

A NEW BRAZILIAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS *BRACHYLABIS* DOHRN (DERMAPTERA, CARCINOPHORIDAE)

A. BRINDLE

ABSTRACT

Brachylabis lenkoi, sp. n. (type-locality, Brazil, São Paulo, Barueri), collected in the nests of *Camponotus rufipes* (Fabricius, 1775), is described. Comments are made on the remaining Neotropical species of Brachylabiinae.

The genus *Brachylabis*, as listed in Burr (1911: 41) contains few species, but it forms the typical genus of the subfamily Brachylabiinae (Burr, 1911: 40). This subfamily consists of a small number of genera and species and forms a relatively small group of the family Carcinophoridae (= Psalinae, Parisolabiinae, Brachylabiinae and Platylabiinae of Burr, 1911: 24). The Brachylabiinae are a somewhat distinctive subfamily, the species being dark coloured, almost always without elytra or wings, and with relatively long legs. The eyes are sometimes very large, as in *Metisolabis*, or may be very small, as in some species of *Antisolabis*. Within the subfamily are a number of genera, all of which are very imperfectly characterized; for this reason the numerous species described since Burr (1911) have been placed somewhat arbitrarily into any of the genera. The taxonomic position is therefore confused, since all the species in any genus do not agree in characters with the type species. A revision of the Carcinophoridae is in preparation by the present author, but pending the completion of this it has been the practice of the author to describe any new species of the subfamily under *Brachylabis*. This is because it is now impossible to place any new species satisfactorily, and whichever genus a species is now described under, some transference is very likely to be necessary later.

The Neotropical species of the Brachylabiinae, so far known, are as follows:

<i>Brachylabis chilensis</i> Blanchard, 1851	Chile
<i>Brachylabis coriacea</i> Burr, 1910	Brazil
<i>Nannisolabis punctulata</i> Moreira, 1931.	Brazil
<i>Ctenisolabis nigra</i> (Scudder, 1876)	Brazil
<i>Ctenisolabis montana</i> Borelli, 1909	Costa Rica
<i>Ctenisolabis fernandezi</i> Borelli, 1909	Costa Rica
<i>Leptisolabis howardi</i> Burr, 1910	Guatemala
<i>Leptisolabis aliena</i> , Borelli, 1911	Costa Rica

All these species measure 8 mm in body length or more, and until recently no much smaller species of the subfamily were known to exist. Hincks (1952) however described a new species, *Geracodes labioides*, from Sierra Leone, which measured 5-7 mm in total length. This species is unusual in having elytra and sometimes wings. Hincks also transferred a described species, *Geracodes litus* Hebard, from the Labiidae to the Brachylabiinae together with *Geracodes paraguayensis* Borelli. All of these are small, but since the male genitalia of the last two species are not known, it is not yet certain that these are really members of the Brachylabiinae.

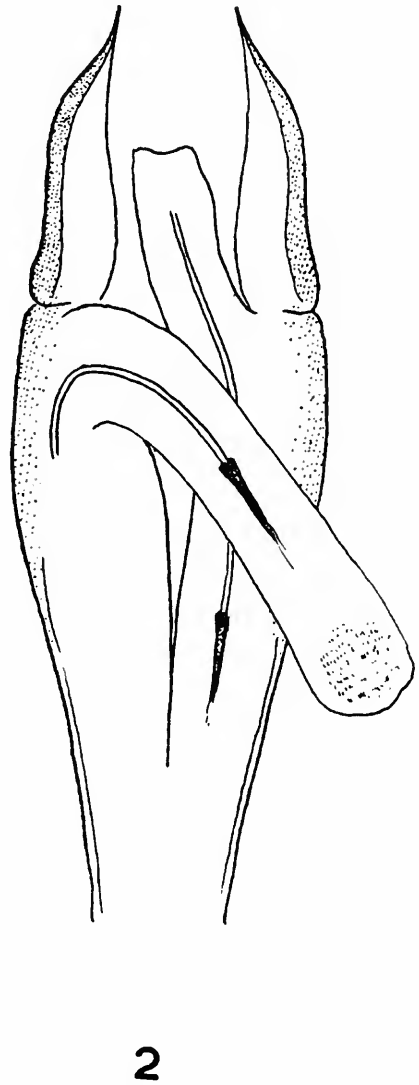
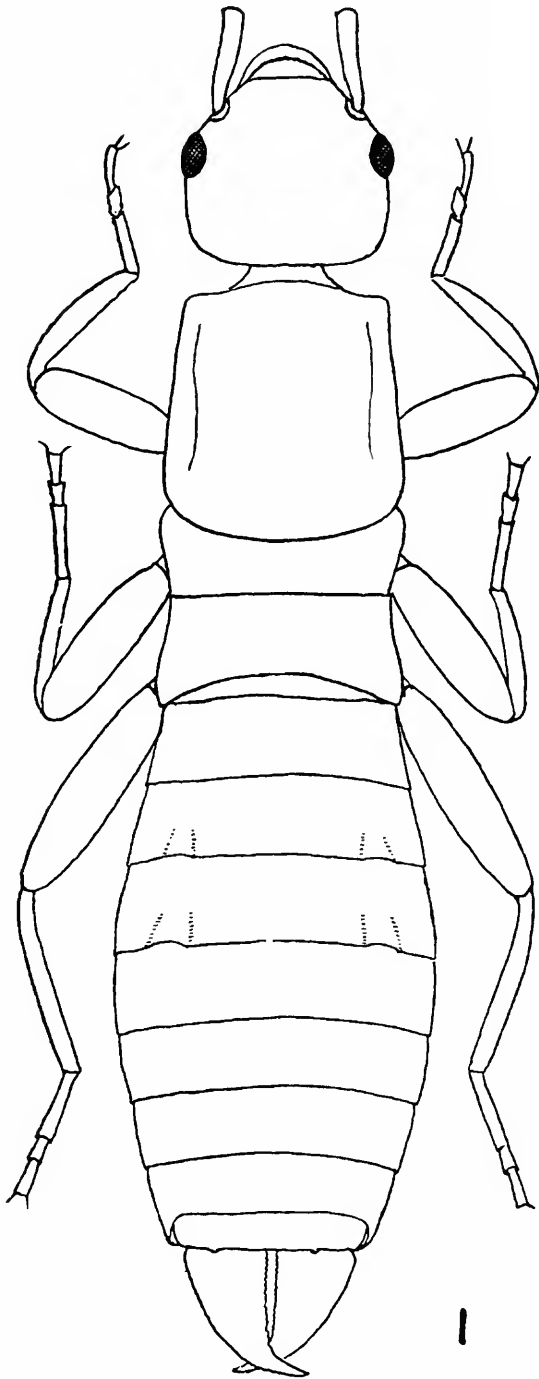
Recently a number of small species of the Brachylabiinae were found amongst material from Africa; these were the first of these small species known from this continent, apart from *Geracodes*, and consisted of several species, all of which were described in Brindle (1966). The amount of this new material seemed to indicate that these very small species were widely distributed and possibly locally in Africa, but that previous collecting methods had not been suitable for their capture. The greater use of the Berlese funnel, and similar apparatus to deal with debris or humus, seems to be bringing these small species to notice.

It was therefore with considerable interest that the author examined a series of a small species of the Brachylabiinae, which had been collected from the nests of ants near Barueri, São Paulo, by Dr. Karol Lenko. This is the first very small species of the subfamily from the Neotropical Region, unless the two *Geracodes* species, from Panama and Paraguay do actually belong to this subfamily, and this discovery suggests that, as in Africa, these small earwigs may be relatively frequent in Brazil, if suitable collecting methods are used.

Brachylabis lenkoi, sp. n.

A very small species; head reddish-brown, rest of body blackish-brown; antennae and legs brown. Head and pronotum deeply punctured, the punctures large and separated by rather more than their own diameter; mesonotum, metanotum, and abdomen more closely punctured; cuticle shining, and with a sparse covering of yellow hairs, more conspicuous laterally.

Male (fig. 1): head large, tumid, as broad as long, lateral margins parallel, posterior margin almost straight; eyes small; antennal segments broad, first segment long, about as long as distance between antennal bases; second segment quadrate, small; third segment nearly one and half times as long as broad; fourth slightly longer than broad; fifth one and three-quarters as long as broad; rest of segments not quite twice as long as broad, divisions well marked. Pronotum large, longer than broad, widened posteriorly, lateral margins rather broad, and upcurved; disc smoothly convex, without division into prozona and metazona; mesonotum transverse with indications of lateral folds at each side; metanotum transverse, shorter than mesonotum, posterior margin concave. Legs relatively long, femora of anterior pair of legs more broadened than those of posterior four legs. Abdomen relatively short, fusiform; lateral tubercles on third and fourth segments indicated by cuticular swellings; last segment largely hidden within the ninth seg-



Brachylabis lenkoi, sp. n.: 1, male; 2, male genitalia.

ment; last tergite with posterior margin emarginate between the bases of the forceps, and with two tubercles above the base of each branch of the forceps; pygidium hidden; penultimate sternite almost quadrate, lateral margins parallel, posterior margin slightly rounded. Forceps short, each branch broad at base, quickly narrowed distally, and with a rather long curved narrow apex. Genitalia (fig. 2) of usual Carcinophorid type, with two basal arms or penes, and two distal lobes, one of which is directed forwards (the shorter) and one directed backwards. The virga is relatively long, and partially sclerotized, and the distal end of the lobe is denticulate. The parameres are long and acuminate, the external margin being sclerotized whilst the inner part is membranous.

Length: body 4 mm, forceps 0.3 mm.

Female: almost identical to male; as usual there are two less tergites visible; forceps rather more flattened basally.

Length: body 4 mm, forceps 0.3 mm.

Holotype ♂, 3 ♂ paratypes, 1 ♀ paratype (allotype), 6 nymphs, from nests of ants, *Camponotus rufipes* (Fabricius, 1775), from Barueri, São Paulo, Brazil, 20.VIII.1967, K. Lenko col. Types in the Departamento de Zoologia, Secretaria da Agricultura, São Paulo, except for one ♂ paratype in the Manchester Museum, and one ♂ paratype in the British Museum (Natural History), London.

I have much pleasure in naming this species after its collector, Dr. Karol Lenko, of the Departamento de Zoologia.

This species is very distinctive from other species of the Brachylabiinae known from the Neotropical Region by its size; it is very similar in external appearance to *Brachylabis rugosa* Brindle, from Africa, but the parameres of the male genitalia have a different shape. This discovery by Dr. Karol Lenko, may lead the way to the finding of more of these small species.

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