ECOSYSTEMS

Phytoseiid mites (Acari: Mesostigmata: Phytoseiidae) from Mato Grosso State, Central-Western Brazil

PETERSON R. DEMITE, JOSÉ M. REZENDE, ANTONIO C. LOFEGO, FELIPE S.R. AMARAL, MARLITON R. BARRETO & GILBERTO J. DE MORAES

Abstract: The aim of the present study was to conduct a survey of mites of the family Phytoseiidae associated with plants of the natural vegetation and cultivated forests in sites of three biomes (Amazon Forest, Cerrado and Pantanal) in the Mato Grosso State. Twenty-one species of 11 genera, of the three phytoseiid subfamilies were registered. Amblyseius Berlese was the most diverse genus, with five species. Iphiseiodes zuluagai Denmark & Muma was the most common species, collected from 12 plant species in five collection sites. Eleven phytoseiid species were reported for the first time in the Mato Grosso State.

Key words: Diversity, faunistic survey, biological control, Parasitiformes, predator.

INTRODUCTION

Mato Grosso is a large state of the central-western region of Brazil, occupying an area of about 10% (903,207 km²) of the country’s territory (IBGE 2020) and extending over parts of three biomes (Amazon Forest, Cerrado and Pantanal). Despite being one of the main agricultural producers in Brazil (Sousa et al. 2017), relatively few studies (Ferla & Moraes 2002, Moraes et al. 2006, Demite & Feres 2007, Demite et al. 2008a, 2009, Daud & Feres 2013) have been conducted to understand the local mite fauna. Most of these studies have been conducted in rubber tree plantations, except that of Demite et al. (2009), conducted in areas of natural vegetation of the Cerrado biome, neighboring plots of rubber trees. In these studies, only 25 phytoseiid species were reported, too few for a state about the size of the largest countries of western Europe. Knowledge regarding the mite fauna is of considerable importance to establish effective programs for the biological control of pest organisms.

Phytoseiidae is considered the most important family of predatory mites, with several species being produced and used commercially for the biological control of arthropod pests, including small insects (thrips and whiteflies) and mites (McMurtry et al. 2013, 2015, Knapp et al. 2018). The aim of this study was to evaluate the phytoseiid species associated with plants both in the natural vegetation and cultivated forests in Mato Grosso State.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Mites were collected from ten sites (Table I and Figure 1). Leaf and flower samples were obtained from the natural vegetation and cultivated forests from sites of the biomes found in the state between January 2015 and September 2016. They were put in plastic bags and transported.
to the laboratory, where they were washed in a bucket containing 8L of 30% ethanol and then filtered through a 50 µm mesh screen, from which mites were collected as described by Rezende & Lofego (2011).

The samplings carried out in Nobres, Poconé (areas 1 and 2) and Sinop (areas 1, 2 and 3) were conducted by E.P.J. Britto, M.R. Barreto and T.T. Bukoski; the sampled carried out in Cáceres, Cotriguaçu, Rondonópolis and Sinop (area 4) were conducted by A.C. Lofego, F.S.R. Amaral and J.M. Rezende.

The mites were sorted under a stereomicroscope (40x), mounted in Hoyer’s medium and examined under phase contrast microscopy (Zeiss Axio Imager M3). Identification to genus level was done mostly based on Chant & McMurtry (2007). Species identification was done initially with the use of the key for Brazilian phytoseiid species available in the unpublished MS thesis of A.C. Lofego, later confirmed using species descriptions and redescriptions available in the literature (references listed subsequently under each species) and comparison with voucher and type specimens deposited in the mite collections of ESALQ-USP Piracicaba and UNESP São José do Rio Preto.

Voucher specimens were deposited at the mite reference collections of Departamento de Zoologia e Botânica, UNESP—Universidade Estadual Paulista, São José do Rio Preto and of Departamento de Entomologia e Acarologia, Escola Superior de Agricultura “Luiz de Queiroz”, Universidade de São Paulo (ESALQ-USP), Piracicaba, both in São Paulo State, Brazil.

RESULTS

Twenty-one species were found, belonging to 11 genera of three phytoseiid subfamilies, as subsequently specified.

Amblyseiinae

Amblydromalus insolitus Nuvoloni & Lofego

Amblydromalus insolitus Nuvoloni & Lofego, in Nuvoloni et al. 2015a: 262.

Specimens examined – Poconé (area 1): Inga sp. (Leguminosae – Fabaceae), IV-2016 (5 females).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Geographic Coordinates</th>
<th>Vegetation Type/Biome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Cáceres</td>
<td>16°01'S, 57° 43’W</td>
<td>Natural Vegetation / Pantanal Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Cotriguaçu</td>
<td>09°51’S, 58° 14’W</td>
<td>Natural Vegetation / Amazon Forest Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Nobres</td>
<td>14°32’S, 55° 22’W</td>
<td>Natural Vegetation / Cerrado Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Poconé - Area 1</td>
<td>16°29’S, 56° 23’W</td>
<td>Natural Vegetation / Pantanal Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Poconé - Area 2</td>
<td>16°30’S, 56° 24’W</td>
<td>Natural Vegetation / Pantanal Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Rondonópolis</td>
<td>16°33’S, 54° 34’W</td>
<td>Natural Vegetation / Cerrado Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Sinop - Area 1</td>
<td>11°50’S, 55° 29’W</td>
<td>Natural Vegetation / Amazon Forest Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Sinop - Area 2</td>
<td>11°52’S, 55° 30’W</td>
<td>Cultivated Forest / Amazon Forest Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Sinop - Area 3</td>
<td>11°51’S, 55° 28’W</td>
<td>Cultivated Forest / Amazon Forest Biome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Sinop - Area 4</td>
<td>11°52’S, 55° 23’W</td>
<td>Natural Vegetation / Amazon Forest Biome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Remarks: The specimens collected in this study have seven setae on the genu III (1 2/1 2/0 1), differently from what was originally reported for the type specimens (eight setae: 1 2/2 2/0 1). An examination of the type specimens (holotype and six paratypes; all from Igapó, Bahia State, Brazil) showed that the actual number is seven, not eight setae. This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

**Amblyseius acalyphus** Denmark & Muma


Specimens examined – **Cáceres**: Byrsonima sp. (Malpighiaceae), I-2015 (6 females); **Cotriguaçu**: Tabernamontana sp. (Apocynaceae), I-2015 (1 female); **Poconé**: *Inga* sp. IX-2016 (1 female).

**Amblyseius aerialis** (Muma)


**Amblyseius aerialis**.— Athias-Henriot 1957: 338.

**Typhlodromus** (*Amblyseius*) *aerialis*.— Chant 1959: 88.


Specimens examined – **Cáceres**: Byrsonima sp., I-2015 (2 females), *Erythroxylon* sp. (Erythroxylaceae), I-2015 (2 females and 1 male); **Cotriguaçu**: unidentified Bignoniaceae, I-2015 (1 female), *Solocea guilleminiana* Gaudich.
(Moraceae), I-2015 (1 female) unidentified Melastomataceae, I-2015 (1 female), unidentified Rubiaceae, I-2015 (1 female); **Rondonópolis:** *Psidium guajava* L. (Myrtaceae), I-2015 (1 female); **Sinop (area 4):** unidentified Heliconiaceae, I-2015 (3 females).

**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

**Amblyseius chiapensis** De Leon

*Amblyseius chiapensis* De Leon, 1961: 85.

*Amblyseius triplaris* De Leon, 1967: 25 (synonymy according to Denmark & Muma 1989).

**Specimens examined** – Cotriguaçu: unidentified Annonaceae, I-2015 (1 female), *Inga* sp., I-2015 (1 female).

**Amblyseius chicomendesi** Nuvoloni, Lofego, Rezende & Feres

*Amblyseius chicomendesi* Nuvoloni et al. 2015b: 189.

**Specimens examined** – Sinop (area 4): unidentified plant, I-2015 (1 female).

**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

**Amblyseius operculatus** De Leon


*Amblyseius* (*Amblyseius*) *operculatus.—* Denmark & Muma 1989: 47.


**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

**Euseius alatus** De Leon


**Specimens examined** – Nobres: *Handroanthus* sp., IV-2016 (2 females); **Sinop (area 1):** *Dypterix odorata* (Aubl.) Willd. (Leguminosae – Fabaceae), II-2016 (2 females); **Sinop (area 2):** *Hymenaea courbaril* L. (Leguminosae – Fabaceae), IX-2016 (2 females); **Sinop (area 3):** *Khaya ivorensis* A. Chev. (Meliaceae), II-2016 (1 female).

**Euseius citrifolius** Denmark & Muma

*Euseius citrifolius* Denmark & Muma, 1970: 222.

**Specimens examined** – Nobres: *D. odorata*, IV-2016 (6 females and 1 male); **Rondonópolis:** *P. guajava*, I-2015 (2 females); **Sinop (area 1):** *D. odorata*, II-2016 (2 males), *Bertholletia excelsa* Bonpl. (Lecythidaceae), IX-2016 (1 female); **Sinop (area 2):** *B. excelsa*, II-2016 (7 females and 2 males), IX-2016 (3 females and 2 males), *H. courbaril*, II-2016 (3 females and 2 males), IX-2016 (1 male), *Swietenia macrophylla* King (Meliaceae), II-2016 (3 females and 1 male), IX-2016 (2 females); **Sinop (area 3):** *K. ivorensis*, II-2016 (8 females).

**Euseius concordis** (Chant)


*Euseius concordis.—* Denmark & Muma 1973: 264.

*Euseius flechtmani* Denmark & Muma, 1970: 223 (synonymy according to Moraes et al. 1982).

**Specimens examined** – Nobres: *Handroanthus* sp., IV-2016 (1 female); **Rondonópolis:** *P. guajava*, I-2015 (1 female and 1 male); **Sinop (area 2):** *B. excelsa*, II-2016 (1 female and 1 male); **Sinop (area 3):** *K. ivorensis*, II-2016 (1 female and 1 male).

**Euseius sibelius** (De Leon)

Euseius sibelius.— Muma & Denmark 1970: 98.


**Specimens examined** – Nobres: Caryocar brasiliense A.St.-Hil. (Caryocaraceae), IV-2016 (3 females and 3 males).

**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Iphiseiodes raucuara Nuvoloni, Lofego, Rezende & Feres

Iphiseiodes raucuara Nuvoloni et al. 2015b: 195.

**Specimens examined** – Cotriguaçu: Sapindaceae sp., I-2015 (1 female), Sapotaceae sp., I-2015 (1 female), Genipa americana L. (Rubiaceae), I-2015 (1 female).

**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Iphiseiodes zuluagai Denmark & Muma

Iphiseiodes zuluagai Denmark & Muma, 1972: 23.

**Specimens examined** – Cáceres: Alchornea sp. (Euphorbiaceae), I-2015 (1 male), Annona sp. (Annonaceae), I-2015 (1 male), Byrsonima sp., I-2015 (2 males), Erythroxylum sp., I-2015 (3 females and 3 males), Handroanthus sp., I-2015 (2 females and 1 male), Rubiaceae sp.2, I-2015 (2 males); Cotriguaçu: Hymenaea sp. (Leguminosae – Fabaceae), I-2015 (2 males); Poconé (area 1): Handroanthus sp., IV-2016 (1 female); Sinop (area 3): B. excelsa, II-2016 (6 females and 3 males), K. ivorensis, II-2016 (1 male); Sinop (area 4): B. excelsa, I-2015 (14 females and 3 males), Erisma sp. (Vochysiaceae), I-2015 (4 females), Myristicaceae sp., I-2015 (1 female and 1 male), Ofersia cf. cervina (L) Kunze (Dryopteridaceae), I-2015 (2 females).

**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Neoseiulus tunus (De Leon)


Neoseiulus tunus.— Ferla & Moraes 2002: 872;


**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Paraamblyseius multicircularis Gondim Jr. & Moraes

Paraamblyseius multicircularis Gondim Jr. & Moraes, 2001: 79.

**Specimens examined** – Cotriguaçu: unidentified Sapindaceae, I-2015 (1 female), unidentified plant 2, I-2015 (1 female).

**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Proprioseiopsis ovatus (Garman)


Typhlodromus (Amblyseius) ovatus.— Chant 1959: 90.


**Proprioseiopsis ovatus**.— Muma & Denmark 1970: 38.

**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Amblyseiohipsis judsonianus Chant & Hansell, 1971: 723 (synonym according to Denmark & Evans 2011).

Amblyseiohipsis parapeltatus Wu & Chou, 1981: 274 (synonym according to Tseng 1983).
Amblyseius peltatus Van der Merwe, 1968: 119 (synonym according to Tseng 1983).

Amblyseius (Proprioseiopsis) peltatus.— Blommers 1976: 100.


Proprioseiopsis punicae.— Moraes et al. 1986: 122.

Specimens examined – Cotriguaçu: Annona sp., I-2015 (1 female), Handroanthus sp., I-2015 (1 female), unidentified plant (1 female).

Remarks: Proprioseiopsis cannaensis was considered junior synonym of P. ovatus by Denmark & Evans (2011). However, Moraes & McMurtry (1983) measured and illustrated the spermathecae of holotypes of both species, reporting the following differences: P. cannaensis having calyx short (13 µm) and progressively increasing in diameter towards the base, and P. ovatus having calyx long (22 µm) and somewhat constricted medially. The specimens collected the shape of the calyx is most similar to the illustration provided by Moraes & McMurtry (1983) for P. cannaensis, 15 µm long. In our experience along the years, mites of this group collected in the American continent most often have calyx of the P. cannaensis type. Hence, studies to confirm or not that proposed synonymy should be conducted. Ideally, priority should be given to collect new specimens from the respective type localities. There would be no problem in this regard concerning P. cannaensis, whose type locality is Winter Haven, Florida, USA. However, the type locality of P. ovatus is not adequately known, as it was described from a single specimen intercepted in quarantine at Brownsville, Texas, USA, on plants imported from Ecuador. Hence, an effort should be made to determine more precisely the source of that specimen. This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Proprioseiopsis neotropicus (Ehara)

Amblyseius neotropicus Ehara, 1966: 133.

Proprioseiopsis neotropicus.— Moraes et al. 1986: 119.

Specimens examined – Cotriguaçu: Byrsonima sp., I-2015 (1 female).

Typhlodromalus aripo De Leon


Amblyseius aripo.— Moraes & McMurtry 1983: 132.

Specimens examined – Cotriguaçu: Inga sp., I-2015 (1 female).

Phytoseiinae

Phytoseius intermedius Evans & MacFarlane


Phytoseius (Phytoseius) intermedius.— Ehara 1972: 170.

Phytoseius intermedius.— Moraes et al. 2004: 242.

Phytoseius (Phytoseius) yira Pritchard & Baker 1962: 227 (synonymy according to Denmark 1966).

Specimens examined – Sinop (area 2): B. excelsa, IX-2016 (3 females).

Remarks: This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

Phytoseius kaapre Demite, Lofego & Feres


Remarks: This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.
Typhlodrominae

*Galendromus (Galendromus) annectens* (De Leon)

*Typhlodromus annectens* De Leon, 1958: 75.  
*Galendromus (Galendromus) annectens.*— Muma 1963: 30.

**Specimens examined** – **Nobres:** C. brasiliense, IV-2016 (1 female), D. odorata, IV-2016 (1 female).

*Leonseius regularis* (De Leon)

*Typhloseiopsis regularis regularis* De Leon, 1965: 122.  

**Specimens examined** – **Cotriguaçu:** Matayba sp. (Sapindaceae), I-2015 (9 females), Siparuna guianensis Aubl. (Siparunaceae), I-2015 (2 females), S. guilleminiana, I-2015 (6 females and 2 males), Bauhinia sp. (Leguminosae – Fabaceae), I-2015 (2 females), Tabernaemontana sp., I-2015 (1 female), G. americana, I-2015 (1 female); **Sinop (area 4):** unidentified plant 4, I-2015 (1 female).

**Remarks:** This is the first record of this species for Mato Grosso State, Brazil.

**DISCUSSION**

*Iphiseiodes zuluagai* was the most common species in this study, being recorded from 12 plant species and in five collection sites, two from the Amazon Forest biome, two from the Pantanal and one from cultivated forest grown in a region where the original vegetation was Amazon Forest. Three other species also occurred both on plants of the natural vegetation and on plants of cultivated forests: *Euseius alatus, E. citrifolius* and *E. concordis*. These four species have been frequently found in Brazil, both on cultivated plants (e.g. Mineiro et al. 2004, 2009, Hernandes & Feres 2006, Rezende & Lofego 2012, Silva et al. 2012, Lofego et al. 2013, Domingos et al. 2014, Baldo et al. 2018) and on plants of the Amazon Forest (Nuvoloni et al. 2015b), Cerrado (Lofego et al. 2004, Demite et al. 2009, 2017, Rezende & Lofego 2011), and Pantanal (Mendonça et al. 2019). In Mato Grosso State, *E. alatus* was previously reported from rubber trees (Ferla & Moraes 2002), while *E. citrifolius, E. concordis* and *I. zuluagai* were reported from rubber trees (Feres 2000, Feres et al. 2002, Demite & Feres 2007, Daud & Feres 2013) and from plants of the Cerrado vegetation (Demite et al. 2009). *Amblyseius aerialis* was the only species reported on plants of the three biomes. *Amblyseius chicomendesi* and *I. raucuara* were previously reported only from the original descriptions, from the Amazonian region, in Acre State, northwest of Mato Grosso (Nuvoloni et al. 2015b). In the present study, they were collected only in the Amazon Forest area, in Cotriguaçu (*I. raucuara*) and Sinop (*A. chicomendesi*). In addition to these two, nine other species are reported for the first time in Mato Grosso. These new records of species and genera demonstrate the importance of conducting surveys to better understand the diversity of this important group of predatory mites in Central-Western region of Brazil.

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Each author presented relevant contribution to elaboration of the present manuscript as follows: Peterson R. Demite and Gilberto J. de Moraes: contributed to the study through identifying the species and writing the manuscript. José M. Rezende and Felipe S.R. Amaral: contributed through sampling the specimens and giving preliminary identifications. Antonio C. Lofego and Marliton R. Barreto: contributed in the collection of the mites and in the preparation of the manuscript.