

DESCRIPTION OF THE MALE OF *DAGUERREIA INERMIS* SOARES  
& SOARES, WITH BIOLOGICAL NOTES ON POPULATION SIZE IN  
THE GRUTA DA LANCINHA, PARANÁ, BRAZIL (ARACHNIDA,  
OPILIONES, GONYLEPTIDAE)

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ABSTRACT. The male of *Daguerreia inermis* Soares & Soares, 1947, a troglomorphic harvestman, is described. Distribution records are given for caves of the Speleological Province of Vale do Ribeira and two non carbonatic areas (Telêmaco Borba and Arapoti, Paraná), in southeastern Brazil. The population of the *Gruta da Lancinha* (Paraná, Brazil) was studied from October 1988 to February 1989. The population size was estimated, by Fisher Ford's method, between 158-610 individuals. The sex ratio observed was 1:1.

KEY WORDS. Arachnida, Opiliones, *Daguerreia inermis*, cave fauna, population size

The Brazilian cavernicolous harvestmen are represented according to PINTO-DA-ROCHA (1995) mainly by the family Gonyleptidae, but Minuidae, Tricommatidae, Cosmetidae and Stygnidae are also present. Only two troglobite species (obligatory cave dwellings) are recorded, *Spaeleoleptes spaeleus* H. Soares, 1966 (Minuidae, of the Gruta do Maquiné, Minas Gerais State) and *Pachylospeleus strinatii* Šilhavý, 1974 (Gonyleptidae, Pachylospeleinae, São Paulo State). The troglomorphic (facultative cave dwelling species) are: *Pararezendezius luridus* H. Soares, 1972 (Tricommatidae, São Paulo State); *Daguerreia inermis* Soares & Soares, 1947 (Gonyleptidae, Pachylinae, São Paulo and Paraná States); *Eusarcus* spp. (Gonyleptidae, Pachylinae, Minas Gerais and Goiás States) and *Stenostygnoides caliginosus* Pinto-da-Rocha, 1990 (Stygnidae, Pará State). The troglonemes (cave dwellings who return periodically to surface) belong to *Goniosoma* spp. (Gonyleptidae, Goniosomatinae, São Paulo and Paraná States) and *Paecilaema* sp. (Cosmetidae, Goiás State).

*Daguerreia inermis* SOARES & SOARES (1947) was described based on a single female from the Gruta de Campinhos (= Gruta dos Jesuítas), Paraná, Brazil. Which was the only record of this species up to the 80's. Only recently, when intensive collectings were made by Eleonora Trajano, Pedro Gnaspini Netto and the author in the Speleological Province of Vale do Ribeira, this species was newly found. Many invertebrate species in several caves were collected (TRAJANO & GNASPINI-NETTO 1991a; PINTO-DA-ROCHA 1994), increasing the distribution of *D. inermis* in the Speleological Province of Vale do Ribeira and making possible the description of the male.

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*Daguerreia inermis* is troglophile (TRAJANO & GNASPINI-NETTO 1991a; PINTO-DA-ROCHA 1994), a cavernicolous facultative species which is able to complete its life cycle within a cave but may also occurs in ecologically suitable habitats outside the caves (HOLSINGER & CULVER 1988).

## MATERIAL & METHODS

The study was carried out in five visits (02 October, 19 November, 13 December 1988, 17 January and 18 February 1989) in the *Gruta da Lancinha* (25°19'58"S – 49°17'12"W), a dolomitic cave of Rio Branco do Sul county, Paraná State, Brazil (Fig. 7).

The Gruta da Lancinha has a Y outline, with two main galleries, one crossed by the Lancinha stream (6,218 m<sup>2</sup>) and another "dry" with large rooms (8,978 m<sup>2</sup>).

The captures and recaptures was carried out in more than 90% of the cave. The Gruta da Lancinha was divided in 31 collecting stations, according to the topographic features. This cave area was searched in two steps by the author and an assistant during 7-8 hours/day. In the first step the animals were marked and left a bit of banana, as bait on the ground of each station. During the second time it was marked newly and collected the baits. Several individuals were captured while they were feeding on the bananas although, most of them, while walking on the floor and walls or resting on the walls.

The opilionids were caught by hand and immobilized in a wood plate with rubber band over legs. They were marked with a white droplet of acrylic paint and numbered with black ink, allowing each animal to be recognized individually. These marks were permanent throughout the study, seeming not affecting the locomotion, death or emigration.

Only adults and last nymphal stage of *D. inermis* were used to estimate the population size. The Fisher Ford's method was choose because the number of recaptures of *D. inermis* was very low and the other methods (e.g. Jolly's) can not be used with low rates of recaptures (BEGON 1979).

The studied material is deposited in the following institutions: Museu de História Natural "Capão da Imbuia", Curitiba, Paraná (MHNCI); Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo (MZSP, J.L. Moreira Leme); Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ, A. Kury) e Coleção Helia Soares, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Botucatu, São Paulo (HS, R.S. Jim).

All measurements are in millimeters.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### SYSTEMATICS

#### *Daguerreia inermis* Soares & Soares

Figs 1-7

*Daguerreia inermis* Soares & Soares, 1947: 212, 217, fig. 4. -Trajano & Gnaspi-Netto, 1991a: 390, 392-395 (distribution). -Gnaspi-Netto & Trajano, 1994: 561-562, 566-571 (distribution). -Pinto-da-Rocha, 1994: 235 (distribution, biology). -Pinto-da-Rocha, 1995: 82 (distribution)

*Pachylospeleinae* gen.n sp.n.. – Trajano, 1987: 538-539, 542 (distribution).

*Pachylospeleinae*; Trajano, 1987: 540, 544 (distribution).

*Pachylospeleus* sp.n.; Trajano, 1987: 540, 545 (distribution).

*Daguerreia* sp.; Trajano & Gnaspini-Netto, 1991b: 75 (biology). – Trajano & Sánchez, 1994: 534 (distribution).

Note. In a recent article, ACOSTA (1996) synonymized *Daguerreia* Canals, 1933 with *Pachyloides* Holmberg, 1878 and placed *D. inermis* as *incertae sedis*. I agree with Acosta that *D. inermis* does not belong to *Pachyloides*, based on genital and dorsal scute morphology. However, I'm unable to know if *D. inermis* belongs to a new genus or to another genus of the Pachylyinae. I preferred to maintain the original combination.

Description. Male (MHNCI-6454). Measurements: dorsal scute – 6.42 long, 5.83 wide; cephalothorax: 2.52 long, 3.70 wide. The appendage measurements are in table I.

Table I. Appendage measurements of *Daguerreia inermis* Soares & Soares, 1947, male (MHNCI-6454), female holotype (parenthesized).

	Trochanter	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
Pedipalpus	0.80 (0.84)	2.20 (2.12)	1.40 (1.32)	1.88 (1.68)	– (–)	1.36 (1.52)	7.64 (7.48)
Leg I	0.80 (0.92)	3.68 (3.33)	1.56 (1.36)	3.02 (2.60)	5.17 (4.16)	2.83 (2.32)	17.08 (14.69)
Leg II	0.88 (0.96)	8.58 (6.33)	2.25 (1.80)	6.92 (4.64)	9.50 (6.58)	8.17 (6.00)	36.30 (26.31)
Leg III	0.96 (0.84)	6.42 (5.08)	1.92 (1.80)	4.33 (3.20)	6.25 (5.25)	3.42 (2.83)	23.30 (19.00)
Leg IV	1.44 (1.00)	8.17 (6.58)	2.58 (1.92)	5.58 (4.67)	9.67 (7.33)	3.92 (3.42)	31.36 (24.92)

Dorsum (Fig. 1). Dorsal scute pyriform, wider at area II. Anterior margin with a row of minute tubercles. Eye mound high, with few tubercles posteriorly. Cephalothorax with tubercles behind eye mound. Areas I-IV irregularly tuberculate; I divided by a longitudinal median groove. Lateral margin with two rows of tubercles, the external larger. Posterior margin and free tergites with a row of tubercles. Anal plate with several tubercles irregularly distributed.

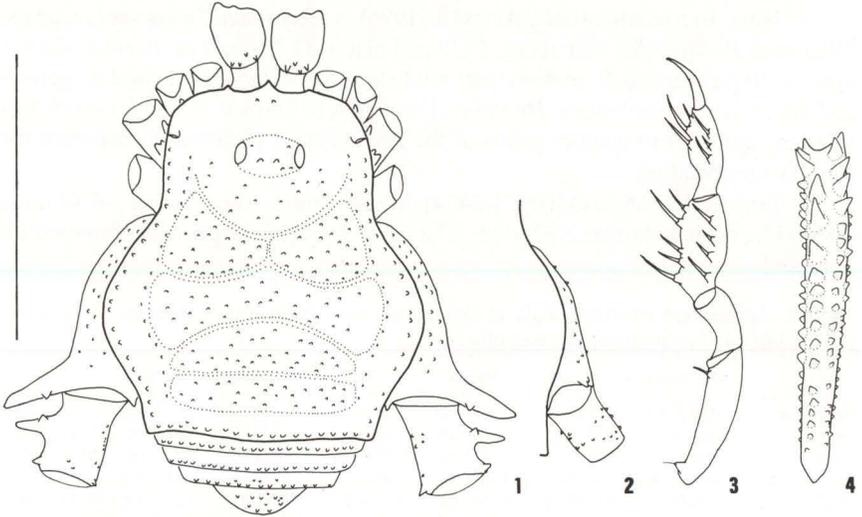
Venter. Coxa I with a median transverse row of wide tubercles and one posterior smaller; II with two similar rows of tubercles; III with irregularly distributed tubercles; IV, genital and anal opercle tuberculate. Free sternites with a row of minute tubercles.

Chelicera. Segment I with five setiferous tubercles: chelae toothed.

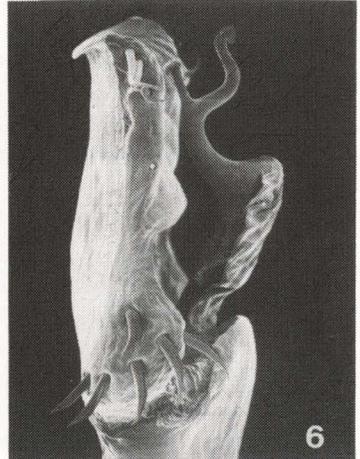
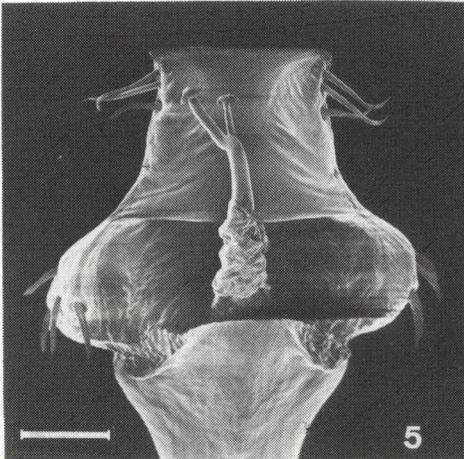
Pedipalpus (Fig. 3). Trochanter with two tubercles. Femur with one ventrobasal and a median row of tubercles, with one prolateral tubercle. Patella unarmed. Tibia with six external and five internal setae. Tarsus with four external and 3-4 internal setae.

Legs. Legs I-IV tuberculate. Coxa I smooth; II with two dorsal tubercles; III with four dorsal tubercles; IV with a high external apophysis with a ventro subapical tubercle, with a short internal apophysis. Femora I-IV straight; III-IV with one prolateral, one retrolateral, two dorsal and two ventral rows of tubercles, ventral tubercles higher near the apex. Tibiae III-IV with a dorsal row of tubercles, one retrolateral, two ventroapical rows of tubercles (Fig. 4). Claws smooth, with tarsal process, without scopulae. Tarsus segmentation: 7(3), 17-18(3), 7, 7.

Genitalia (Figs 5-6). Ventral plate pyriform, very expanded basally. Lateral margin with four pairs of basal setae and three pairs of distal setae. Dorsal branch of the glans few dilated apically, ventral branch smaller than dorsal, flattened and serrate distally.



Figs 1-4 *Daguerreia inermis* Soares & Soares. (1) Male habitus, dorsal view; (2) female, coxa and trochanter IV; (3) male pedipalpus; (4) male tibia IV. Scale bar = 5.0mm.



Figs 5-6. *Daguerreia inermis* Soares & Soares, scanning micrograph of distal part of penis. (5) Dorsal view; (6) lateral view. Scale Bar = 50 $\mu$ m.

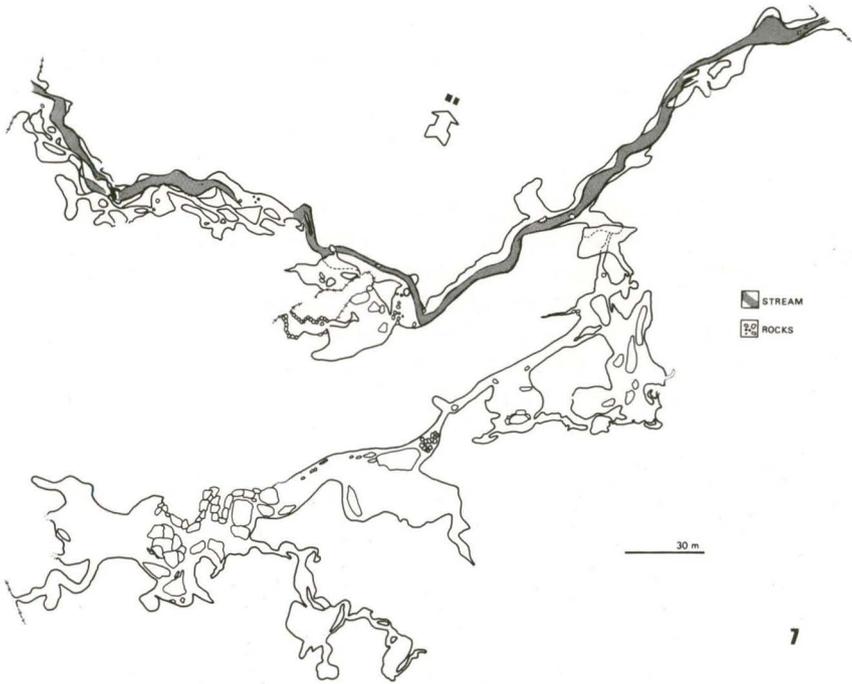


Fig. 7. Horizontal plan of the Gruta da Lancinha, Rio Branco do Sul, Paraná, Brazil.

**Color.** Cephalothorax reddish brown with several small black spots. Abdomen, chelicera, pedipalpus and legs brownish. Apical apophysis of the coxa IV and tubercles of trochanter IV blackish brown.

**Holotype** female. Dorsal scute: 6.37 long, 3.68 wide; cephalothorax: 3.13 long, 5.80 wide. The appendage measurements are in table I.

Coxa and trochanter IV (Fig. 2) tuberculate, with small apophysis and small tubercles; coxa IV smaller than male.

Intraspecific variation (22 males, 20 females). The number of tarsal segments of tarsi I-IV varies in males (7-8, 14-18, 7-8, 7-8) and in females (7-8, 12-18, 7-8, 7-8). The pedipalpus tibia shows 4-5 external and 4-6 internal setae and tarsus, 3-4 external and internal setae. The tubercles on the femur III-IV and tibia III-IV varies from 1/4 to the total tibia thickness. The color observed was from yellowish to reddish brown. Dorsal scute length: males 4.32-7.33; females 5.00-7.25. Femur IV lengthened: males 7.33-10.67; females 6.58-10.17.

**Geographic distribution.** *Daguerreia inermis* was recorded from many caves in Speleological Province Vale do Ribeira (Atlantic forest and Araucaria forest) and in two counties, Arapoti and Telêmaco Borba (Araucária forest), 135 and 230 km, respectively far from the Vale do Ribeira, where there are no caves. The Speleological Province Vale do Ribeira defined by (KARMANN & SÁNCHEZ 1986) includes more than 400 caves.

Material studied. BRAZIL, *Paraná*: Tunas do Paraná (Gruta de Campinhos), G. Hatschbach *leg.*, I.1945, 1 female holotype (MHNCI-3629); *ibidem*, R.B. Lange *leg.*, VIII.1947, 1 female (MHNCI-6461); *ibidem*, R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 2.XII.1989, 2 males, 1 female (MHNCI-6646); Castro (Gruta Olhos d'Água), R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 14.II.1987, 1 female (MHNCI-6462); *ibidem*, 2.IX.1990, 1 male (MHNCI-6799); Telêmaco Borba (Harmonia), R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 2.XII.1989, 7 males and 7 females (MHNCI-6650); Arapoti (Faz.Barra Mansa), F.C. Straube & S.A. Morato *leg.*, 22.I.1990, on floor in Araucaria forest, 1 female; (MHNCI-6696); Rio Branco do Sul (Gruta da Lancinha), R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 29.III.1986, 1 male and 1 female (MZSP-10564); *ibidem*, 29.III.1986, 1 male and 1 immature (HS-889); *ibidem*, 31.V.1987, 1 female (HS-890); *ibidem*, 2.X.1988, 2 females (MHNCI-6453); *ibidem*, 17.I.1989, 1 male and 1 female (MHNCI-6454); *ibidem*, 18.II.1989, 1 male (MHNCI-6455); *ibidem*, 21.IV.1990, 1 male (MHNCI-6755); *ibidem* (Gruta de Itacolombo), R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 28.IV.1990, 1 male (MHNCI-6797); Campo Largo (Gruta de Pinheirinho), R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 1.IX.1990, 1 female (MHNCI-6798); (Gruta do Canavial), R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 6.XII.1986, 1 male (MHNCI-6459); Almirante Tamandaré (Gruta da Água Boa), R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 4.III.1990, 1 male (MHNCI-6757); Iporanga (Caverna Santana), E. Trajano *leg.*, VIII.1981, 1 male (HS-821); *ibidem* (Caverna Alambari de Baixo), E. Trajano *leg.*, I.1980, 1 male (HS-864); *ibidem*, 22.IX.1983, 1 female (HS-862); *ibidem*, 4.II.1984, 1 female (HS-854); *ibidem*, 22.III.1986, 1 male (HS-892); *ibidem* (Gruta das Águas Quentes), P. Gnaspini-Netto *leg.*, 2.V.1986, 1 female (HS-897); *ibidem*, N.M. Godoy *leg.*, 22.X.1983, 1 male (HS-867); *ibidem* (Gruta Água Suja), E. Trajano *leg.*, 6.IX.1984, 1 male (HS-873); *ibidem* (Gruta Casa de Pedra), P. Gnaspini-Netto *leg.*, 25.V.1986, 1 male and 1 female (HS-895); *ibidem*, E. Trajano *leg.*, 4.IV.1985, 1 male and 1 female (HS-861); *ibidem*, 14.IV.1990, 1 male (MHNCI-6728); *ibidem*, 29.IV.1990, 1 male and 1 female (MHNCI-6729); *ibidem* (Gruta da Laje Branca), E. Trajano *leg.*, 24.II.1989, 1 male and 1 female (MHNCI-6463); *ibidem* (Gruta do Fendão), P. Gnaspini-Netto *leg.*, 1.IV.1988, 1 male (HS-893); *ibidem* (Gruta Colorida), P. Gnaspini-Netto *leg.*, 30.III.1988, 1 male (HS-816); *ibidem* (Gruta Jane Mansfield), E. Trajano *leg.*, 15.IV.1989, 1 female and 1 immature (MHNCI-6460); *ibidem*, P. Gnaspini-Netto *leg.*, 3.XII.1988, 1 female and 1 immature, (MHNCI-6450); *ibidem* (Gruta do Jerivassal), R. Pinto-da-Rocha *leg.*, 8.I.1989, 2 males and 1 female (MHNCI-6264); *ibidem* (Gruta dos Paivas), E. Trajano *leg.*, 10.II.1989, 1 female and 2 immatures (MHNCI-6262); *ibidem* (Gruta Teminina II), E. Trajano *leg.*, 26.XI.1989, 1 female (MHNCI-6263); *ibidem*, 20.V.1989, 1 immature (MHNCI-6457); *ibidem*, E. Trajano *leg.*, 9.IV.1990, 1 male (MHNCI-6732); *ibidem*, P. Gnaspini-Netto *leg.*, 1 female and 1 immature (MHNCI-6450); *ibidem* (Abismo da Chuva), P. Gnaspini-Netto *leg.*, 19.IV.1989, 1 male (MHNCI-6458); *ibidem*, 20.V.1989, 1 immature (MHNCI-6457); *ibidem* (Caverna Pescaria), E. Trajano *leg.*, 8.IV.1990, 2 males (MHNCI-6724); *ibidem* (Gruta do Chapéu), E. Trajano *leg.*, 10.IV.1990, 1 male (MHNCI-6730); *ibidem* (Gruta do Queijo Suiço), 25.XI.1989, E. Trajano *leg.*, 1 male (MHNCI-6758).

## NATURAL HISTORY

Sex ratio. One hundred and fifty three individuals were captured and marked, including adults and last nymphal stage (without arolium and with complete tarsal segmentation, according to MUÑOZ-CUEVAS 1971) of which 68 were males and 85 females. The sex ratio observed was 1:1 (significant at 0.01 level). The same ratio was observed for the troglaxene *Goniosoma spelaum* Mello-Leitão, 1933 (Gonyleptidae, Goniosomatinae) by GNASPINI (1995) and for the troglobite *Pachylospeleus strinatii* Šilhavý, 1974 (Gonyleptidae, Pachylospeleinae) by PINTO-DA-ROCHA (1996), both from Vale do Ribeira caves.

Population size. One hundred and seventy six individuals were collected and marked and non marked, of which 18 were recaptured (Tab. II). The population size estimated by Fisher-Ford's method was between 158 and 610 individuals (see Tab. II). It was supposed have not occurred emigration/immigration to/or from epigeal area based on the lack of records of *Daguerreia inermis* around the epigeal area near the cave; distribution into the cave, even in the aphotic zone (at least 50 m of the entrances). Another interesting fact is that the forest around the Gruta da Lancinha, composed mainly by "bracatinga" (*Mimosa scabrela* Benth., Leguminosae), is sawed and burned each seven years to be used at limestone kiln. This phenomena probably kills most of the ground and canopy invertebrates, including harvestmen. However, another kind of emigration is birth and I do not know if the nymphs changed to adults during the study. Four dead non marked individuals were observed in the five months of sampling. This phenomena (emigration/immigration as birth and dead) damages the accuracy of the method although I think it does not invalidate the estimate due the few time of sampling (five months). Two other cavernicolous harvestmen had they population size estimated (with different methods and time of sampling): the troglobite *P. strinatii* showed a population estimated between 164 and 236 in the Gruta das Areias de Cima, São Paulo State, Brazil (PINTO-DA-ROCHA 1996) and the troglaxene *Goniosoma spelaum*, with populations estimated between six and 246 in six caves of São Paulo State, Brazil (GNASPINI 1996).

Table II. Number of adults and last nymphal stage of *Daguerreia inermis* captured and released, gain, loss, and population size estimate by Fisher-Ford method in the Gruta da Lancinha, Rio Branco do Sul, Paraná, Brazil, October 1988 to February 1989.

Day	Captured	Released	Recaptured				Gain	Loss	Population size
			1	2	3	4			
1	9	9					0	0	0
47	34	34	1				387	0	158
71	37	37	1	1			27	0	545
105	49	47	1	3	2		38	0	571
136	47	-	0	4	1	4	0	0	610

Survival rate. The survival rate could not be calculated and it was assumed to be 1.0, as recommend by BEGON (1979). This occurred due the low number of recaptures and probably damage the accuracy of population size estimated.

Distribution. In 14 of the 31 collecting stations nothing was captured, in 10 of them, between 1-10 individuals and in 7, more than 11 individuals. The majority of specimens (89.55 %) were captured at the Lancinha stream. The distribution is clearly aggregated and the preference by the stream gallery is probably related to the more availability of food (detritus carried into the cave by the stream) in this area. The same was observed by the troglobite *P. strinatii*, which has his population aggregated in the area near the Córrego Grande Stream (PINTO-DA-ROCHA 1996).

Density. The density estimated, considering the estimate of the higher population size (610 individuals at 5<sup>th</sup> day of capture) in 15,196 m<sup>2</sup> of the cave was 0.04 individuals/m<sup>2</sup>. However, the density varied along the cave. On the stream area (6,218 m<sup>2</sup>) the opilionids were very common and in "dry galleries" (8,978 m<sup>2</sup>) they were rare.

Life span. I came back to the Gruta da Lancinha on December 20 1990 and I found an adult female marked, the droplet was wrinkled and the number inked was unreadable, and consequently it was impossible to identify the month it was captured. This specimen survived at least one year and 10 months as adult (it is impossible to calculate the life time before the 1<sup>st</sup> capture and how much it will lived after the last capture). The duration of the adult phase was studied for the following Neotropical species: more than two years for the gonyleptid *G. spelaeum* (Mello-Leitão, 1933) (GNASPINI 1995); three to four years for the gonyleptid *Pachylus quinamavidensis* Muñoz-Cuevas, 1969 (JUBERTHIE & MUÑOZ-CUEVAS 1971); 2.5 years for the cosmetid *Cynorta cubana* (Banks, 1909) (JUBERTHIE 1972); and more than three years for the cosmetid *Vonones sayi* (Simon, 1879) (COKENDOLPHER & JONES 1991).

Ecological classification and food web notes. *Daguerreia inermis* is a common opilionid at Ribeira Valley (TRAJANO 1987; TRAJANO & GNASPINI-NETTO 1991a, 1991b; PINTO-DA-ROCHA 1994, 1995). It was classified as a troglophile since it has been observed in the most of studied caves as immature in several nymphal stages and adults (showing reproduction at hypogean habitat) and has large cave populations that are distributed for almost all places of the caves. This species was recorded from epigeal habitats (Arapoti and Telêmaco Borba) far from the caves and it does not present any morphological specialization for cave life (depigmentation, eye reduction or appendage elongated), usually showed by opilionids. This opilionid is an omnivorous and probably feed on fungi, guano, dead animals and detritus, as hypothesized by TRAJANO & GNASPINI-NETTO (1991b). In the Gruta da Lancinha, *D. inermis* was frequently observed on or near hematophagous bat guano *Desmодus rotundus* (E. Geoffroy, 1810) (Phyllostomidae) and on riparian plant debris. Its cave predators (TRAJANO & GNASPINI-NETTO 1991b) are the spider *Ctenus fasciatus* Mello-Leitão, 1943 (Ctenidae) and the heteropteran *Zelurus travassosi* (Costa Lima, 1940) (Reduviidae).

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