



***Lebaziella* gen.nov. (Insecta: Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Cicadellini): a new sharpshooter genus with descriptions of two new species¹**

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Abstract

The sharpshooter genus *Lebaziella* is described and placed in the tribe Cicadellini. Two new species of *Lebaziella* gen.nov. are described and illustrated: the type-species *L. renatae* **sp. nov.** (Bahia State, Brazil) and *L. viridis* **sp. nov.** (Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Paraná States, Brazil). Species belonging to the new genus can be distinguished from other genera of Cicadellini based on the following characters: (1) pronotum narrower than head with lateral margin parallel; (2) male pygofer without processes; (3) subgenital plate longer than pygofer with many microsetae distributed across its surface; (4) aedeagus with an unpaired apical process, and (5) paraphyses absent.

Key words: Taxonomy, Cicadellinae, morphology, new genus, new species, Neotropical region

Introduction

Cicadellini sharpshooters have a worldwide distribution, with 164 genera and approximately 1100 species in the New World alone (Mejdalani 1998). Since the generic revision of Cicadellini by Young (1977), few genera have been described or revalidated (Hamilton 1985, Mejdalani 1994, Nielson & Godoy 1995, Takiya *et al.* 2001, 2003, Cavichioli 1996, 1998, 2000a, 2000b, 2003 and 2008, and Takiya and Cavichioli, 2005).

Members of the Cicadellinae *sensu* Young (1968) can be distinguished from other leafhoppers by the following characters: (1) ocelli located on crown; (2) frontogenal suture almost always extending onto crown up to or near ocelli; (3) face usually inflated and not pubescent; (4) forewing with outer margin of inner apical cell parallel to long axis of wing; (5) proepisternum exposed; and (6) species usually not flattened dorsoventrally. Members of the Cicadellini can be distinguished from Proconiini by the following characters: (1) antennal ledges usually not protuberant in dorsal view; (2) posterior legs at rest with knees nearly always attaining posterior proepimeral margins; and (3) either male plates or pygofer, or both, with macrosetae or with microsetae not evenly dispersed.

In the present paper, two new species from Brazil are described and placed in the new Cicadellini genus *Lebaziella* gen. nov. The new species key to couplet 45 in Young's (1977) key to New World genera, separating part of *Ramosulus* Young, *Apulia* Young and part of *Allogonia* Melichar from other New World Cicadellini. Species of these genera may have an unpaired apical aedeagus process that does not lie on the median sagittal plane, but other external and male genitalia morphological characteristics separate the new species from these genera. The combination of morphological characteristics of the head, thorax and genital structures of males and females found in the new species warrants their formal description and placement in a new genus.