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# MORPHOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *FREDIUS* (DECAPODA, PSEUDOTHELPHUSIDAE) FROM RONDÔNIA, SOUTHERN AMAZONIA, BRAZIL

### BY

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#### ABSTRACT

A new species of freshwater crab of the genus *Fredius* Pretzmann, 1967, from the state of Rondônia, Brazil, is described, illustrated, and characterized in terms of an mtDNA sequence (16S rRNA). *Fredius buritizatilis* sp. nov. is distinguished from its congeners by the following characters of the male first gonopod: a mesial lobe comprising a long, narrow, spear-like projection that is recurved upward; a cephalic lobe with a distinctly inflated proximal portion with a large patch of strong, corneous spines along its mesial and caudal surfaces; and an auxiliary lobe on the caudal surface that is inflated and shorter than cephalic lobe. The mt16S rRNA sequence of *Fredius buritizatilis* sp. nov. establishes its systematic position in relation to other species of *Fredius* included in the analysis. The occurrence of several species of Pseudothelphusidae in the state of Rondônia, Brazil, as well as the relationships of *Fredius buritizatilis* sp. nov. to other species of the genus, suggests that the affinities of some Brazilian pseudothelphusids are not as close as their geographical proximity might suggest.

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### **RESUMO**

Uma nova espécie de caranguejo de água doce do gênero Fredius Pretzmann, 1967, do estado de Rondônia, Brasil, é descrita e ilustrada, bem como contextualizada em termos de sequências de uma subunidade do DNA ribossomal. Fredius buritizatilis sp. nov. se distingue de suas congêneres pelos seguintes caracteres do primeiro gonópodo do macho: lobo mesial na forma de uma projeção longa, estreita, semelhante a uma lança recurvada para cima; lobo cefálico com a porção proximal claramente inflada, portando espinhos córneos robustos nas superfícies mesial e caudal; lobo auxiliar na superfície caudal, um tanto inflado, mais curto do que o lobo cefálico. As sequências do gene 16Smt de Fredius buritizatilis sp. nov. confirmaram seu posicionamento sistemático em relação às espécies próximas do gênero Fredius incluídas nas análises. A ocorrência de espécies de Pseudothelphusidae no estado de Rondônia, e as afinidades de Fredius buritizatilis sp. nov. com outras espécies do gênero, sugerem que a afinidade entre elas não são tão evidentes como a relativa proximidade geográfica poderia indicar.

## INTRODUCTION

Freshwater crabs in the tropical environments of the Americas are a group of great relevance because of their high species diversity and their ecological importance (Ng et al., 2008; Cumberlidge & Ng, 2009; De Grave et al., 2009). Despite the species richness of this group there still are many areas of South America that are poorly surveyed for freshwater crabs. This is the case of the pseudothelphusid crab fauna in the Brazilian state of Rondônia in the southern Amazon basin. The only records available for pseudothelphusids in Rondônia are those of Magalhães (1986) who, 25 years ago, examined a series of female specimens from this region and assigned at least two of them to Fredius reflexifrons (Ortmann, 1897). Magalhães & Rodríguez (2002) later considered these records uncertain because the taxonomy of pseudothelphusids relies heavily on the morphology of the adult male gonopod to distinguish between species and genera. This means that there are no records of identified species of pseudothelphusids that are currently known from the state of Rondônia. In addition to those two works, the systematics and the taxonomy of the genus Fredius Pretzmann, 1967, was addressed by Rodríguez & Pereira (1992), Rodríguez & Campos (1998), Magalhães & Rodríguez (2002), Magalhães et al. (2005, 2006), and Magalhães (2009).

Recent collections from an urban area in the city of Ji-Paraná in east-central Rondônia, Brazil, found an undescribed species of the genus *Fredius*. Our knowledge of the diversity of the pseudothelphusids in the southern Amazon basin has increased recently and includes descriptions of species from adjacent areas including the Tapajós (Magalhães & Türkay, 1986), Xingu

(Magalhães, 2003), Tocantins (Magalhães, 2005), Madeira (Magalhães, 2009), and Aripuanã (Magalhães & Türkay, 2010) drainage basins. The discovery of this new species in Rondônia indicates that the southern Amazonian pseudothelphusid crab fauna is more diverse than previously thought. The new species is described, illustrated, and characterized in terms of a mtDNA sequence (16S rRNA). The new species is described by C. Magalhães and F. L. Mantelatto, who are the taxonomic authorities for *F. buritizatilis* sp. nov.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Sampling was carried out on 21 May 2010 and on 13 October 2010, and all crabs were captured by hand, after 7:00 pm. Specimens were deposited in the crustacean collections of the Departamento de Biologia, Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras de Ribeirão Preto, Universidade de São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto (CCDB), at the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus (INPA), and the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo (MZUSP). The morphological description is based on the male holotype. The following abbreviations were used: carapace breadth (cb), measured across the carapace at its widest point; carapace length (cl), measured along the midline, from the frontal to the posterior margin; carapace height (ch), the maximum height of the cephalothorax; frontal breadth (fb), the breadth of the frontal margin measured along the upper border. Measurements are in millimeters. Other abbreviations used are: P = pereiopod; s = thoracic sternite. The word gonopod, when used alone, refers to the first male gonopod; "igarapé" means small stream in Portuguese. Terminology for gonopod morphology follows Magalhães & Rodríguez (2002).

Both DNA extraction and amplification were made using fresh walking leg muscle tissue of *Fredius buritizatilis* sp. nov. DNA sequences from other species of *Fredius* were also obtained and compared to that of the new species (table I). Genetic vouchers of *F. buritizatilis* sp. nov., from which the tissue samples were obtained, are deposited in the CCDB (larger male paratype CCDB 342) and INPA (holotype INPA 1891) crustacean collections. Other specimens were acquired from the INPA crustacean collection. All specimens used in this study were identified by the first author. All DNA sequences used in this study were generated from our own extractions. The procedures followed Mantelatto et al. (2007, 2009a, b) and Pileggi and Mantelatto (2010), with appropriate modifications. A polymerase chain

# TABLE I

Freshwater crab species used for the molecular comparison with collection site and catalogue number, and genetic database accession numbers (GenBank). CCDB = Coleção de Crustáceos, Departamento de Biologia, Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras de Ribeirão Preto, Universidade de São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto; INPA = Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus; MZUSP = Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo; SMF = Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany

Collection site		`
Concendi site	Catalogue no.	GenBank accession no
JI-Paraná, Rondônia, Brazil	INPA 1891	IN402376
Jı-Paraná, Rondônia, Brazil	CCDB 342	IN402377
Serra do Navio, Amapá, Brazil	INPA 582	JN402372
Posto Indigena Parafuri, Roraima, Brazil	INPA 839	JN402379
Aldela Balawa-ú, Amazonas, Brazil	INPA 1330	JN402373
Comunidade Paapi-ú, Roraima, Brazil	INPA 841	Pending
Kio Chumucuí, Bragança, Pará, Brazil	INPA 1512	IN402378
Rio Tawadu, Bolívar, Venezuela	INPA 833	1NZ02372
Aldeia Palimi-ú, Rio Uraricoera basin. Roraima. Brazil	INDA 848	4/5204vit
Rahia Brazil	0+0 1/11	C/5704NIC
Duina, Diazil	SMF 32763	FM208777

reaction (PCR) was performed in a Thermo® PxE 0.2 Thermal Cycler, using the universal primers: 16Sar (5'-CCGGTCTGAACTCAGATCACGT-3') and 16Sbr (5'-CGCCTGTTTATCAAAAACAT-3') (Palumbi et al., 1991) for the 16S rRNA (the large subunit of the ribosomal rRNA). PCR products were purified using a SureClean Plus kit, and were sequenced with the ABI Big Dye® Terminator Mix in an ABI Prism 3100 Genetic Analyzer®. All sequences were confirmed by sequencing both strands. The consensus sequence for the two strands was obtained using BioEdit Version 7.0.7.1 (Hall, 1999). Sequences were edited using BioEdit and aligned in Clustal W (Thompson et al., 1994) with interface in BioEdit, using default parameters. All sequences were submitted to GenBank (table I). A genetic distance analysis (minimum evolution) was conducted using MEGA 5.0 software (Tamura et al., 2011). Support for the nodes on the dendrogram was measured using a bootstrap method (1000 replicates), and only confidence values >50% were reported.

### **TAXONOMY**

Family PSEUDOTHELPHUSIDAE Ortmann, 1893 Genus Fredius Pretzmann, 1967 Fredius buritizatilis Magalhães & Mantelatto sp. nov. (fig. 1)

Material examined. — Holotype: male (genetic voucher: cb 39.7, cl 25.7, ch 17.2, fb 11.8), INPA 1891, Brazil, Rondônia, municipality of Ji-Paraná, buritizal no campus do Centro Universitário Luterano de Ji-Paraná (CEULJI-ULBRA), 10°51′50.6″N 61°57′30.9″W, coll. F. D. de Almeida, 21 May 2010. Paratypes: male (cb 31.4, cl 21.0), female (cb 38.4, cl 24.0), INPA 1892, same data as holotype; 2 males (cb 21.3, cl 14.2; genetic voucher: cb 31.6, cl 20.4), 1 female (cb 23.4, cl 15.6), 1 female with juveniles (cb 35.7, cl 23.0), CCDB 342, same data as holotype, 13 Oct. 2010; 1 male (cb 28.3, cl 18.9), 1 female (cb 22.0, cl 14.8), MZUSP 24441, same data as holotype, 13 Oct. 2010.

Other material examined. — Fredius beccarii (Coifmann, 1939), 1 male, Venezuela, Bolívar, Rio Uey, Serranía de Lema, trib. Rio Cuyuní, 06°02′23.5″N 61°30′26.4″W, 135 m elevation, coll. C. Lasso et al., 23 Jan. 2008. Fredius denticulatus (H. Milne Edwards, 1853): 1 male (genetic voucher), INPA 582, Brazil, Amapá, Serra do Navio, coll. Projeto Diversitas Neotropica, 7 May 1994. Fredius estevisi (Rodríguez, 1966): 1 male (genetic voucher), INPA 839, Brasil, Roraima, igarapé Inajá, Posto Indígena Parafuri, coll. Victor Py-Daniel et al., 22 Apr. 1994. Fredius fittkaui (Bott, 1967): 1 male (genetic voucher: cb 69.0, cl 43.2), INPA 1330, Brasil, Amazonas, unnamed stream, Rio Demini watershed, Balawa-ú Yanomami village, 01°47′N 63°46′W, coll. U. C. Barbosa, 5 Sep. 2003. Fredius platyacanthus Rodríguez & Pereira, 1992: 2 males, INPA 1328, Brasil, Amazonas, surroundings of Balawa-ú village, igarapé Loahik, affluent Rio Balawa-ú, Rio Demini watershed, 01°47′N 63°46′W, coll. J. Yanomami, 12 Nov. 2003; 1 male, INPA 841, Brasil, Roraima, Comunidade Paapi-ú, 02°39′N 63°09′W, igarapé unnamed, coll. U. C. Barbosa et al., 28 Apr. 1994. Fredius

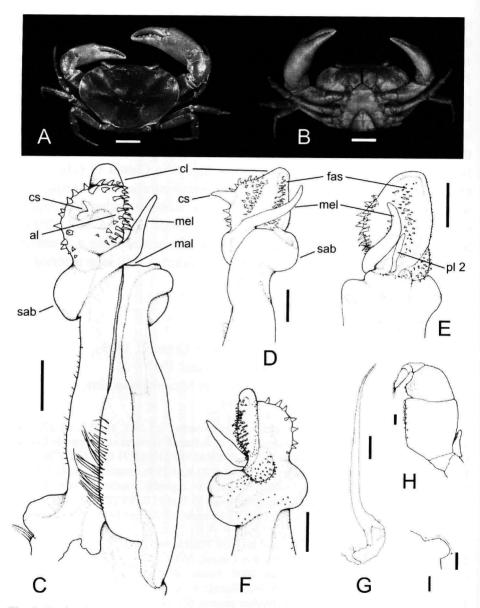


Fig. 1. Fredius buritizatilis sp. nov., male holotype (cb 39.7, cl 25.7), INPA 1891. A, dorsal view; B, ventral view; C, left first gonopod, whole limb, mesiocaudal view; D, distal part of left first gonopod, caudal view; E, distal part of left first gonopod, lateral view; F, distal part of left first gonopod, laterocephalic view; G, left second gonopod, whole limb, mesiocaudal view; H, left third maxilliped, external view; I, left aperture of efferent branchial channel. Abbreviations: al = auxiliary lobe; cl = cephalic lobe; cs = cephalic spine; fas = field of apical spines; mal = marginal lobe; mel = mesial lobe; pl 2 = left second gonopod (distal part only); sab = subapical bulge. Scales: A, B = 10 mm; C-I = 1 mm.

reflexifrons (Ortmann, 1897): 1 male (genetic voucher), INPA 1512, Brazil, Pará, Bragança, Rio Chumucuí, coll. S. Alves, 12 Nov. 2004. Fredius stenolobus Rodríguez & Suárez, 1994: 1 male (genetic voucher: cb 65.6, cl 42.0), INPA 833, Venezuela, Bolívar, Rio Tawadu, 06°20.147′N 65°02.057′W, coll. C. Magalhães & G. Pereira, 5 Dec. 2000; 1 male (genetic voucher: cb 74.0, cl 48.7), INPA 848, Brasil, Roraima, Rio Uraricoera, Palimi-ú Yanomami village, coll. Victor Py-Daniel et al., 22 May 1995. Fredius ykaa Magalhães, 2009: male, holotype, INPA 1465, Brazil, Amazonas, municipality of Maués, Rio Marau, tributary of Rio Maués-Açu, Vila Nova I, 03°44′48″S 57°11′23″W, coll. M. A. V. Correa, 14-28 Jul. 2004.

Diagnosis. — Mesial lobe of male first gonopod long, narrow, spear-like projection recurved upward; cephalic lobe with proximal portion distinctly inflated, bearing large patch of strong, corneous spines along mesial, caudal surfaces. Auxiliary lobe on caudal surface inflated, shorter than cephalic lobe.

Description of the holotype. — Carapace outline ellipsoid (fig. 1A), widest in middle (cb/cl average: 1.54); dorsal surface smooth, convex, regions poorly defined. Pair of distinct gastric pits very close to each other on metagastric region. Cervical grooves narrow, deep, nearly straight, extremities barely reaching anterolateral margin. Postfrontal lobules small, oval; median groove indistinct between postfrontal lobules. Carapace surface between front, postfrontal lobules smooth, sloping gently downwards. Front with distinct upper border; upper border slightly convex in dorsal view, marked with row of very faint papillae; lower border carinate, barely visible in dorsal view, slightly sinuous in frontal view. Upper, lower orbital margins marked by row of very faint papillae; exorbital angle obtuse. Anterolateral margins of carapace with poorly defined notch just behind exorbital angle, fringed by 3 tubercles before cervical groove, followed by row of minute, tuberculiform teeth; posterolateral margins smooth, rounded, marked by faint suture. Epistome narrow; epistomial tooth triangular, deflexed, borders carinate. Suborbital, subhepatic regions of carapace sidewall smooth; pterygostomial regions covered by rather thin pubescence around mouthparts, otherwise smooth.

Endopod of third maxilliped with outer margin of ischium slightly convex, inner margin straight. Exopod of third maxilliped short, approximately 0.31 times length of outer margin of ischium (fig. 1H). Orifice of efferent branchial channel wide, subquadrate (fig. 1I).

First pereiopods moderately heterochelous, holotype with right cheliped larger than left. Major cheliped with merus subtriangular in cross section; upper crest rounded, with irregular longitudinal row of tubercles; internal lower crest with irregular row of conical, blunt teeth increasing in size distally; external lower crest delimited by regular row of low tubercles. Carpus with row of small tubercles and prominent spine on inner side; outer side rounded,

smooth. Palm slightly swollen (length/breadth 1.1), smooth on both sides; upper, lower borders rounded, smooth. Fingers slightly gaping when closed (not gaping in smaller cheliped), tips not crossing; both fingers with large rounded teeth, smaller distally; smaller teeth sometimes interspersed with larger ones. Pereiopods 2-5 slender, dactyli 1.42-1.68 times as long as propodi, with 5 longitudinal rows of corneous spines diminishing in size proximally.

Thoracic sternites (fig. 1B) of third maxillipeds, first pereiopods completely fused, except for small notches at lateral edges of sternum. Sternal sulci s4/s5, s5/s6, s6/s7 distinct, faint in middle, deeper near midline of thoracic sternum, ending just before reaching midline; sternal sulcus s7/s8 deep throughout length, reaching midline. Midline of thoracic sternum marked by deep groove in sternites VII-VIII; indistinct in sternites V-VI. Sternoabdominal cavity densely pilose, especially in sternites V-VI.

All abdominal segments free (fig. 1B). Lateral margins of male telson parallel in line with midline axis, tip rounded.

First gonopod robust, widest at base, narrowest approximately 2/3 along length; subapical bulge well developed around lateral, cephalic sides. Marginal suture straight, situated on mesial side (fig. 1C). Marginal lobe large, short, distal border nearly straight, with scattered patch of minute teeth (fig. 1C); marginal lobe separated from caudal surface by shallow groove. Mesial lobe extremely developed as long, narrow, sinuous projection recurved upwards, directed laterally, distally (fig. 1C-F). Cephalic spine strong, recurved, conical, with acuminate tip pointing in mesocaudal direction (fig. 1C, D). Cephalic lobe enlarged, rounded distally, its proximal portion distinctly inflated, bearing large patch of strong, corneous spines along mesial, caudal sides (fig. 1C, D, F). Auxiliary lobe on caudal side, rather inflated, slightly shorter than cephalic lobe (fig. 1C-E); lateral channel indistinct. Field of apical spines well developed as elongated, dense patch of strong spines along lateral side, delimited by cephalic, caudal borders of apex (fig. 1D-F). Second gonopod (fig. 1G) slightly shorter than first, very slender, tapering, distal part rather flattened, with dense patch of minute teeth.

Distribution. — Fredius buritizatilis sp. nov. is currently known only from the type locality, which is the drainage area of the middle course of the Rio Machado, a tributary of the Rio Madeira, in turn, a right bank tributary of the Amazon River. Magalhães (1986) previously assigned to Fredius reflexifrons two ovigerous females (MZUSP 7047) from Santa Cruz da Serra (in Rio Jaru watershed, an affluent of Rio Machado) and a female (MZUSP 6382) from Nova Esperança, also in the Rio Machado drainage. However, these

records of female specimens were later considered uncertain (Magalhães & Rodríguez, 2002) because the taxonomy of these crabs relies almost entirely on the morphology of the male first gonopod. Magalhães (1986) also reported two other records of undetermined pseudothelphusid specimens from Rondônia: one female (MZUSP 6392 — the male symbol was a printing mistake) from the Rio Jaru watershed, and a juvenile (INPA) from the headwaters of Rio Formoso, in the Rio Jaciparaná drainage. Therefore *Fredius buritizalis* is the first identified pseudothelphusid species to be recorded from the state of Rondônia. It is possible that the females of uncertain identity that were recorded earlier from localities in the Rio Machado drainage basin might also belong to *Fredius buritizatilis* sp. nov., but without gonopod characters or DNA sequences their identity cannot be confirmed. More comprehensive surveys of the decapod fauna of Rondônia are needed in order to establish the actual distribution of this new species.

Fredius buritizatilis sp. nov. is the southernmost record of any species of Fredius known to date. Apart from a few records of F. reflexifrons from the state of Ceará (Brazil) and from the main axis of the Amazon River (Magalhães et al., 2005), and F. ykaa from the lower Rio Madeira basin (Magalhães, 2009). All other species of the genus are found north of this in northern Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Guiana, Colombia, and Venezuela (Rodríguez, 1982; Rodríguez & Campos, 1998; Magalhães & Rodríguez, 2002; Magalhães et al., 2005, 2006; Magalhães, 2009). Both F. buritizatilis sp. nov. and F. ykaa are found in the Rio Madeira basin. However the latter species occurs in the lower part of the basin and was found in "terra firme" (highlands never inundated by the periodical floods of the main rivers of the Amazon basin) forest streams, while the former occurs a little more than 7 degrees latitude southwards in a different kind of habitat (see below).

Habitat. — Specimens of the new species were collected in a "buritizal" swamp of the Centro Universitário Luterano de Ji-Paraná (CEULJI-ULBRA), within the urban area of the city of Ji-Paraná. A "buritizal" is a "forest" of basically the *Mauritia flexuosa* palm popularly known as "buriti" which tends to occur in moist depressions with poorly drained soils (Ribeiro & Walter, 2008). The sampling area was about 195 m long and 80 m wide and is currently impacted by human activities, invasion by domestic fauna, and domestic sewage discharge. According to the Secretaria de Estado do Desenvolvimento Ambiental (Rondônia, 2009), the temperature during the year varies between 21.6 and 31.5°C (mean of 26.5°C), the humidity ranges from 35 to 84%, and the mean precipitation is 1711.2 mm/year (varying from 1.8 mm in July to

337 mm in January). The capture of crabs is easier during the dry season when lower water levels expose the entrances of the crab burrows. Male and female crabs were collected from the same burrow.

Etymology. — The species is named after its habitat and the name is formed from the word "buritizal" (forest of buritis) and the Latin suffix, -atilis, meaning place of growth.

Molecular aspects. — A 543 base sequence of the 16S rRNA gene from a number of species of *Fredius* was aligned, and the sequence included insertions and deletions. The sequence divergence rates (i.e., uncorrected pairwise differences) estimated among all species of *Fredius* included in the analysis ranged from 1.4-20.9% for the 16S rRNA gene; sequence divergence rates for intraspecific individuals were 0% for 16S rRNA gene. Sequence divergence between *F. buritizatilis* sp. nov. and a number of closely related congeneric species is shown in the Minimum Evolution dendrogram (fig. 2).

Remarks. — The new species is included in the genus *Fredius* based on characters of the male first gonopod such as the open, ear-shaped field of apical spines, the well developed subapical bulge around the lateral and cephalic surfaces ("bourrelet subapical", after Rodríguez, 1982), and the simple marginal process. The molecular analysis positions this taxon within the group formed by the other species of the genus *Fredius* used in this study (table I, fig. 2).

Comparisons between F. buritizatilis sp. nov. and F. ykaa (whose distribution is closest to that of the new species), suggest that their affinities are not

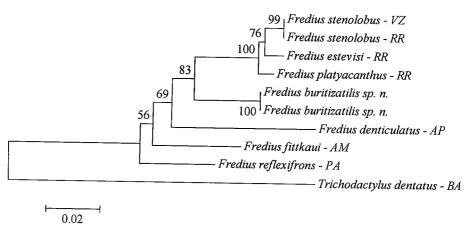


Fig. 2. Dendrogram of distance analysis among some species of *Fredius*, based on the 16S rRNA gene.

as close as their relative geographical proximity might suggest. The first gonopod of *F. buritizatilis* sp. nov. bears a very long, spear-like, distally recurved mesial lobe while in *F. ykaa* this lobe is very small, and is reduced to a small triangular spine pointing in the caudal direction. Other differences between the gonopod of these two taxa can be seen in the cephalic lobe (proximal portion inflated and bearing patch of strong, corneous spines in *F. buritizatilis* sp. nov. vs. flat, with a patch of very small spines in *F. ykaa*), and the cephalic spine (conical, with sharp tip pointing in mesiocaudal direction in of *F. buritizatilis* sp. nov. vs. broadly triangular, with a blunt tip pointing laterally in *F. ykaa*). In addition, the position of the mesial lobe of the gonopod in relation to the cephalic spine, and the situation of the auxiliary lobe are very distinct between both species.

The new species seems to be morphologically most closely related to F. platyacanthus Rodríguez & Pereira, 1992, F. estevisi, and F. stenolobus, based on similar morphologies and positions of the mesial lobe and cephalic spine of the adult male gonopod, in spite of differences in the shape of these processes. Similarly, F. buritizatilis sp. nov., F. platyacanthus and F. estevisi all have a gonopod that has a mesial lobe that is much larger than the cephalic spine (see Rodríguez & Pereira, 1992: 306, fig. 4A-E), and this character is a little larger than that of both F. stenolobus (see Rodríguez & Campos, 1998: 766, fig. 2A, B) and F. adpressus Rodríguez & Pereira, 1992 (see Rodríguez & Pereira, 1992: 306, fig. 4H-J). The mesial lobe of the male gonopod is equally as developed as the cephalic spine in F. granulatus Rodríguez & Campos, 1998 (see Rodríguez & Campos, 1998: 766, fig. 2C, D), F. chaffanjoni (Rathbun, 1905) (see Rodríguez & Pereira, 1992: 306, fig. 4F, G), and F. beccarii (see Rodríguez & Pereira, 1992: 306, fig. 4FM, N). Other species of Fredius [e.g., F. ykaa, F. reflexifrons, F. fittkaui (Bott, 1967), and F. denticulatus (H. Milne Edwards, 1853)] have a gonopod with a cephalic spine that is more developed than the mesial lobe (see Magalhães & Rodríguez, 2002: 679, fig. 1; 683, fig. 2, respectively; Rodríguez & Campos, 1998: 766, fig. 2O, P).

These affinities are supported by the dendrogram based on the mt16S rRNA gene (fig. 2). Although the analysis is incomplete due to the unavailability of samples for all species of the genus, *F. buritizatilis* sp. nov. lies closer to *F. platyacanthus*, *F. estevisi* and *F. stenolobus* than to the other species that have a weakly developed mesial lobe. Integration of molecular taxonomy and comparative morphology of pending available species will provide a more robust insight into the systematics of this genus in South America.

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