A new species of *Alboscia* Schultz, 1995 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Oniscidea: Philosciidae) from Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Alboscia* Schultz, 1995, *A. itapuensis* n. sp. is described from southern Brazil. The new species can be differentiated from *A. elongata* Schultz, 1995, *A. silveirensis* Araujo, 1999 and *A. ornata* Araujo, 1999 by the absence of eyes, the pattern of the aesthetascs on the antennule and by the presence of a spoon-like dactylar organ. A key for the identification of the species of *Alboscia* is provided.

Key words: Isopoda, Oniscidea, *Alboscia*, new species, Brazil

Introduction

The genus *Alboscia* was established by Schultz (1995) on the basis of a single species, *A. elongata* Schultz, 1995, collected in Paraguay. A further two species, *A. silveirensis* Araujo, 1999 and *A. ornata* Araujo, 1999, have since been described, both from the most southerly Brazilian State, Rio Grande do Sul. Araujo (1999) revised the generic diagnosis, adding some new characters. Species of *Alboscia* can be recognised by the conspicuous noduli laterales, outer lobe of maxillule being provided with pectinate teeth, endite of maxilliped without penicil, and pereopods with dactylar organ.

The phylogenetic position of *Alboscia* in relation to other genera of Philosciidae from South America has not been established. However, Leistikow (2001) suggested that the genus is related to the Prosekiini, in which case the ctenate maxillular teeth are a new acquisition of *Alboscia*, not related to *Benthana* and *Benthanoides*.

Recent surveys in the protected area of Parque Estadual de Itapuã, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, resulted in the discovery of a new species, *A. itapuensis* n. sp., which is described herein.