



Article

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***Lusoblothrus*, a new syarinid pseudoscorpion genus (Arachnida) from Portugal, occupying an isolated position within the Holarctic fauna**

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Abstract

The new pseudoscorpion genus *Lusoblothrus* of the family Syarinidae is described from a cave in the Algarve region, southern Portugal, to accommodate *L. aenigmaticus* sp. nov., whose morphological affinities within the Holarctic syarinid fauna are not clear and resembles the Gondwanan genera. This discovery emphasizes the relevance of the Algarve region as a hotspot for relictual hypogean fauna within the Iberian Peninsula.

Key words: Pseudoscorpiones, Syarinidae, hypogean, Algarve, Iberian Peninsula

Resumo

O novo género *Lusoblothrus* de pseudoscorpião da família Syarinidae, recolhido numa gruta do Algarve (sul de Portugal), é descrito para incluir a nova espécie *Lusoblothrus aenigmaticus*. As suas afinidades com géneros Holárticos são dúbias e algumas características morfológicas assemelham-se às de géneros Gondwânicos. Esta descoberta enfatiza a relevância do maciço calcário do Algarve como um ponto quente de fauna hipógea relíctica dentro da Península Ibérica.

Introduction

The family Syarinidae Chamberlin, 1930 is currently divided into four subfamilies: Arcanobisiinae Zaragoza, 2010 (one genus); Chitrellinae Beier, 1932 (four genera); Ideobisiinae Banks, 1895 (nine genera) and Syarininae Chamberlin, 1930 (two genera). The genus *Hyarinus* Chamberlin, 1925 remains *incertae sedis* (Zaragoza 2010). Knowledge of the family Syarinidae was improved in the taxonomic contributions of Harvey (1992, 1998), Harvey & Edward (2007), Mahnert (1985), Muchmore (1982, 1996) and Zaragoza (2010), among others.

Five hypogean species of pseudoscorpions, belonging to three families, are known from karst areas of Portugal: *Chthonius (E.) minutus* Vachon, 1940, *Chthonius (E.) cardosoi* Zaragoza, 2012, *Titanobochica magna* Zaragoza & Reboleira, 2010, *Roncocreagris blothroides* Beier, 1962 and *Roncocreagris cavernicola* Vachon, 1946 (Reboleira *et al.* 2010b, 2011; Zaragoza 2007, 2012). The discovery of a new syarinid genus in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula with affinities to Gondwanan genera, as well as its isolated taxonomic position within the Holarctic fauna, emphasizes the old age of the hypogean fauna recently discovered in the Algarve region (Reboleira *et al.* 2010; Reboleira *et al.* 2011b; Reboleira *et al.* 2012).

This study describes a new genus in order to accommodate the new species *Lusoblothrus aenigmaticus*, collected in the Algarve region (Portugal).