Zootaxa 1744: 31–40 (2008)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

Review of the Nearctic genus *Scyletria* Bishop & Crosby (Araneae, Linyphiidae), with a transfer of *S. jona* to *Mermessus* O. Pickard-Cambridge

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Abstract

The genus *Scyletria* Bishop & Crosby 1938 is reviewed and reduced to its type species, Sc*yletria inflata* Bishop & Crosby 1938, by transfer of the only other species in the genus, *Scyletria jona* Bishop & Crosby 1938, to *Mermessus* O. Pickard-Cambridge 1899. The male of *S. inflata* is re-described, the female of *M. jona* (Bishop & Crosby 1938) **new combination** is described for the first time, and the male is re-described.

Key words: *Cephalethus*, distribution, *Eperigone*, Erigoninae, North America, penny spider, *Savignia*, spider taxonomy

Introduction

Bishop & Crosby (1938) erected the genus *Scyletria* for two erigonine linyphiid spiders, *Scyletria jona* and the type species *S. inflata*. The two species were placed together in the genus *Scyletria* "because of the similarity in the structure of the embolic division of the male palpus" (Bishop & Crosby 1938:89). However, we find that the two species differ significantly and that it is necessary to transfer *S. jona* to the genus *Mermessus* O. Pickard-Cambridge 1899, creating the new combination *Mermessus jona* (Bishop & Crosby 1938). The transfer of this species is based on the generic characterization of *Eperigone* Crosby & Bishop 1928 by Millidge (1987) and of *Mermessus* by Miller (2007), who synonymized *Eperigone* under *Mermessus*.

Paquin & Dupérré (2003) illustrated both sexes of *S. inflata* and Dupéré [*sic*] *et al*. (2006) formally described the female of *S. inflata*, noting that the female paratype of *Savignia birostra* (Chamberlin & Ivie 1947) strongly resembled that of *S. inflata*. We examined the paratype specimen of *S. birostra* and conclude that it was incorrectly identified and is a female specimen of *S. inflata*.

Methods

Specimens were examined in 95% ethanol under a Leica MZ95 dissection microscope or a Wild Leitz M5A dissection microscope. For illustrations, specimens were examined in 70% ethanol under a SMZ-U Nikon dissection microscope. A Nikon Coolpix 950 digital camera attached to the microscope was used to photograph all the structures to illustrate. The digital photos were used to trace proportions and the illustrations were detailed and shaded by referring to the structure under the microscope. For the study of the embolic division, the male palps were placed for ~10 minutes in warm KOH, washed in 70% alcohol, mounted on a slide in lac-

Accepted by N. Scharff: 25 March 2008; published: 9 Apr. 2008