

OCCURRENCE OF THE SOCIAL PARASITE *PSEUDOATTA ARGENTINA* (FORMICIDAE: MYRMICINAE) IN THE STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL

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As for all the cases of social parasitism of Neotropical ants, the records of occurrence of social parasites in the genus *Acromyrmex* remain rare and always extremely localized. Between the few social parasites currently known, *Pseudoatta argentina* Gallardo, 1916 is the one that is known for the longest time, exclusively from northern Argentina. Until now, it was found associated with the fungus-growing ants *Acromyrmex lundii* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838) and *Acromyrmex heeri* (Forel, 1899). Recently (29/06/2015), the assemblage of soil-dwelling ants in an oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L. var. *oleifera*, Brassicaceae) plantation was sampled using pit-fall traps on the experimental areas of Embrapa Trigo in the municipality of Passo Fundo, state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. A single specimen of a female of *P. argentina* was collected. It was preserved in the CEPEC collection under the number #5793 (as other vouchers of the ant species collected during the same experiment). Other *Acromyrmex* which appeared together in the sampling series (but not in the same trap that *P. argentina*) were *Acromyrmex aspersus* (Smith, 1858) and *Acromyrmex crassispinus* (Forel, 1909), but there is no evidence that *P. argentina* could parasitize one or the other of these species. This record extends to the north the known distribution of the ant and suggests that it could be found in association with other species of *Acromyrmex* that the ones known until now. (CNPq, EMBRAPA).