

Leptagrion itabaiana sp. nov. (Odonata: Coenagrionidae) from Serra de Itabaiana National Park, Sergipe state, Northeastern Brazil

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Abstract

Leptagrion itabaiana sp. nov. (Brazil, Sergipe, Areia Branca, Serra de Itabaiana National Park, (10.7517 S, 37.3415 W, 179 m asl), 3.ii.2021, J.C. Santos leg.) is described, diagnosed, illustrated and compared with morphologically close congeners based on male specimens. The new species can be separated from other *Leptagrion* species mainly by cercus morphology.

Key words: Zygoptera, new species, Neotropical, bromeliad, damselfly, phytotelma

Resumo

Leptagrion itabaiana sp. nov. (Brasil, Sergipe, Areia Branca, Parque Nacional Serra de Itabaiana, (10.7517 S, 37.3415 W, 179 m asl), 3.ii.2021, J.C. Santos leg.) é descrita, diagnosticada, ilustrada e comparada com machos congêneres, próximos morfologicamente. A nova espécie pode ser separada de outras espécies de *Leptagrion* principalmente pela morfologia dos cercos.

Palavras-chave: Zygoptera, nova espécie, Neotropical, bromélia, donzelinha, fitotelma

Introduction

Leptagrion Selys, 1876 is currently composed by 17 species, all of them endemic to coastal areas of Brazil, the Guianas, and Venezuela (Lencioni 2006; Garrison *et al.* 2010; Paulson & Schorr 2021). In those humid areas, larvae of *Leptagrion* develop in water reservoirs of tank bromeliads, which can be terrestrial or epiphytic (Santos 1966; Lencioni 2017). Such Atlantic Forest habitats are currently endangered in Brazil, with over 90% of their natural coverage lost and replaced mostly by urban areas (Joly *et al.* 2014).

Here we describe *Leptagrion itabaiana* sp. nov. based on males found perching on terrestrial bromeliads in a transition region between Caatinga and Atlantic Forest in Sergipe State, Northeastern Brazil, in February 2021.

Material and methods

Specimens of the new species were collected at the municipality of Areia Branca (Serra de Itabaiana National Park), Sergipe State, Northeastern Brazil, in February 2021. All specimens were collected under ICMBio/SISBIO license (number 70822-3).