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New land mollusk fauna from Serra da Capivara, Piauí, Brazil, with a new genus and five new species (Gastropoda: Orthalicoidea, Streptaxidae, Subulinidae)

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Abstract

Five new species and one new genus are described from the Serra da Capivara, Piauí, Brazil, a region of semi-dry, Caatinga environment. The described taxa are: Odontostomidae: 1) *Clinispira insolita*, n. gen. n. sp., possessing strange spire inclination and aperture approaching to the shell apex, it looks closely related to *Anostoma*, *Tomigerus* and *Biotocus*; 2) *Cyclodontina capivara* n. sp., with well-developed axial ribs and 6 teeth at peristome; 3) *Anctus prolatus* n. sp., very elongated, with aperture lacking teeth; Simpulopsidae: 4) *Rhinus gilbertus* n. sp., somewhat elongated and relatively well-sculptured; Streptaxidae: 5) *Streptartemon molaris* n. sp., possessing a very large basalis tooth at peristome. Two subulinids are also reported from the region: 6) *Beckianum beckianum* (Pfeiffer, 1846), a population with peculiar pointed shell apex and well-developed axial sculpture; 7) *Lamellaxis* cf. *gracilis* (Hutton, 1834), a wide-ranged species that merits further investigation. These descriptions show how scanty is our knowledge on northeast Brazilian malacofauna and may raise efforts for its preservation.

Key words: Gastropoda, Pulmonata, new species, semi-dry environment, Caatinga, Brazil, systematics

Introduction

The Brazilian territory is vast, but the knowledge is not vast on its invertebrate fauna. Simple investigations in more remote places usually reveal a series of new taxa, which must be described not only for academic purposes, but also to lead environmental preservation procedures to protect these mostly endangered species (Simone, 1999). The present paper is an example, describing new taxa of a locality in Caatinga semi-dry environment, as part of a project to quickly describe species of depleted regions. By the Brazilian laws type localities have higher possibility of protection. Recent papers of this project have been published (e.g., Simone, 2010, 2012), and secondarily they have been used in higher taxonomical analyses (e.g., Simone, 2011), and environmental purposes (e.g., Rocha et al, 2013).

The region of Serra da Capivara [capivara: *Hydrochoerus hydrochoeris* (Linné, 1766), the largest living rodent of the world] belongs to the Speleological Province of São Raimundo Nonato, SE Piauí State, Brazil, 8°47' to 8°57'S, 42°37' to 42°22'W (Simões, 2001). The region is located in a called Dry Polygon, an area with semi-arid whether, with fine rain irregular both, in time and places, in average 650 mm/year, varying from 0 to 1,100 mm/year. The temperature is 31°C in average, varying from 22° to 45°C (Rodet, 1997; Simões, 2001). The typical vegetation is Caatinga, with forests between hills, including euforbiaceans (e.g., maniçoba, marmeleiro), leguminosae (e.g., juremas, jatobás), bignoniaceans (e.g., carobás, pau d'arco), cactaceans (e.g., mandacarú, xique-xique, palma), and bromeliaceans (e.g., caroá) (FUMGHAM, 2013). The karstic region, in particular, has been greatly exploited, providing firewood for lime kilns (FUMGHAM, 2013).