ASCIDAE *SENSU LATU* FROM EGYPT WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF SIX NEW SPECIES, RE-DESCRIPTIONS OF NINE SPECIES AND A KEY TO SPECIES
ASCIDAE *SENSU LATU* NO EGITO COM DESCRIÇÕES DE SEIS NOVAS ESPÉCIES, RE-DESCRIÇÕES DE NOVE ESPÉCIES E UMA CHAVE PARA ESPÉCIES

R.I.A. Abo-Shnaf[1,2] & G.J. de Moraes[1,3]
[1]Depto. de Entomologia e Acarologia, Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz"-Universidade de São Paulo (ESALQ-USP), Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brasil; [2]Vegetable and Aromatic Plant Mites Department, Plant Protection Research Institute, Agricultural Research Centre, Dokii, Giza, Egypt; [3]CNPq Researcher. E-mail: riamaboshnaf@yahoo.com; moraesg@usp.br

Species of Ascidae *sensu latu* have been studied in Egypt to understand their ecology and for their possible practical use as biological control agents. Many specimens collected from different plants and soils from different localities in Egypt are being identified to species level based on adult females. Till now about six new species have been detected are now being described and illustrated; two species from family Ascidae: *Protogamasellus* n. sp.1 (from eggplant soil) and *Protogamasellus* n. sp.2 (from mango and eggplant soil); one species from family Blattisociidae: *Cheiroseius* n. sp. (from *Eichhornia* plant); and three species from family Melicharidae: *Proctolaelaps* n. sp.1 (from different plants soil), *Proctolaelaps* n. sp.2 (from different plants soil) and *Proctolaelaps* n. sp.3 (from *Strelitzia* soil). In addition, re-descriptions of about nine species from different genera are presently being done: *Arctoseius bilinear* and *Gamasellodes bicolor* (Ascidae); *Proctolaelaps orientalis* and *P. pygmaeus* (Melicharidae); *Blattisocius tarsalis*, *Cheiroseius aegypticus*, *Lasioseius africanus*, *L. dentatus* and *L. parberlesei* (Blattisociidae). This should be helpful for the continuation of the species that have been conducted in Egypt, envisioning the possible use of those predatory mites as biological control agents.

Keywords: Ascidae *sensu latu*, biological control, Egypt, predatory mites, taxonomy
Financiadora: TWAS-CNPq