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Protist distribution: 100 new neotropic soil ciliates emphasize moderate ciliate endemism

Wilhelm Foissner

University Salzburg, Austria, wilhelm.foissner@sbg.ac.at

I studied 80 soil samples from the neotropis, mainly from Venezuela and some from Brazil and the Galapagos Islands, using the non-flooded Petri dish method and classic and modern taxonomic tools. I identified about 400 species of which about 100 were undescribed, representing 30 new genera and some new families. These data were compared with similar studies from Namibia (Africa) and Central Europe, showing about 60% species overlap. This and some "flagships" (*Condyllostomides coeruleus* n.sp., *Sleighophrys pustulata* n.g., n.sp., *Luporinophrys micelae* n.g., n.sp., *Lingulothrix galapagensis* n.g., n.sp., *Cataphractes austriacus* n.g., n.sp., *Notodeviata halophila* n.g., n.sp.) emphasize a moderate ciliate endemism globally and a huge number of undescribed ciliates. The new species are described in a forthcoming monograph.

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