

A New Cretaceous Crane-fly (Diptera, Tipulidae) from Santana Formation (Araripe Basin, Northeastern Brazil)

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The sediments of the Crato Member of the Santana Formation in Northeastern Brazil has become famous as a prolific source of well preserved fossil insect. Despite this and of the great abundance of dipterans among Mesozoic fossil insects, there are relatively few species of this order hitherto described for this locality.

The family Tipulidae is one of the major groups of Diptera in the fossil record. Several hundred of species are known from numerous Mesozoic and Cenozoic deposits of Asia, Africa, Europe, North and Central America, but in the Brazilian Cretaceous, the group is represented only by some unnamed specimens reported by Grimaldi (1990) and by the species *Cratotipula latialata* Ribeiro & Martins-Neto, 1999, all from Santana Formation.

This work reports on the study of an exceptionally well preserved fossil specimen of Tipulidae (Linoniinae, Eriopterini) from Santana Formation (Crato Member, Araripe Basin, Northeastern Brazil), representing a new genus and species. Diagnostic characters include a exceptionally large discal cell, presence of a cross-vein between R_1 and R_{2+3} , and a large size compared to related genera (total length =14 mm; wings, 10 mm long and 3 mm wide).