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Contribution to the knowledge of Psocodea of French Guiana and updated checklist (Insecta)

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Abstract
This paper presents the results of recent fieldworks conducted in French Guiana during the second half of 2025. A total of 15 species are reported as new records for the region, based on material collected from various localities using the beating vegetation method. New records include species belonging to nine genera of eight families. Among the most notable findings are *Echmepteryx vitiensis* Thornton, 1981, recorded for the first time from the New World, *Archipsocopsis cubana* Badonnel, 1977, new for South America, and *Tapinella stenomedia* Thornton & Woo, 1973, previously known only from the Galapagos Islands, now also recorded from South America. An updated checklist of the Psocodea of French Guiana is provided, raising the total number of known species to 52.

Key words: Amazonia, biodiversity, Neotropics, rainforest, taxonomy, inventory

Introduction

Previous contributions to the knowledge of Psocodea from French Guiana include the works of Enderlein (1919), Eertmoed (1973), New (1973), Mockford (1965, 1966, 1974, 1993), García Aldrete (2000). More recently, Georgiev (2023a) provided the first detailed survey of species in the region, described *Tapinella montjoliensis* Georgiev, 2023 (Georgiev 2023b), updated the checklist to 36 species (Georgiev 2025a), and later described *Tapinella mishevi* Georgiev, 2025 (Georgiev 2025b), bringing the total to 37 species before the present contribution. The current study analyzes material collected between July and October *2025,* significantly expanding the knowledge of the local fauna. Psocodea is an order of small neopterous insects comprising both free-living forms (formerly 'Psocoptera') and parasitic lice (Phthiraptera). The free-living psocids are commonly found on tree bark, in leaf litter, and on dead foliage, where they feed primarily on microflora such as algae, lichens, and fungi. They occur in a wide range of terrestrial habitats, from tropical rainforests to anthropogenic environments, and are considered important components of decomposer communities (Mockford 1993, Lienhard & Smithers 2002). Morphologically, free-living Psocodea are characterized by a well-developed postclypeus, typically bulbous, and chewing mouthparts with an asymmetric arrangement of the mandibles. The venation of the fore- and hindwings, when present, provides key diagnostic characters at family and genus level. Other important taxonomic features include the structure of the subgenital plate, the gonapophyses, and the male phallosome, as well as features of the antennae, legs, and body setation (Mockford 1993). *T*his paper reports 15 new records for the department.

Material and methods

The material was collected by both authors from various localities in French Guiana using the beating vegetation method. A total of 213 specimens were collected during the sampling period. The sampling period covered the months of July, August, September, and October 2025, corresponding to the transition between the long rainy season and the long dry season in French Guiana. Specimens were preserved in 95% ethanol. Identification was

performed primarily by Dilian Georgiev, with some field determinations by the first author. Identification was based on characteristics following the keys and descriptions by Mockford (1967, 1991, 1993), New (1973a), Thornton (1981), New & Thornton (1975), Enderlein (1903), Sommerman (1946), Badonnel (1967, 1977), Thornton & Woo (1973) and García Aldrete (1993). Specimens were examined using a MAGUS Bio D250TL biological digital microscope and an Optika light microscope. Photographs were captured with a MAGUS CDF50 digital camera (equipped with a Sony CMOS sensor) using the camera's proprietary software. To achieve an extended depth of field, multiple focal planes were focus-stacked using Zerene Stacker. Where necessary, image stitching was performed using Hugin.

Results

New Records for French Guiana

Suborder Trogiomorpha Roesler, 1940
Infraorder Atropetae Pearman, 1936
Family Lepidopsocidae Enderlein, 1903
Genus *Echmepteryx* Aaron, 1886
***Echmepteryx vitiensis* Thornton, 1981**
Material examined. French Guiana: 1♀, 7 Jul 2025, Crique Marguerite, Roura community, 4.37.33.3N, 52.19.53.5W, 25 m, agricultural land bordering rainforest, dry banana (*Musa* sp. L.) leaves.

Known distribution. The species was described from Fiji (Thornton 1981) and has also been recorded from Hawaii (Lienhard 2016). Previously known only from the Pacific Islands.

Notes. New record for the New World.

Infraorder Psocathropetae Pearman, 1936
Family Troctopsocidae Enderlein, 1909
Genus *Troctopsoculus* Mockford, 1967
Troctopsoculus sp.
Material examined. French Guiana: 1♀, 22 Jul 2025, near the road to and in proximity to Petit Saut Dam, 5.04.21.6N, 53.01.37.9W, 72 m, bushes at the edge of rainforest near dirt road, dry leaves of *Phenakospermum guyannense* (Rich.) Endl. ex Miq.

Known distribution. The genus *Troctopsoculus* was described by Mockford (1967) from the USA with type species *Troctopsoculus morenus* Mockford, 1967. The other species of the genus, *Troctopsoculus brasiliensis* New, 1973 is known from Mexico, Brazil, and Peru (New 1973b; Lienhard 2016).

Notes. This is the first record of the genus *Troctopsoculus* for French Guiana, although the species remained unidentified.
Family Pachytroctidae Enderlein, 1904
Genus *Tapinella* Enderlein, 1908
***Tapinella ornaticeps* Mockford, 1991**
Material examined. French Guiana: 1♂, 5 Oct 2025, Mataroni river, 4.12.51N, 52.11.17W, 22 m, clearing in rainforest, dry tree leaves.

Known distribution. The species was described from Roraima State, Brazil (Mockford 1991). Known from Brazil and Venezuela (García Aldrete & Mockford 2009; Lienhard 2016).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

***Tapinella stenomedia* Thornton & Woo, 1973**
Material examined. French Guiana: 2♀, 3 Oct 2025, Road to Petit Saut, 5.06.52.1N, 52.48.15.6W, 42 m, side of a road in the rainforest, cut dry bush; 2♀, 28 Sep 2025, Road to Sainte-Elle, 5.17.42N, 53.03.05W, 41 m, dirt road in rainforest, mixed dry leaves from *Cecropia* sp. Loefl., *Heliconia* sp. L.

Known distribution. The species was described from the Galapagos Islands (Thornton & Woo 1973). Previously known only from the Galapagos Islands (Peck 2001, 2012).

Notes. New record for South America.

***Tapinella vittata* García Aldrete, 1993**
Material examined. French Guiana: 1♀, 8 Sep 2025, Degrad de Kaw, 4.30.41.9N, 52.03.38.2W, 18 m, rainforest, dry leaves from *Heliconia* sp.; 4♀, 1♂, 8 Sep 2025, Near Roura, 4.43.37N, 52.18.47.3W, 30 m, rainforest near village, dry leaves from mixed patch of *Inga* sp. Mill., *Heliconia* sp. and *Musa* sp.; 6♀, 13 Sep 2025, Fourgassier area, 4.37.34N, 52.19.53W, 12 m, agricultural lands, mixed *Musa* sp., *Heliconia* sp., *Phenakospermum guyannense*; 1♀, 13 Sep 2025, Crique Marguerite, Roura community, 4.37.28N, 52.19.49W, 17 m, agricultural land, dry leaves of *Cecropia* sp.; 2♀, 20 Sep 2025, Crique Marguerite, Roura community, 4.37.48N, 52.20.07W, 8 m, agricultural land in rainforest area, dry bush and dry leaves of *Musa* sp.; 2♀, 22 Sep 2025, Crique Marguerite, Roura community, 4.37.48N, 52.20.06W, 8 m, agricultural land in rainforest area, dry leaves of coconut palm trees; 6♂, 20 Sep 2025, Crique Marguerite, Roura community, 4.37.56N, 52.20.10W, 7 m, agricultural lands in a rainforest, dry leaves of *Musa* sp.

Known distribution. The species was described from Mexico (García Aldrete 1993) and has also been recorded from Argentina (García Aldrete 2009).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

Suborder Psocomorpha Badonnel, 1951
Infraorder Epipsocetae Pearman, 1936
Family Dolabellopsocidae Eertmoed, 1973
Genus *Dolabellopsocus* Eertmoed, 1973
***Dolabellopsocus spinosus* Mockford, 1991**
Material examined. French Guiana: 1♀, 3 Oct 2025, Road to Petit Saut, 5.08.58.7N, 52.53.48.8W, 53 m, side of a road in the rainforest, dry leaves of *Musa* sp.; 3♀, 1♂, 3 Oct

2025, Road to Petit Saut, 5.04.19.7N, 53.01.37.5W, 69 m, side of a road in a rainforest, dry leaves of *Phenakospermum guyannense*.

Known distribution. The species was described from Roraima State, Brazil (Mockford 1991). Previously known only from Brazil (García Aldrete & Mockford 2009; Silva-Neto & García Aldrete 2020).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

Infraorder Archipsocetae Yoshizawa, 2002
Family Archipsocidae Enderlein, 1903
Genus *Archipsocopsis* Badonnel, 1948
***Archipsocopsis cubana* Badonnel, 1977**

Material examined. French Guiana: 1♀, 22 Jul 2025, Between Kourou and Sinnamary, 5.08.54.6N, 52.54.11.5W, 45 m, bushes at the edge of rainforest near road, dry leaves of *Phenakospermum guyannense*; 1♀, 20 Sep 2025, Crique Marguerite, Roura community, 4.37.49N, 52.20.07W, 15 m, agricultural land, dry leaves of *Musa* sp.; 1♀, 3 Oct 2025, Road to Petit Saut, 5.06.52.1N, 52.48.15.6W, 42 m, side of a road in the rainforest, cut dry bush; 6♀, 3 Oct 2025, Road to Petit Saut, 5.09.09.4N, 52.53.18.5W, 62 m, rainforest edge near a road, dry leaves of *Heliconia* sp. and *Musa* sp.; 7♀, 8 Sep 2025, Degrad de Kaw, 4.30.57N, 52.04.10W, 189 m, rainforest, dry leaves of a dense *Heliconia* sp.; 1♀, 28 Sep 2025, Road to Sainte-Elle, 5.17.42N, 53.03.05W, 41 m, dirt road in rainforest, mixed dry leaves from *Cecropia* sp., *Heliconia* sp.

Known distribution. The species was described from Cuba (Badonnel 1977). Previously known only from the Caribbean (Lienhard 2016).

Notes. New record for South America.

Genus *Notarchipsocus* Mockford, 1991
***Notarchipsocus macrurus* (New, 1973)**
(Fig. 1)

Material examined. French Guiana: 2♀, 3 Oct 2025, Road to Petit Saut, 5.09.09.4N, 52.53.18.5W, 62 m, rainforest edge near a road, dry leaves of *Heliconia* sp. and *Musa* sp.; 1♀, 8 Sep 2025, Kaw area, 4.31.02.6N, 52.04.21.1W, 224 m, rainforest, dry leaves of a dense *Heliconia* sp. patch; 1♀, 20 Sep 2025, Crique Marguerite, Roura community, 4.37.56N, 52.20.10W, 7 m, agricultural lands in a rainforest, dry leaves of *Musa* sp.

Known distribution. The species was originally described as *Archipsocus macrurus* (New, 1973) from Suriname (New 1973a) and later transferred to *Notarchipsocus* by Mockford (1991). Known from Suriname, Brazil, and Panama (New 1973a; Mockford 1991; Lienhard 2016).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

Infraorder Caeciliusetae Pearman, 1936
Family Caeciliusidae Kolbe, 1880
Genus *Valenzuela* Navás, 1909
***Valenzuela albofasciatus* (Mockford, 1991)**

Material examined. French Guiana: 2♂, 28 Sep 2025, Awala-Yalimapo village near Surinam border, 5.44.34N, 53.55.47W, 3 m, agricultural land in savanna, dry leaves of *Musa* sp.

Known distribution. The species was described from Roraima State, Brazil (Mockford 1991). Previously known only from Brazil (García Aldrete & Mockford 2009; Silva-Neto & García Aldrete 2020).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

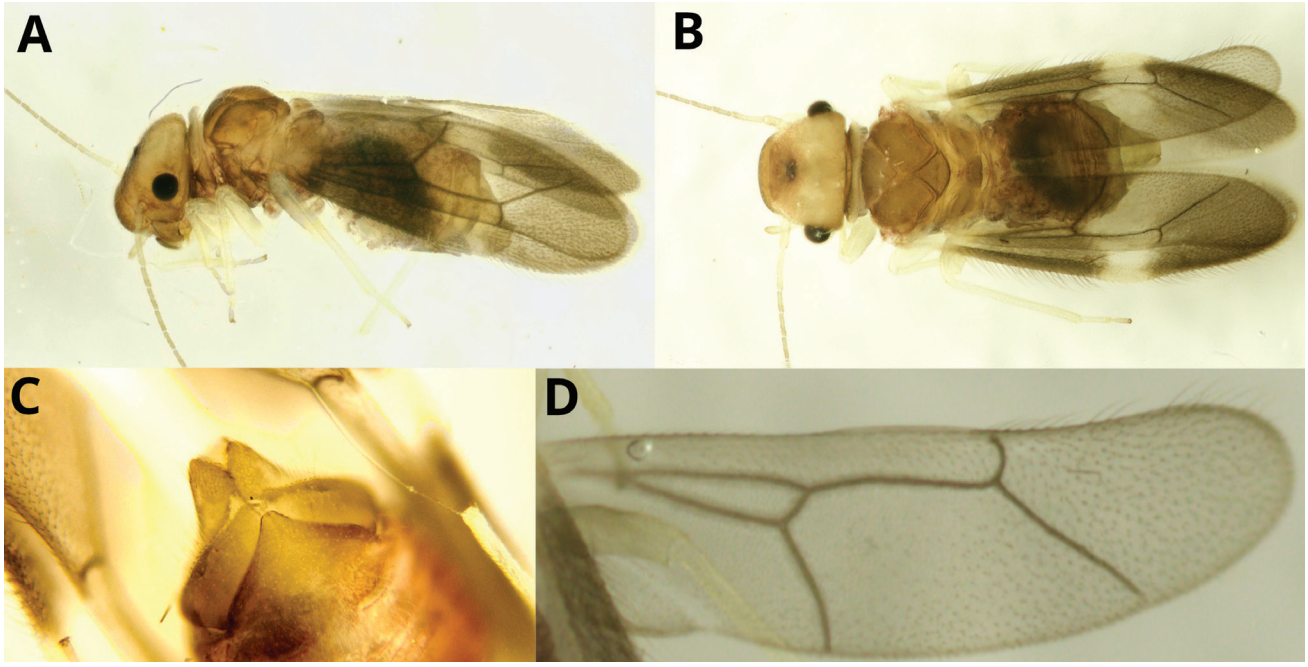

Fig. 1 – *Notarchipsocus macrurus* (New, 1973). Female specimen from near the road to Petit Saut. **A,** habitus, lateral view; **B,** habitus, dorsal view; **C,** subgenital plate; **D,** hind wing.

***Valenzuela cinalus* (New & Thornton, 1975)**
(Fig. 2)
Material examined. French Guiana: 1♀, 13 Sep 2025, Fourgassier area, 4.37.34N, 52.19.53W, 12 m, agricultural land, mixed *Musa* sp., *Heliconia* sp., *Phenakospermum guyannense*.

Known distribution. The species was described from Mato Grosso, Brazil (New & Thornton 1975). Previously known only from Brazil (Mockford 2000; García Aldrete & Mockford 2009; Silva-Neto & García Aldrete 2020).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

***Valenzuela claristigma* (New & Thornton, 1975)**
(Fig. 3)
Material examined. French Guiana: 1♀, 8 Sep 2025, Degrad de Kaw, 4.31.02.6N, 52.04.21.1W, 235 m, rainforest, dry leaves from *Heliconia* sp.

Known distribution. The species was described from Mato Grosso, Brazil (New & Thornton 1975). Previously known only from Brazil (Mockford 2000; García Aldrete & Mockford 2009; Silva-Neto & García Aldrete 2020).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

***Valenzuela* cf. *pubes* (Enderlein, 1903)**
Material examined. French Guiana: 3♂, 8 Sep 2025, Degrad de Kaw, 4.30.57N, 52.04.10W, 189 m, rainforest, dry leaves of a dense *Heliconia* sp.

Known distribution. *Valenzuela pubes* was originally described from Brazil by Enderlein (1903). Known from Brazil and Suriname (Lienhard & Smithers 2002; Lienhard 2016).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

***Valenzuela* cf. *tuberculatus* (New & Thornton, 1975)**
Material examined. French Guiana: 1♂, 8 Sep 2025, Road to Kaw, near Fourgassier, 4.37.27N, 52.17.28.9W, 275 m, rainforest edge near a road, cut dry tree leaves.

Known distribution. The species was described from Mato Grosso, Brazil (New & Thornton 1975). Previously known only from Brazil (García Aldrete & Mockford 2009; Silva-Neto & García Aldrete 2020).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

Infraorder Homilopsocidea Pearman, 1936
Family Lachesillidae Pearman, 1936
Genus *Lachesilla* Westwood, 1840
***Lachesilla* cf. *riegeli* Sommerman, 1946**
Material examined. French Guiana: 2♀, 1♂, 8 Sep 2025, Road to Kaw, near camp Caiman, 4.33.50.5N, 52.12.26.1W, 315 m, clearing for road construction in rainforest, cut dry trees; 2♀, 8 Sep 2025, Road to Kaw, near Fourgassier, 4.37.27N, 52.17.28.9W, 275 m, rainforest edge near a road, cut dry tree leaves; 1♀, 8 Sep 2025,

Fig. 2 – *Valenzuela cinalus* (New & Thornton, 1975). Female specimen from Fourgassier area.

Fig. 3 – *Valenzuela claristigma* (New & Thornton, 1975). Female specimen from Degrad de Kaw area.

Degrad de Kaw, 4.30.57N, 52.04.10W, 189 m, rainforest, dry leaves of a dense *Heliconia* sp.; 1♀, 1♂, 8 Sep 2025, Degrad de Kaw, 4.29.56.1N, 52.03.10.8W, 14 m, rainforest, cut dry tree leaves; 4♀, 6♂, 3 Oct 2025, Road to Petit Saut, 5.06.52.1N, 52.48.15.6W, 42 m, side of a road in the rainforest, cut dry bush; 5♀, 3♂, 28 Sep 2025, Road to Sainte-Elle, 5.20.19N, 53.02.11W, 35 m, dirt road in rainforest, cut dry tree leaves.

Known distribution. *Lachesilla riegeli* was described from North America (Sommerman 1946). The species is widespread in the Americas, recorded from the USA, Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico (Lienhard 2016), Mexico, Central America, and South America including Brazil (Mockford 1993; García Aldrete 2000; García Aldrete & Silva-Neto 2014).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

Family Ectopsocidae Enderlein, 1903
Genus *Ectopsocus* McLachlan, 1899
***Ectopsocus pilosus* Badonnel, 1967**

Material examined. French Guiana: 5♀, 1♂, 22 Sep 2025, Crique Marguerite, Roura community, 4.37.48N, 52.20.06W, 8 m, agricultural land in rainforest area, dry leaves of *Cocos nucifera* L.

Known distribution. The species was described from Madagascar and later reported from Mascarene Islands, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Kenya, and Colombia (Badonnel 1967; Lienhard 2016; Georgiev 2022; Saenz Manchola et al. 2014; García Aldrete et al. 2018).

Notes. New record for French Guiana.

Updated checklist of Psocodea from French Guiana

The total number of Psocodea species recorded in French Guiana is now 52 (excluding the unidentified sp.). The systematic order and family-group nomenclature follow Lienhard & Smithers (2002) as updated by Lienhard & Yoshizawa (2018, 2019a, 2019b) and Lienhard (2026). The family-level synonymy of Pseudocaeciliidae with Calopsocidae follows Yoshizawa & Johnson (2014), as accepted by Lienhard (2024, 2025).

Trogiomorpha: Atropetae: Lepidopsocidae
Proentomum Badonnel, 1949
1. *Proentomum personatum* Badonnel, 1949
Echmepteryx Aaron, 1886
2. *Echmepteryx falco* (Badonnel, 1949)
3. *Echmepteryx madagascariensis* (Kolbe, 1885)
4. *Echmepteryx pallida* Smithers, 1965
5. *Echmepteryx vitiensis* Thornton, 1981 **(New record)**
Lepidopsocus Enderlein, 1903
6. *Lepidopsocus marmoratus* (Banks, 1931)
Trogiomorpha: Psocathropetae: Troctopsocidae
Troctopsoculus Mockford, 1967
7. *Troctopsoculus* sp. **(New record)**
Trogiomorpha: Psocathropetae: Liposcelididae
Liposcelis Motschulsky, 1852
8. *Liposcelis bostrychophila* Badonnel, 1931
Trogiomorpha: Psocathropetae: Pachytroctidae
Tapinella Enderlein, 1908
9. *Tapinella formosana* Enderlein, 1908
10. *Tapinella maculata* Mockford & Gurney, 1956
11. *Tapinella mishevi* Georgiev, 2025
12. *Tapinella montjoliensis* Georgiev, 2023
13. *Tapinella ornaticeps* Mockford, 199**1 (New record)**
14. *Tapinella stenomedia* Thornton & Woo, 1973 **(New record)**
15. *Tapinella vittata* García Aldrete, 1993 **(New record)**
Peritroctes Enderlein, 1905
16. *Peritroctes trifasciatus* Badonnel, 1981
Psocomorpha: Epipsocetae: Epipsocidae
Mesepipsocus Reuter, 1904
17. *Mesepipsocus brasilianus* (New, 1972)
Psocomorpha: Epipsocetae: Dolabellopsocidae
Dolabellopsocus Eertmoed, 1973
18. *Dolabellopsocus maculosus* Eertmoed, 1973
19. *Dolabellopsocus spinosus* Mockford, 1991 **(New record)**
Psocomorpha: Archipsocetae: Archipsocidae
Archipsocus Hagen, 1882
20. *Archipsocus cayennensis* New, 1973
21. *Archipsocus gibberophallus* New, 1973
22. *Archipsocus* cf. *minutillus* New, 1973
23. *Archipsocus vittatus* New, 1973
Archipsocopsis Badonnel, 1948
24. *Archipsocopsis cubana* Badonnel, 1977 **(New record)**
25. *Archipsocopsis nana* New, 1973
26. *Archipsocopsis virgata* New, 1973
Notarchipsocus Mockford, 1991
27. *Notarchipsocus macrurus* (New, 1973) **(New record)**
Psocomorpha: Caeciliusetae: Caeciliusidae
Maoripsocus Smithers, 1967
28. *Maoripsocus africanus* (Ribaga, 1911)
Stenocaecilius Enderlein, 1906
29. *Stenocaecilius casarum* (Badonnel, 1931)
Valenzuela Navás, 1909
30. *Valenzuela albofasciatus* (Mockford, 1991) **(New record)**
31. *Valenzuela cinalus* (New & Thornton, 1975) **(New record)**
32. *Valenzuela claristigma* (New & Thornton, 1975) **(New record)**
33. *Valenzuela* cf. *pubes* (Enderlein, 1903) **(New record)**
34. *Valenzuela* cf. *tuberculatus* (New & Thornton, 1975) **(New record)**
Xanthocaecilius Mockford, 1989
35. *Xanthocaecilius* sp.
Psocomorpha: Homilopsocidea: Lachesillidae
Lachesilla Westwood, 1840
36. *Lachesilla braticagua* García Aldrete, 2000
37. *Lachesilla papillata* García Aldrete, 2000
38. *Lachesilla* cf. *riegeli* Sommerman, 1946 **(New record)**
39. *Lachesilla sandersoni* Mockford, 1974
Psocomorpha: Homilopsocidea: Ectopsocidae
Ectopsocus McLachlan, 1899
40. *Ectopsocus maindroni* Badonnel, 1935
41. *Ectopsocus pilosus* Badonnel, 1967 **(New record)**
42. *Ectopsocus ribagai* Enderlein, 1906
43. *Ectopsocus thibaudi* Badonnel, 1979
44. *Ectopsocus titschacki* Jentsch, 1939
Psocomorpha: Homilopsocidea: Peripsocidae
Peripsocus Hagen, 1866
45. *Peripsocus ferrugineus* Thornton & Wong, 1968
46. *Peripsocus pauliani* Badonnel, 1949
Psocomorpha: Homilopsocidea: Calopsocidae
Pseudocaecilius Enderlein, 1903
47. *Pseudocaecilius citricola* (Ashmead, 1879)
48. *Pseudocaecilius clunialis* Vaughan, Thornton & New, 1991
49. *Pseudocaecilius tahitiensis* (Karny, 1926)
Psocomorpha: Homilopsocidea: Elipsocidae
Nepiomorpha Pearman, 1936
50. *Nepiomorpha* sp.
Psocomorpha: Psocetae: Psocidae
Psococerastis Pearman, 1932
51. *Psococerastis opulenta* (Navás, 1930)
Thyrsophorus Burmeister, 1839
52. *Thyrsophorus speciosus* Burmeister, 1839

Conclusions

As a result of this study, 15 species of Psocodea are recorded as new for French Guiana, raising the total number of known species from 37 to 52. The discovery of several potentially undescribed species of *Troctopsoculus*, *Tapinella* and *Lachesilla* indicates that further surveys and taxonomic work are needed.

Several of the new records reported here are biogeographically noteworthy. *Echmepteryx vitiensis*, previously known only from the Pacific Islands (Thornton 1981; Lienhard 2016), is here recorded from the New World for the first time, representing a range extension of approximately 15,000 km. *Ectopsocus pilosus*, originally described from Madagascar (Badonnel 1967) and subsequently recorded from the Mascarene Islands, South and Southeast Asia, and East Africa (Lienhard 2016; Georgiev 2022), as well as from Colombia (Saenz Manchola et al. 2014; García Aldrete et al. 2018), is here reported from French Guiana for the first time. Similarly, *Archipsocopsis cubana*, hitherto known only from Cuba (Badonnel 1977; Lienhard 2016), is here documented from mainland South America for the first time, and *Tapinella stenomedia*, previously restricted to the Galapagos Islands (Thornton & Woo 1973; Peck 2001, 2012), is now also known from the South American continent. These disjunct distributions may reflect passive dispersal by wind currents or human-mediated transport associated with plant material, as has been hypothesized for other widely distributed psocid species (Mockford 1993; Lienhard & Smithers 2002). In addition, several species originally described from Brazil, including *Valenzuela cinalus*, *V. claristigma*, and *V.* cf. *tuberculatus* from Mato Grosso (New & Thornton 1975), and *Dolabellopsocus spinosus*, *V. albofasciatus*, and *Tapinella ornaticeps* from Roraima State (Mockford 1991) are here recorded from French Guiana, over 2,000 km from their type localities, suggesting that these taxa are more widely distributed across the Guiana Shield and northern Amazonia than previously documented.

The region remains vastly underexplored for Psocodea, and continued fieldwork should be expected to yield additional new records and new species.

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