

Heteragrion lencionii (Odonata: Heteragrionidae) sp. nov. from Serra de Itabaiana National Park, Northeastern Brazil

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Abstract

The Neotropical genus *Heteragrion* Selys, 1862 is one of the most speciose among Zygoptera. Notwithstanding, most of its species are poorly known, especially those from undersampled areas such as Northeastern Brazil. Here, we describe *Heteragrion lencionii* sp. nov., from protected areas of Sergipe state (Holotype ♂, Brazil, Sergipe, Areia Branca, Serra de Itabaiana National Park, -10.7484, -37.3390, 179 m, 7.xii.2020, A.B. Farias & A.E. dos Santos leg., in UFS). This is only the second *Heteragrion* species discovered as new for the Northeastern region of Brazil, separated from other congeners by cercus morphology and thoracic coloration pattern.

Keywords: Damselfly, Neotropical, New species, Sergipe state, Atlantic Forest

Resumo

O gênero Neotropical *Heteragrion* Selys, 1862 é um dos mais especiosos dentre os Zygoptera. Mesmo assim, a maioria de suas espécies é pouco conhecida, especialmente as de regiões pouco amostradas como o Nordeste Brasileiro. Aqui descrevemos *Heteragrion lencionii* sp. nov. coletado em áreas de proteção ambiental do estado de Sergipe (Holótipo ♂, Brasil, Sergipe, Areia Branca, Parque Nacional Serra de Itabaiana, -10.7484, -37.3390, 179 m, 7.xii.2020, A.B. Farias & A.E. dos Santos leg., UFS). Esta é apenas a segunda espécie de *Heteragrion* a ser descrita com material proveniente do Nordeste do Brasil, que pode ser separada de seus congêneres pela morfologia dos cerci e padrão de coloração torácico.

Palavras-chave: Libélula, Neotropical, nova espécie, Sergipe, Mata Atlântica

Introduction

In Brazil, invertebrate species occurring in the Atlantic Forest biome are among the most threatened ones, the remaining coverage ranges from 11.4% to 16% (Mittermeier *et al.* 2004; Ribeiro *et al.* 2009). This is mainly due to long history of human disturbances, since about three quarters of the Brazilian population lives in areas originally of Atlantic Forest (Joly *et al.* 2014). Nevertheless, new species of insects, for instance odonates, are constantly being discovered in such fragmented areas, thus highlighting its importance on holding endemic species (Carvalho *et al.* 2008; Lencioni 2008, 2013, 2017; Pimenta *et al.* 2019).

Here we describe a new species of *Heteragrion* Selys, 1862 (Odonata: Heteragrionidae) from protected Atlantic Forest areas of Sergipe state, Northeastern Brazil. This is the second *Heteragrion* species to be discovered in this region of Brazil (the first one was *H. consors* Hagen in Selys, 1862, described from Bahia state), as the majority of the “Brazilian” species have been described for the Southeastern and Northern regions (Lencioni 2013; Machado 2015; Ávila-Júnior *et al.* 2017, 2020; Vilela *et al.* 2019).