



An illustrated catalogue of the South American species of the cyphophthalmid family Neogoveidae (Arthropoda, Opiliones, Cyphophthalmi) with a report on 37 undescribed species

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Abstract

We provide an illustrated catalog of the cyphophthalmid diversity of the Neotropics, including photographs of the holotypes and paratypes (when available) for all but one described South American Neogoveidae. These include the single species of *Huitaca*, two of the three *Metagovea* species, the four *Neogovea* species and ? Gen. *enigmaticus*. Furthermore we provide collecting data for 37 undescribed species of south American Neogoveidae, including *Huitaca* (8 spp.), *Neogovea* (12 spp.) and *Metagovea* (17 spp.). Distributional data of the species of Neogoveidae add the first records for French Guiana, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. Colombia shows the largest diversity of Cyphophthalmi among South American countries, perhaps due to the large amount of ecosystems found in this country, but this could also reflect sampling effort.

Key words: Neotropics, Colombia, Arachnida, biodiversity hotspot

Introduction

Cyphophthalmi are often considered an obscure group of mite-like harvestmen found in litter from tropical to temperate forests of almost all continental landmasses. Because they evolved early in the history of terrestrial animals and because they are found on all major continental fragments except Antarctica, they have recently attracted the attention of biogeographers (e.g., Juberthie 1988; Boyer *et al.* 2005; Boyer and Giribet in press). In connection with this recent attention to their biogeography and phylogeny, taxonomic studies have flourished. As a consequence, 16 of the 142 species and subspecies described so far have been proposed since the turn of the century, after the most recent catalogue of Cyphophthalmi was published (Giribet 2000). These 16 new species represent more than 11% of the known species and many more await to be described. Of the six families currently recognized, all but one have received taxonomic attention during this period of time. These include the description of one ogoveid with a revision of the family (Giribet and Prieto 2003), as well as the descriptions of several pettalids (Juberthie 2000; Boyer and Giribet 2003; Giribet 2003; Sharma and Giribet 2006), sironids (Dunlop and Giribet 2003; de Bivort and Giribet 2004; Novak and Giribet 2006), troglisironids (Sharma and Giribet 2005), and stylocellids (Giribet 2002; Schwendinger *et al.* 2004; Schwendinger and Giribet 2005). However, since the description of the last species of Neogoveidae (see Legg 1990) no taxonomic treatment has been provided for this family. In the particular case of the clade of neogoveids found in South America, the last species was described in 1980 (Goodnight and Goodnight 1980), and the last compre-