histerini registrados para o Brasil bem como uma lista das espécies da tribo registrada para o país. Ao total, dezessete espécies de Histerini são registradas para o Brasil, quinze de *Hister* Linnaeus, uma de *Atholus* C. Thomson e outra de *Margarinotus* Marseul.

Palavras chave: América do Sul, biodiversidade, Histeroidea, taxonomia

Introduction

Histerinae is composed of five tribes: Exosternini Bickhardt, 1914; Hololeptini Hope, 1840; Platysomatini Bickhardt, 1914; Omalodini Kryzhanovskij, 1972 and Histerini Gyllenhal, 1808 (Mazur 2011). The last one comprises more than 500 described species distributed in all zoogeographical regions (Kovarik & Caterino 2005; Mazur 2011).

In the Neotropics, the Histerini is represented by five genera: *Atholus* C. Thomson, *Epiglyptus* Lewis, *Hister* Linnaeus, *Margarinotus* Marseul and *Spilodiscus* Lewis, collectively containing about 60 species. The Neotropical species of *Hister* and *Spilodiscus* have been treated in several publications and are considered relatively well known (Caterino 1998; 1999a; 1999b; 2002; 2004; Caterino & Arriagada 2003; Caterino & Kovarik 2001). However, recently a new species of *Hister* from the *coenosus* group (Caterino 1999a), was discovered among the collections of the Museu Anchieta, which we describe here. We also provide a dichotomous key for the genera and a checklist of species of all Histerini known from Brazil.

H. incisifrons Marseul, 1863
H. lissurus Marseul, 1854
H. lucia Leivas, Moura & Caterino **sp. nov.**
H. punctifer Paykull, 1811
H. putridus Erichson, 1834
H. sturnus Marseul, 1862

Militaris group

H. pioti Marseul, 1870 (Type locality, but probably in error as the species is otherwise known only in Mexico; Caterino (2002))

Servus group

H. diadema Marseul, 1854: 559

Margarinotus Marseul, 1853

Margarinotus (Paralister) ignobilis Marseul, 1854 [introduced]

Discussion

Seventeen described species of Histerini are now reported from Brazil, fifteen of *Hister*, one of *Atholus* and one of *Margarinotus*. However, as noted above, both species in the last two genera are introduced, and one reported *Hister* is likely in error (*H. pioti*.) *Hister* is the only genus of Histerini indigenous to Brazil. It is a large group with 195 described species distributed in all zoogeographical regions and with almost 80 species known from the Neotropical and Nearctic regions (Caterino 2004; Mazur 2011). It is intriguing that one of the major groups of Histeridae with a broad geographic distribution that is easily captured (*e.g.* pitfall trap and flight interception trap, Leivas *et al.* (2013)) has only 15 species recorded from Brazil. Evidently the tribe has only reached the continent in recent times, with relatively little time to diversify. This contrasts with some other widespread Histerinae such as *Hololepta* (24 species in Brazil) or with Neotropical-centered genera like *Operclipygus* and *Baconia* (with 54 and 47 species known from Brazil, respectively). However, a similar case is seen in Platysomatini, highly diverse in the Holarctic, as well as the African and Asian tropics, but with only a single reported Brazilian species (*Platysoma directum* Lewis) (Degallier *et al.* 2005). Resolving these biogeographical enigmas demands much further study of the diversity and distributions of histerid beetles in the Neotropical realm.

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