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REDESCRIÇÃO DE *Apolonia tigipioensis* TORRES & BRAGA, 1938 (TROMBIDIFORMES: LEEUWENHOEKIIDAE)

REDESCRIPTION OF Apolonia tigipioensis TORRES & BRAGA, 1938 (TROMBIDIFORMES: LEEUWENHOEKIIDAE)

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The genus Apolonia Torres & Braga, 1938, with a single species, A. tigipioensis, occurs only in the Neotropical region. They parasitize mainly birds, but they are also recorded bitting humans. In Brazil, this species has been recorded twice in Pernambuco state. We are presenting a redescription of A. tigipioensis. Two syntypes specimens (IBSP 1954) housed at the Acari Collection, Instituto Butantan (IBSP), were prepared in Hoyer's medium. Specimens used in this study were collected from Gallus gallus domesticus from Tigipió municipality, State of Pernambuco, northeastern region. The chiggers were identified using existing keys and the original description of Apolonia. The mites were measured, and illustrations were made using Leica DFC 500 digital camera coupled to an optical microscope Leica DM4000B. Extended focal range images were composed using Leica Application Suite version 2.5.0. Drawings were prepared using Adobe Illustrator software. The *Apolonia tigipioensis* diagnosis is as follows: palpal tarsus with seven branched setae, galealae setae branched, odontus trifurcated; prodorsal sclerite with nasus and two anteromedian setae; the first row of dorsal idiosomal setae with twelve setae; genu with two solenidia. Unfortunately, no specimens of A. tigipioensis were available for molecular preparations at this time, but future samples from the type locality will be used to acquire molecular sequences.

Palavras-chave: chiggers, ectoparasites, birds, humans, Brazil.

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