

The First Fossil Termitidae (Isoptera) from the Oligocene of South America: the Entre-Córregos Formation of the Aiuruoca Basin, Minas Gerais, Brazil

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ABSTRACT

A new genus and species of Termitidae (Isoptera) are described from the Entre-Córregos Formation (Oligocene, Aiuruoca Basin; southeastern Brazil): *Aiuruocatatermes piovezanae* n. gen. et n. sp., represents the first record of Termitidae from the Cenozoic of South America.

Key words: Aiuruoca Basin, Entre-Córregos Formation, Oligocene, Termitidae, Isoptera, Brazil

INTRODUCTION

The Isoptera record is diverse for the Laurasian Cenozoic, with several known named species, as previously summarised by Pesenti *et al.*, 2005. For the Gondwana the Cenozoic Isoptera record is extremely scant with just one species from Australia (*Blattotermes neoxenus* Riek, 1952 – Mastotermitidae) and just a single named species from Brazil, *Spargotermes costalimai* Emerson, 1965, from the Fonseca Formation (Oligocene, Minas Gerais State), also belonging to the Family Mastotermitidae (Emerson, 1965). This contribution reveals another new species, belonging to the Family Termitidae, widening so the paleogeographic distribution of isopterans, as well as revealing the first record of the Family Termitidae for the South Hemisphere Cenozoic. The known specimens attributed to the Termitidae are summarized in the Table I.