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The complete mitochondrial genome and description of a new cryptic Brazilian species of *Metopiellus* Raffray (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

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Metopiellus Raffray is a genus of South American rove beetles typically found in tropical humid forests. Here we describe a new cryptic species from Eastern Amazon, in northern Brazil, Metopiellus crypticus **sp. nov.**, and its major morphologic diagnostic features, which were photographed and illustrated. In addition, we bring the complete mitochondrial genome sequence of M. crypticus, and its position within the phylogenetic context of the family, including previously available mitogenomes of Staphylinidae species.

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19	



20	Abstract
///	AUSHIACI

- 22 Metopiellus Raffray is a genus of South American rove beetles typically found in tropical humid
- 23 forests. Here we describe a new cryptic species from Eastern Amazon, in northern Brazil,
- 24 Metopiellus crypticus sp. nov., and its major morphologic diagnostic features, which were
- 25 photographed and illustrated. In addition, we bring the complete mitochondrial genome sequence
- of *M. crypticus*, and its position within the phylogenetic context of the family, including
- 27 previously available mitogenomes of Staphylinidae species.
- 28 **Keywords:** Amazon basin, beetle, Brazil, Pselaphinae, taxonomy

29

Introduction

31

30

- All species of the genus *Metopiellus* are distributed from Colombia to the North of
- Argentina (Asenjo et al. 2019, Fiorentino et al. 2022). To date, species of the genus were
- recorded in the Colombian Amazon (*M. guanano* Fiorentino, Tocora & Ramirez 2022), three
- species in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest (*M. aglenus* Reitter 1885, *M. hirtus* Reitter 1885, and *M.*
- 36 painensis Asenjo et al. 2017), and one in Argentina (M. sylvaticus Bruch 1933) (Asenjo et al.
- 37 2013, Asenjo et al. 2017, Fiorentino et al. 2022). Members of Metopiellus are usually found
- 38 inhabiting humid microenvironments on the forest floor consisting in decaying plant parts and
- 39 their possible association with social insects as ants continue to be uncertain (Reitter 1885, Park
- 40 1942, Wasmann 1894, Bruch 1993). Asenjo et al. (2017) found M. painensis inside the Loca dos
- 41 Negros II and the Cerâmica caves in southeastern Brazil. This latter species was the only
- 42 troglobitic Pselaphinae recorded from Brazil, up to date (Asenjo *et al.* 2017).



The aim of this study was to describe a new species from Brazil that was collected in the state of Pará, northern Brazil. The new species was found inhabiting forest areas, similar to other species in the genus, but it was also found in savanna-like environments. We described, for the first time, the complete mitochondrial genome of *Metopiellus crypticus* **sp. nov.** positioning the new species in the phylogenetic context of Staphylinidae.

Materials & Methods

Field collection and sequencing

A total of nine specimens of *Metopiellus crypticus* **sp. nov.** were collected in forest areas where individuals were more abundant, and only two specimens from the *canga*, a savanna-like environment from the Serra dos Carajás, in Pará (Fig. 1B), according to the sampling permit 49.994, granted by ICMBio/MMA. Various collection methods were used in all places (hand collection, litter sampling, hay-bait traps and soil sampling), but specimens were found only in litter-associated traps (hay-bait traps and soil sampling). Therefore, it is likely that the edaphic environment is characterized as a preferred habitat for populations of *Metopiellus crypticus* **sp. nov.** The specimens were immediately fixed in 99% ethanol within a 2 mL centrifuge tube and transported to the laboratory.

Total genomic DNA was extracted from three specimens from the type population with the DNeasy Blood & Tissue kit (Qiagen), following the manufacturer's protocol for insect samples, being deposited at the DNA bank of the Instituto Tecnológico Vale (ITV) under the accession numbers ITV10661, ITV21026 and ITV21027. Paired-end libraries were constructed from ~50



sequenced in an Illumina NextSeq 500 with the high-output v2 kit (300 cycles).
Afterwards, raw sequencing reads with base quality < Phred 20 and length < 70 bp were
trimmed with AdapterRemoval v.2 (Schubert et al. 2016), resulting in, at least, 21,140,835 high
quality pairs of reads. The mitochondrial genomes were assembled with at least 21,141 pairs of
mapped reads using NovoPlasty 3.6 (Dierckxsens et al. 2017) and annotated with MITOS2
(Bernt et al. 2013), with minor corrections using Geneious Prime 2021 (Biomatters).
Morphological study
Specimens. The apical segments were cleared in a double boiler using 10% KOH during
three minutes. Dissections were made under a Leica S8APO (16×-128×) stereo-microscope.
Pictures were obtained using the AxioCam 506 color camera connected to an Axio ZoomV16
(ZEISS) stereo microscope and Photoshop CC 2021 was used for image processing, with final
plates being assembled in Adobe Illustrator CC 2021. Morphological character terminology,
including foveation and initials of its, followed Chandler (2001). All measurements are in
millimeters and were based on the holotype, Measurements were done using the Leica S8APO
(16×-128×) stereo-microscope and width/length measurements were made on the widest and
longest parts of the respective structure.
Measurements symbols:
BL body length (from margin of prolongation of head to tergite IX posterior margin)
BW body width (maximum width of elytra)





88	EL	elytral length (maximum)	
89	EW	elytral width (maximum)	
90	HL	head length (from anterior margin of prolongation of head to head disc posterior margin)	
91	HW	head width (maximum)	
92	NW	neck width (minimum)	
93	PL	pronotum length (maximum)	
94	PW	pronotum width (maximum)	
95			
96]	In the type label data, quotation marks (" ") separate different labels and a slash (/)	
97	separates different lines within a label. Text within square brackets [] is explanatory and is not		
98	includ	ed in the original labels.	
99			
100]	Depositories. The specimens examined in this revision are deposited in the following	
101	collect	tions (curators in parenthesis):	
102			
103	СЕМТ	Setor de Entomologia da Coleção Zoológica da Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso,	
104		Departamento de Biologia e Zoologia, Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil (Fernando Vaz-	
105		de-Mello).	
106	ISLA	Coleção de Invertebrados Subterrâneos de Lavras, Setor de Zoologia, Departamento	
107		de Biologia, Universidade Federal de Lavras, Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil (Rodrigo	
108		Lopes Ferreira).	
109	ITV	Coleção de DNA do Instituto Tecnológico Vale, Belém, Pará, Brazil (Santelmo	
110		Vasconcelos).	



111	MPEG Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, Belém, Pará, Brazil (Orlando Tobias Silveira).
112	
113	Results
114	
115	Description
116	Family Staphylinidae Latreille, 1802
117	Subfamily Pselaphinae Latreille, 1802
118	Tribe Metopiasini Raffray, 1904
119	Subtribe Metopiasina Raffray, 1904
120	Genus Metopiellus Raffray, 1908
121	
122	Metopiellus crypticus Asenjo new species
123	Type material (7 males, 2 females). Holotype: BRAZIL, male, labeled "BRAZIL: Pará, /
124	Curionópolis, Serra / Leste, 22M, 650137mE, / 9339970mN, WGS84, / 25.iv.2017, BioEspeleo
125	leg."; "Hay-bait trap, / Transect: T2, / Quadrant: E, Parcel: d"; "HOLOTYPE ♂ [red label] /
126	Metopiellus / crypticus sp. nov. / Desig. Asenjo et al., 2022" (CEMT-00120424). Paratype: (6
127	males, 2 females), labeled: "BRAZIL: Pará, / Curionópolis, Serra / Leste, 22M, 652136mE, /
128	9339073mN, WGS84, / 26.iv.2017, BioEspeleo leg."; "Soil sampling, / Transect: T3, / Quadrant:
129	C, Parcel: -" (1 male, ISLA-103823). "BRAZIL: Pará, / Curionópolis, Serra / Leste, 22M,
130	650360mE, / 9339477mN, WGS84, / 25.iv.2017,BioEspeleo <i>leg.</i> "; "Soil sampling, / Transect:
131	T1, / Quadrant: D, Parcel: -" (1 female, ISLA-103824). "BRAZIL: Pará, / Curionópolis, Serra /
132	Leste, 22M, 652013mE, / 9339211mN, WGS84, / 26.iv.2017, BioEspeleo leg."; "Soil sampling, /
133	Transect: T4, / Quadrant: C, Parcel: -" (1 male, MPEG-01051329). "BRAZIL: Pará, /



Curionópolis, Serra / Leste, 22M, 650095mE, / 9339732mN, WGS84, / 25.iv.2017, Bio Espeleo 134 leg."; "Hay-bait trap, / Transect: T2, / Quadrant: A, Parcel: d" (1 male, MPEG-01051330). 135 "BRAZIL: Pará, / Curionópolis, Serra / Leste, 22M, 650095mE, / 9339732mN, WGS84, / 136 25.iv.2017, BioEspeleo leg."; "Hay-bait trap, / Transect: T2, / Quadrant: A, Parcel: c" (2 male, 137 CEMT-00120425 and CEMT-00120426, and 1 female, CEMT-00120427). "BRAZIL: Pará, / 138 139 Curionópolis, Serra / Leste, 22M, 650070mE, / 9339845mN, WGS84, / 25.iv.2017, BioEspeleo leg."; "Hay-bait trap, / Transect: T2, / Quadrant: C, Parcel: b" (1 male, MPEG-01051331). All 140 paratypes with label "PARATYPE [yellow label] / Metopiellus / crypticus sp. nov. / Desig. 141 Asenjo et al., 2022". 142 Additional specimens, BRAZIL: Pará, Curionópolis, Serra Leste, 22M, 650137mE, 143 9339970mN, WGS84, 25.iv.2017, BioEspeleo leg., HBT-T2 E(B) (1 male, ITV10661). 144 BRAZIL: Pará, Curionópolis, Serra Leste, 22M, 650070mE, 9339845mN, WGS84, 25.iv.2017, 145 BioEspeleo leg., HBT-T2 C(A), (1 female, ITV21026). BRAZIL: Pará, Curionópolis, Serra 146 Leste, 22M, 650070mE, 9339845mN, WGS84, 25.iv.2017, BioEspeleo leg., HBT-T2 C(A), (1 147 female, ITV21027). 148 149 150 Diagnosis. Metopiellus crypticus sp. nov. is very similar to M. painensis because both have a similar habitus (Figs. 2A-B; Fig. 1 in Asenjo et al. 2017) and eyes nearly absent (Figs. 151 152 2A-C; Fig. 3 in Asenjo et al. 2017), but the new species differs by having rounded the 153 antennomere 7 (Fig. 2E) (rectangular in *Metopiellus painensis* [Fig. 5 in Asenjo et al. 2017]). Furthermore, Metopiellus crypticus sp. nov. further differs by the paramere asymmetric elongate 154 155 and apex bifurcated (Figs. 2H-J) (paramere asymmetric no bifurcated in M. painensis [Figs. 10-156 12 in Asenjo et al. 2017]). Also, Metopiellus crypticus sp. nov. differs by the mediam lobe



curved and edge with long line of small teeth (Figs. 2H-2J) (median lobe almost right with the 157 apex curved in M. painensis [Figs. 10-12 in Asenjo et al. 2017]). 158 159 Holotype male, BL: 2.68. Body, mouthparts, antennae and tarsi light brown (Figs. 2A-B). 160 Head: pyriform (Figs. 2A and 2C), length (HL: 0.44) similar to wide (HW: 0.44), anterior 161 162 region distinctly narrower, apex ending and slightly raised at the antennal tubercle. Posterior margin of head narrowing, with posterolateral angles rounded. Neck almost half of width (NW: 163 0.19) of head. Head with two vertexal foveae [VF] (Figs. 2A and 2C), foveae connected by a 164 transverse sulcus near posterior margin. Vertex longitudinally impressed, with weak sulcus 165 running from anterior margin of antennal tubercle to neck. Ventral surface of head without gular 166 sulcus and posterior region with two gular foveae [GF] that are connected by curved sulcus. Eyes 167 (Figs. 2A-C) composed of some ommatidium situated at middle of head length in lateral view. 168 Antennae (Fig. 2E) almost 3/4 body length, scape almost half antenna length, last three 169 antennomeres gradually broadening. Scape length (all length of antennomeres without peduncle 170 and wide maximum) 0.92 mm, width (all width of antennomeres maximum) 0.09 mm, pedicel 171 shorter than scape (0.39 : 0.08), antennomere 3 (0.06 : 0.06), antennomere 4 (0.05 : 0.06), 172 173 antennomere 5 (0.07 : 0.06), antennomere 6 (0.06 : 0.06), antennomere 7 (0.06 : 0.08), antennomere 8 (0.03 : 0.06), antennomere 9 (0.06 : 0.1), antennomere 10 (0.06 : 0.12), 174 antennomere 11 (0.15 : 0.14); all antennomeres covered by long microsetae. 175 176 Thorax: pronotum (Figs. 2A, 2C) slightly wider than long (PL: 0.45; PW: 0.52) widest at anterior half. Pronotum convex with weak median longitudinal sulcus, each side with lateral 177 sulcus, with transversal antebasal sulcus. Pronotum with basal and anterior margins weakly 178 179 emarginated; with median antebasal fovea [MAF] and lateral antebasal fovea [LAF]. Prosternum



with lateral procoxal fovea [LPCF]. Mesoventrite with median mesocoxal fovea [MMNF], 180 lateral mesosternal foveae [LMNF] lateral mesocoxal foveae [LMCF], and with lateral 181 metasternal foveae [LMTF]. Metaventrie with median metasternal fovea [MMTF] and one flat 182 median triangle area before of metacoxal cavities. 183 Elytra: subquadrate (EL: 0.74; EW: 0.80), sides gradually broadening apically (Fig. 2A). 184 185 Posterior margins slightly concave, discal stria [DS] and sutural stria [SS] present. Elytron with two basal elytral foveae [BEF] at anterior margin, one at side of base the elytral sutural stria, 186 second on the base of discal stria. Apico-lateral margin of elytra with small notched. Flight 187 wings absent. 188 Legs: Legs long and slender (Figs. 2A-B). Femora thickened in apical half. Tibiae curved 189 and similar in length to femora, all tibiae thickened at apex. Protibiae lacking microsetae on 190 concave, mesial face, which is carinate and open at base (Fig. 2D). Tarsi 3-segmented (Fig. 2D), 191 first tarsomeres very short, last 2 tarsomeres longer, tarsomere 2 longer that segment 3; all tarsi 192 with single claw and minute accessory seta. Procoxae conical and prominent, mesocoxae 193 rounded and prominent, metacoxae transverse, region that articulates with trochanter conical in 194 shape. Procoxae with small, apically pointed prosternal process, mesocoxae weakly separated, 195 196 metacoxae contiguous. Abdomen: strongly margined (Fig. 2A), with five visible tergites (morphological tergites 197 IV-VIII), tergite III reduced to translucent plate beneath elytra, tergite IV with basolateral fovea 198 199 [BLF], tergite VIII with apex straight. Tergites IV-VII bordered by distinct paratergites, paratergite in abdominal segment IV with one small tooth in the middle. Sternite III with 200 201 transverse depressed plate completely bare and beneath metacoxae, transverse plate with 202 longitudinally projecting carina at middle. Sternite IV with baselateral fovea [BLF]. Tergum IX





203	divided into two plates; right plate (Fig. 2K) larger and more sclerotized than left (Fig. 2J).
204	Sternite VIII (Fig. 2F) with apex deeply emarginate.
205	Aedeagus (Figs. 2H-J): asymmetric with parameres fused to form elongate plate with the
206	apex forked, the median lobe slightly bulbous at base, elongate and narrow, stronger curved
207	laterally at apex, on edge with a line of small teeth. The apex with forked.
208	Female. Similar to male, except apex of tergite VIII convex (Fig. 2G).
209	Distribution. Only known from the type locality (Figs. 1A-B).
210	Etymology. The specific epithet "crypticus" is a noun in apposition.
211	
212	Mitogenome sequence and phylogenetic placement
213	All three assembled mitogenomes [GenBank accession numbers MZ576843 (ITV10661),
214	MZ576844 (ITV21026) and MZ576845 (ITV21027)] presented the standard structure sequence
215	and gene content for Metazoa, consisting of 13 PCG, 22 tRNA genes and two rRNA genes (Fig.
216	3). The three mitogenome assemblies ranged in size from 14353 to 14984 bp, with similar GC
217	contents between 16.2% and 16.5%, and 98.3% identical sites (1.7% differences). We observed
218	differences in nucleotide composition among the three mitogenomes of Metopiellus crypticus sp.
219	nov., with indel events mostly occurring in the rRNA genes (three in each locus). Also, rrnL
220	presented 33 site substitutions as indicated by the mismatches in the alignment, one of the
221	highest proportions of polymorphic sites within the analyzed mitogenomes (2.68% of the 1232
222	bp), behind only of NAD6 (3.73% of the 456 bp), excluding the tRNAs, which are considerably
223	shorter with 63 bp on average) (Table 1).
224	Most genes were encoded in the L-strand, including nine PCGs (ATP6, APT8, COB,
225	COX1, COX2, COX3, NAD2, NAD3 and NAD6) and 14 tRNA genes (trnA, trnD, trnE, trnG,





226	trnI, trnK, trnL2, trnM, trnN, trnR, trnS1, trnS2, trnT and trnW). Also, ATT was the most
227	frequent start codon, being observed in seven genes, followed by ATA in four genes, and ATG
228	in three (Table 1). On the other hand, almost all genes presented the TAA stop codon, except for
229	NAD3 with TAG, and the three COX genes with an incomplete stop codon (Table 1).
230	Previously published mitogenome sequences of Staphylinidae species from 11 subfamilies,
231	plus one species of Hydrophilidae (Cercyon borealis) and one of Histeridae (Euspilotus scissus)
232	to be used as outgroups, were obtained from GenBank, totaling 61 accessions. Sequences of the
233	13 protein coding genes (PCG) were aligned with MAFFT v7.45 (Katoh et al. 2002) and
234	maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic trees were obtained using RAxML v8 (Stamatakis
235	2014), implemented in raxmlGUI v2 (Edler et al. 2021) using the model GTR+PROTGAMMA
236	and the rapid bootstrapping option with 1,000 replicates.
237	In the phylogenetic analysis, most of the subfamilies were recovered as monophyletic and
238	well supported, except for Tachyporinae and Paedrinae, which were polyphyletic and
239	paraphyletic, respectively, and Staphylininae, presenting a low bootstrap support (BS = 55) (Fig.
240	4). Within Pselaphinae, the relationships among the sampled species were mostly unsupported
241	(BS \leq 70). The three specimens of <i>Metopiellus crypticus</i> sp. nov. grouped with maximum
242	statistical support (BS = 100) in the longer branch within the subfamily, being recovered as sister
243	to Batrisodes sp., although with low statistical support (BS = 42) (Fig. 4).
244	
245	Discussion
246	
247	The new species belongs to the genus Metopiellus based on the third antennal segment

being much shorter than the second (Fig. 2E); the posterior coxae contiguous or nearly so; and



the mesial face of protibia being carinate and open at its base and apex (Fig. 2B) (Raffray 1908,
Park 1942, Asenjo et al. 2017). One of the characters "pronotum not being spinose" for
Metopiellus, should not be considered a good character as considerated by previously authors to
define the genus since M. guanano has pronotum with four small spines (Fiorentino et al. 2022).

Specimens of the know species on the genus *Metopiellus* were collected in litter of ants or in caves (Asenjo *et al.* 2017). Unlike the other species of the genus, which have been recorded in forested areas or inside caves, the new species has been found in forested areas of the Serra dos Carajás, as well as in a savanna-like environment, although being less abundant in the latter.

For the first time, the mitochondrial genome of a *Metopiellus* species is described focusing on the phylogenetic position of *Metopiellus crypticus* **sp. nov.** within the subfamily Pselaphinae. In the obtained topology, the new species was recovered as sister to *Batrisodes* sp., although with low statistical support (BS = 42). However, this grouping was probably an artefact influenced by the absence of published mitogenomes of the others representatives of the Metopiasini.

Despite of all three assembled mitogenomes presenting the standard structure sequence and gene content for Metazoa, we could not obtain a circularized assembly for any of them, probably due to a high repetitive DNA content in the D-loop control region (Sayadi *et al.* 2017), as indicated by the several mononucleotide repeats in both ends of the assembled sequences. Such a pattern has been frequently reported for beetle species, with several Coleoptera mitogenomes available in the GeneBank database containing all expected genes, but missing part of the control region, and thus being reported as partial sequences.

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278	
279	Competing Interests
280	The authors declare no competing interests.
281	
282	Author Contributions
283	• Angélico Asenjo conceived and designed the experiments, analyzed the data, performed
284	species identification and description, prepared figures and/or tables, authored or
285	reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the final draft.
286	• Marcus Paulo Alves de Oliveira designed the experiments, collected specimens, approved
287	the final draft.
288	• Renato R. M. Oliveira contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, analyzed the data,
289	prepared figures and/or tables, approved the final draft.
290	• Eder S. Pires contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, approved the final draft.
291	• Marcely C. Valois authored or reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the final draft.
292	• Guilherme Oliveira contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools, approved the final draft.



293	 Santelmo Vasconcelos conceived and designed the experiments, analyzed the data,
294	prepared figures and/or tables, authored or reviewed drafts of the paper, approved the
295	final draft.
296	
297	Data Availability
298	The assembled mitogenomes were deposited in GenBank under the accession numbers
299	MZ576843, MZ576844 and MZ576845, and raw data were deposited in the BioProject
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354	Figure captions
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356	
357	Figure 1: Geographic location of collected specimens of <i>Metopiellus crypticus</i> sp. nov.
358	Brazil and Pará state are in orange, Carajás mineral Province in red and the specific type locality
359	indicated by a white star (A); exact locations where the specimens were collected in the forest
360	ground (yellow dots) and savanna regions (red dots) of Serra Leste (B); panoramic view of the
361	vegetation in Serra Leste, the savanna vegetations are in the flat area on mountain tops, and
362	forest vegetation on the slopes and valley (picture by Alan Calux) (C).
363	
364	Figure 2: Metopiellus crypticus sp. nov.
365	Habitus, dorsal view (A); habitus, left lateral view (B); head and pronotum, dorsal view (C);
366	proleg (D); left antenna, lateral view (E); abdomen of male, ventral view (F); abdomen of
367	female, ventral view (G); aedeagus, ventral view (H); aedeagus, lateral view (I); aedeagus, dorsal
368	view (J); left tergum IX (K); right tergum IX (L). Scale bars: 1 mm (A-B); 0.5 mm (C, E); 0.2
369	mm (D, F-L). Holotype male (A-F, H-L). Paratype female (G).
370	
371	Figure 3: Representative genetic map of the mitogenome of <i>Metopiellus crypticus</i> sp. nov.
372	Disposition of all 37 mitochondrial genes. Colored arrows pointing to the left and right represent
373	the transcription regions of protein coding genes (blue), rRNA genes (red) and tRNA genes
374	(purple) on the L and H strands, respectively. The green and brownish bars above the arrows
375	indicate monomorphic and polymorphic nucleotide sites among the three analyzed genomes,
376	respectively.

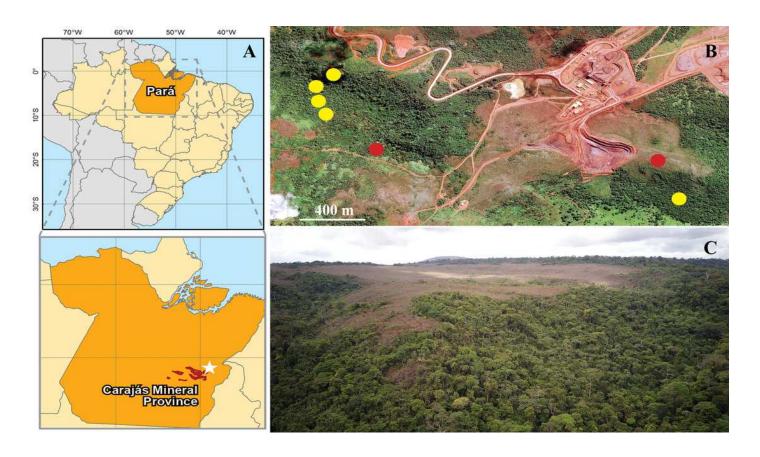




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378	Figure 4: Mitogenome phylogenetic relationships among Staphylinidae species.
379	Majority-rule consensus phylogram of the maximum likelihood analysis evidencing the
380	phylogenetic relationships among Staphylinidae species with available mitogenomes in the
381	GenBank database and the three specimens of Metopiellus crypticus sp. nov. sequenced here,
382	indicating their respective subfamily affiliations. Well-supported groups (BS \geq 70) are indicated
383	by their bootstrap values near the branches.
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Geographic location of collected specimens of Metopiellus crypticus sp. nov.

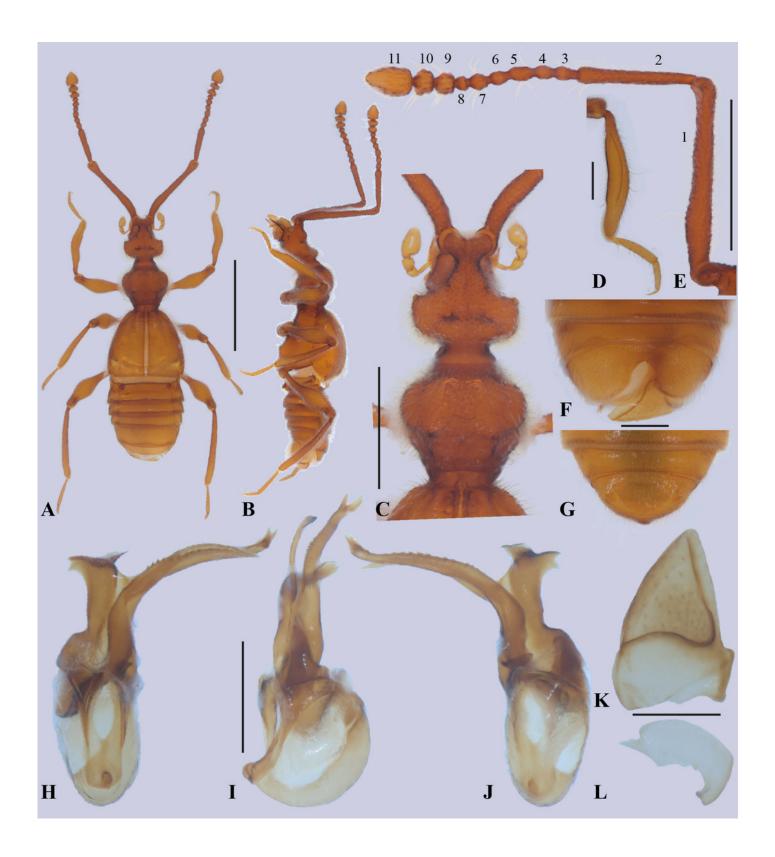
Brazil and Pará state are in orange, Carajás mineral Province in red and the specific type locality indicated by a white star (A); exact locations where the specimens were collected in the forest ground (yellow dots) and savanna regions (red dots) of Serra Leste (B); panoramic view of the vegetation in Serra Leste, the savanna vegetations are in the flat area on mountain tops, and forest vegetation on the slopes and valley (picture by Alan Calux) (C).





Metopiellus crypticus sp. nov.

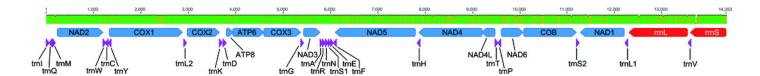
Habitus, dorsal view (A); habitus, left lateral view (B); head and pronotum, dorsal view (C); proleg (D); left antenna, lateral view (E); abdomen of male, ventral view (F); abdomen of female, ventral view (G); aedeagus, ventral view (H); aedeagus, lateral view (I); aedeagus, dorsal view (J); left tergum IX (K); right tergum IX (L). Scale bars: 1 mm (A-B); 0.5 mm (C, E); 0.2 mm (D, F-L). Holotype male (A-F, H-L). Paratype female (G).





Representative genetic map of the mitogenome of *Metopiellus crypticus* sp. nov.

Disposition of all 37 mitochondrial genes. Colored arrows pointing to the left and right represent the transcription regions of protein coding genes (blue), rRNA genes (red) and tRNA genes (purple) on the L and H strands, respectively. The green and brownish bars above the arrows indicate monomorphic and polymorphic nucleotide sites among the three analyzed genomes, respectively.





Mitogenome phylogenetic relationships among Staphylinidae species.

Majority-rule consensus phylogram of the maximum likelihood analysis evidencing the phylogenetic relationships among Staphylinidae species with available mitogenomes in the GenBank database and the three specimens of *Metopiellus crypticus* **sp. nov.** sequenced here, indicating their respective subfamily affiliations. Well-supported groups (BS \geq 70) are indicated by their bootstrap values near the branches.



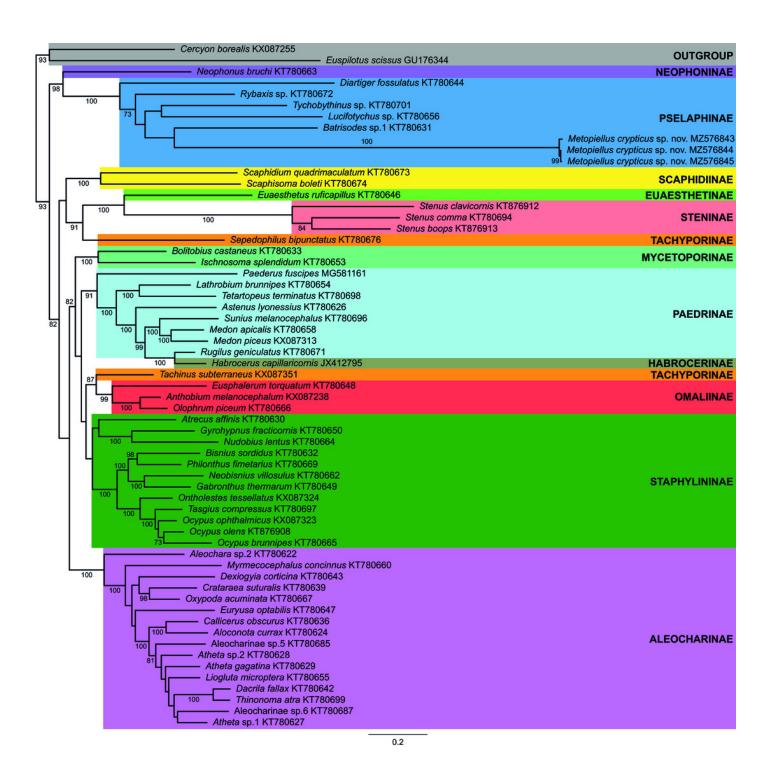




Table 1(on next page)

General features of the mitochondrial genes of *Metopiellus crypticus* sp. nov.

Sequenced mitogenomes based on from three different specimens, indicating the size of the transcription regions, presence of indel events, number of mismatches after the alignment of the mitogenomes, coding strand, and sequences of both start and stop codons. ^aFor genes with indel events, we presented the length observed in two of the three specimens; ^bfor trnM(cat), the value presented correspond to the average size among the three mitogenomes.



Table 1: General features of the mitochondrial genes of *Metopiellus crypticus* sp. nov.

- 2 Sequenced mitogenomes based on from three different specimens, indicating the size of the
- 3 transcription regions, presence of indel events, number of mismatches after the alignment of the
- 4 mitogenomes, coding strand, and sequences of both start and stop codons. ^aFor genes with indel
- 5 events, we presented the length observed in two of the three specimens; ^bfor trnM(cat), the value

6 presented correspond to the average size among the three mitogenomes.

Gene	Size (bp)	Indels	Mismatches	% Mismatches	Coding strand	Start codon	Stop codon
ATP6	651	0	0	0.00	L	ATG	TAA
ATP8	153	0	1	0.65	L	ATT	TAA
COB	1110	0	26	2.34	L	ATA	TAA
COX1	1537	0	11	0.72	L	ATT	T
COX2	682	0	0	0.00	L	ATA	T
COX3	781	0	8	1.02	L	ATG	T
NAD1	924a	1	18	1.95	Н	ATA	TAA
NAD2	963	0	1	0.10	L	ATA	TAA
NAD3	348	0	2	0.57	L	ATT	TAG
NAD4	1332a	0	29	2.18	Н	ATG	TAA
NAD4L	273	0	4	1.47	Н	ATT	TAA
NAD5	1692	0	35	2.07	Н	ATT	TAA
NAD6	456a	1	17	3.73	L	ATT	TAA
rrnL	1232	3	33	2.68	Н	-	-
rrnS	728ª	3	4	0.55	Н	-	-
trnA(tgc)	52	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnC(gca)	63a	1	0	0.00	Н	-	-
trnD(gtc)	64	0	1	1.56	L	-	-
trnE(ttc)	62	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnF(gaa)	63a	1	1	1.59	Н	-	-
trnG(tcc)	63	0	2	3.17	L	-	-
trnH(gtg)	63	0	1	1.59	Н	-	-
trnI(gat)	63	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnK(ctt)	68	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnL1(tag)	61	0	0	0.00	Н	-	-
trnL2(taa)	62	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnM(cat)	68 ^b	1	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnN(gtt)	63	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnP(tgg)	64 ^a	1	0	0.00	Н	-	-
trnQ(ttg)	63	0	0	0.00	Н	-	-
trnR(tcg)	60	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnS1(tct)	55	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnS2(tga)	64	0	2	3.13	L	-	-
trnT(tgt)	64	0	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnV(tac)	64	0	2	3.13	Н	-	-
trnW(tca)	64 ^a	1	0	0.00	L	-	-
trnY(gta)	63	0	1	1.59	Н	-	-