

Comparative morphometric study of three species of *Apoamphisiella* Foissner, 1997 (Ciliophora: Hypotrichea) from Brazilian locations, including a description of *Apoamphisiella foissneri* sp. n.

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Abstract

We present a morphometric study comparing three *Apoamphisiella* species from Brazil. *A. jurubatiba* and *A. tihanyiensis* from Cabiúnas Lagoon (Macaé - Rio de Janeiro), and *A. foissneri* sp. n. from Limoeiro River (Além Paraíba - Minas Gerais). This new species was approximately 150 x 70µm *in vivo*, and was characterized by having two postperistomial cirri, two contractile vacuoles, and no cortical granules. In contrast, both *A. jurubatiba* and *A. tihanyiensis* had cortical granules and a single contractile vacuole. Furthermore, *A. jurubatiba* had three posterior frontal cirri and its right marginal cirral row started in the dorsal surface, whereas *A. tihanyiensis* had two posterior frontal cirri. Moreover, the dorsal ciliature pattern was also different among the three species.

Key words: Minas Gerais, morphometry, Rio de Janeiro, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Apoamphisiella* was erected by Foissner (1997) to contain a population of *Onychodromopsis tihanyiensis* Gellért and Tamás, 1958 that was obtained from soil samples collected near the town of Iquitos, Peru. Foissner (1997) observed that this species did not fit well within the characterization by Petz and Foissner (1996) of its original proposed genus, and created the combination *Apoamphisiella tihanyiensis*. Since no type material was mentioned by the original authors, the population from Peru was declared by Foissner (1997) as the neotype for *A. tihanyiensis*, and as the type species for *Apoamphisiella* by its original designation.

Recently, Berger (1999) suggested the combination *Apoamphisiella hymenophora* for *Paraurostyla hymenophora* (Stokes, 1886), and included the genus *Apoamphisiella* in the family Oxytrichidae (Ehrenberg, 1838).