

A new species of *Rubroscirus* from Brazil (Acari: Bdelloidea: Cunaxidae)

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Abstract

Rubroscirus nidorum **sp. nov.** is described and illustrated from chicken nests in a poultry house at Teutônia county, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. This is the first species of this family described from this State and the second of *Rubroscirus* for Brazil.

Key words: Poultry house, natural enemy, predator, Rio Grande do Sul state

Introduction

Mites of the family Cunaxidae are cosmopolitan predators and occur in soil, leaf litter, compost, moss, plants and stored products (Zhang, 2003). Their potential as control agents of plant pests has not been adequately investigated but it has been suggested that mass production of these mites could be hampered by their strong tendency towards cannibalism (Gerson *et al.*, 2003). Den Heyer (1979) erected the genus *Rubroscirus* and designated *Rubroscirus africanus* Den Heyer, 1979 as its type species. The genus currently includes 24 species (Den Heyer, 2011b). Several studies on Brazilian Cunaxidae exist (Den Heyer, 1981; Smiley, 1992; Den Heyer & Castro, 2008a, b, c; Castro & Den Heyer, 2009), yet these likely cover a very small portion of the actual cunaxid fauna. In the case of *Rubroscirus*, *Rubroscirus denmarki* Smiley, 1992 was the only representative of this genus previously reported from Brazil. This is the first species of this family described from this State and the second *Rubroscirus* from Brazil.

Material and methods

The specimens were mounted in Hoyer's medium on slides and observed with a binocular microscope. The slides were dried in an oven and ringed with nail polish. The morphological details were studied by means of a phase contrast microscope. The drawings were made using a camera lucida, and later the lines were strengthened using the computer program Corel Draw X5. Terminology and setal nomenclature of the ventral side follows that of den Heyer (1981). Dorsal body setal designations follow Den Heyer & Castro (2008). Measurements are given in micrometers (µm) with the holotype measurement first followed by the range of all type specimens given in parentheses.

Abbreviations are: dtsl—dorsoterminal solenidium; hgs—hysterogastral seta; pcs—paracoxal seta; pg—paragenital seta; ppgs—propodogastral seta; peg—peg-like setae; peo—cunaxid peg-