



## The South American genus *Quemedice* Mello-Leitão (Araneae: Sparassidae): familial placement and taxonomic revision

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### Abstract

The genus *Quemedice* Mello-Leitão, 1942 is revised. The female of the type species, *Quemedice enigmaticus* Mello-Leitão, 1942 is redescribed and the male described and illustrated for the first time based on specimens from Argentina (Santiago del Estero province, near the type locality), central-western and southeastern Brazil (states of Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso and São Paulo). *Quemedice piracuruca* n. sp. is described based on male and female specimens from Colombia (Dept. Meta) and northern, northeastern and central-western Brazil (states of Piauí, Bahia and Minas Gerais). All specimens share the undisputed synapomorphy for Sparassidae, a soft dorsal trilobate membrane at the distal end of leg metatarsi, hence the genus is transferred to the family Sparassidae.

**Key words:** taxonomy, morphology, new species, transfer, South America, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina

### Introduction

The genus *Quemedice*, from the Spanish “qué me dice?”, a colloquial expression meaning “what’s up?”, was erected by Mello-Leitão (1942) to include the type species, *Quemedice enigmaticus* Mello-Leitão, described from Santiago del Estero province, Argentina, based on a single female specimen. To date, the genus remained monotypic (Platnick 2008) with no additional records other than the type specimen. The species was originally placed in Thomisidae in the subfamily Philodrominae (Mello-Leitão 1942) which was later elevated to family level (Homann 1975). Examination of holotype of *Q. enigmaticus* revealed the presence of a soft dorsal trilobate membrane at the distal end of leg metatarsi. This membrane is considered to be an undisputed synapomorphy of Sparassidae (Jäger 1998; Lew 2005; Jocqué & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2006) and thus the genus is here transferred to this family.

Further examination of several Brazilian collections revealed a significant quantity of specimens congeneric with *Q. enigmaticus*, mostly misidentified as belonging to the genus *Tibellus* Simon (Philodromidae) due to the elongate abdomen and eye arrangement (Mello-Leitão 1943; Van den Berg & Dippenaar-Schoeman 1994).

In this contribution, the genus *Quemedice* is revised. The female of *Q. enigmaticus* is redescribed and the male described and illustrated for the first time. In addition, a new species is described based on males and females from Colombia and Brazil.