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A new genus and species of Tarsonemidae (Acari: Heterostigmata) from the Atlantic Forest, Brazil

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Abstract

Kaliszewskia ochoai **gen. nov., sp. nov.** (Tarsonemidae: Tarsoneminae: Tarsonemini) is described from adult females, collected on *Blepharocalix salicifolius* (Kunth) O.Berg and *Plinia* sp. (Myrtaceae), from the Atlantic Forest in Brazil.

Key words: Tarsonemoidea, taxonomy, neotropics, biodiversity

Introduction

The Atlantic Forest biome is almost totally restricted to Brazil. At the time of the Brazilian colonization by the Portuguese, in the XVIth century, it occupied most of the extensive Brazilian coast, reaching in some places deep inland to reach northeastern Argentina and eastern Paraguay, extending from Rio Grande do Norte to Rio Grande do Sul states, over an area of approximately 1,100,100 km² in Brazil. It covered a wide range of climatic zones and vegetation types. Due to urbanization and agricultural occupation, only an estimated 7–8 % of that area remains occupied by native vegetation at different stages of degradation (Galindo-Leal & Câmara 2005). This biome has a great concentration of endemic species subjected to strong anthropic pressure, which has led to its classification as a "hotspot", i.e., a world priority conservation area (Myers *et al.* 2000).

An effort has been made to determine the mite fauna on the main plant groups of the Atlantic Forest. Several papers have dealt with different mite groups of the Atlantic Forest, some of the most recent ones being those published by Buosi *et al.* (2006), Castro & Moraes (2007, 2010) and Demite *et al.* (2013). Myrtaceae is one of the most diverse and widespread plant families of the Atlantic Forest (eg. Mori *et al.* 1983; Tabarelli & Mantovani 1999). About 1,000 species of 23 myrtacean genera were reported from Brazil by Landrum & Kawasaki (1997). The present paper deals with a new species of mites of the family Tarsonemidae from myrtacean plants found in the Atlantic Forest.

About 35 tarsonemid species have been reported from Brazil (Ochoa & OConnor 1996; Binotti *et al.* 2001; Gondim Jr. & Oliveira 2001; Lin & Zhang 2002; Moraes *et al.* 2002; Lofego & Feres 2006; Lofego & Gondim Jr. 2006; Lofego *et al.* 2005, 2007; Sousa *et al.* 2014; Demite *et al.* 2012; Rezende *et al.* 2015), including 21 species from the Atlantic Forest (Feres *et al.* 2005, 2007; Buosi *et al.* 2006; Lofego & Feres 2006; Demite *et al.* 2012; Sousa *et al.* 2014). It has been predicted that many tarsonemid species remain to be discovered in tropical regions, including the Atlantic Forest, given that the number of described species is considerably smaller than in temperate regions (Lin & Zhang 2002).