

***Heteropoda dagmarae* sp. nov. from Laos—a close relative of  
*Heteropoda javana* (Simon 1880) from Indonesia  
(Arachnida: Araneae: Sparassidae)**

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**Abstract**

A new species of Heteropodinae is described from northern Laos: *Heteropoda dagmarae* sp. nov. From genital as well as somatic characters it seems to be closely related to *Heteropoda javana* (Simon 1880) from Sumatra and Java. A *javana* species-group is proposed within *Heteropoda* Latreille 1804 by means of these two species and several undescribed species.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, zoogeography, Heteropodinae, species group

**Introduction**

The genus *Heteropoda* Latreille 1804 is far from being well-investigated. Originally established by Latreille (1804) for two species, the type species *Heteropoda venatoria* (Linnaeus 1767) and an unnamed species from New Holland, it contains today 182 forms almost exclusively from Asia and Australia. In a review on Heteropodinae Thorell 1873 Jäger (2002) presented results from examination of *Heteropoda* type material and proposed synonymies and new ranks. Relationships of cave-dwelling *Heteropoda* species were discussed by Jäger (2005). Nevertheless, a comprehensive intrageneric grouping of distinct lineages was not proposed until today (but see Davies 1994 for Australian representatives).

On an expedition to northern Laos in November 2004 the two authors collected individuals of a *Heteropoda* species, which showed a distinct black ventral colouration and differed from almost all other *Heteropoda* species recorded since then. Examination of the genitalia lets it appear close to *Heteropoda javana* (Simon 1880), known from Java and Sumatra (Jäger 2002). In the present paper we describe the Laotian specimens as a new species, propose a species-group and discuss relationships within *Heteropoda*.