Zootaxa 1915: 54–68 (2008)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

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

Ami, a new Theraphosid genus from Central and South America, with the description of six new species (Araneae: Mygalomorphae)

FERNANDO PÉREZ-MILES[1], RAY GABRIEL[2], LAURA MIGLIO[3], ALEXANDRE BONALDO[3], RICHARD GALLON[4], JUAN JACOBO JIMENEZ[5] & ROGERIO BERTANI[6]

[1]*Sección Entomología, Facultad de Ciencias, Iguá 4225, 11400 Montevideo, Uruguay*
[2]*c/o Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PW, United Kingdom*
[3]*Departamento de Zoologia, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Av. Magalhães Barata, 376, Caixa Postal 399, 66040-170, Belém, PA, Brazil*
[4]*23A Roumania Crescent, Llandudno, North Wales, LL30 1UP, United Kingdom*
[5]*Corporación SurNeotrópica, Bogotá, Colombia. E-mail: surneotropica@gmail.com*
[6]*Instituto Butantan, Laboratorio de Imunoquimica, Av. Vital Brazil 1500, 05503-900, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. E-mail: rbert@butantan.gov.br*

Abstract

A new genus *Ami* Pérez-Miles is proposed for six new species: *A. caxiuana* Pérez-Miles, Miglio & Bonaldo, from Caxiuanã National Forest, Pará, Brasil, the type species; *A. yupanquii* Pérez-Miles, Gabriel & Gallon, from the area of Puyo, Equador; *A. bladesi* Pérez-Miles, Gabriel & Gallon, from Isla Colón, Panamá; *A. pijaos* Jimenez & Bertani, from Ibagué, Tolima, Colombia; *A. amazonica* Jimenez & Bertani, from Leticia, Amazonas, Colombia; and *A. weinmanni* Pérez-Miles, from La Azulita, Apure, Venezuela. *Avicularia obscura* (Ausserer 1875) is transferred to *Ami* and re-diagnosed. Diagnostic characters of *Ami* are the modification of Type I urticating hairs, with unusually longer area b, and one or two subconical processes on retrolateral face of male palpal tibiae. Females of *Ami* differ further from those of other theraphosid genera by their highly characteristic spermathecae: paired ventral receptacles attached to an almost discrete, semicircular, sclerotized back-plate.

Key words: Tarantula, spider, Neotropics, systematics, urticating hairs

Introduction

The Theraphosidae are the most speciose family of Mygalomorphae, comprising 113 genera and 900 species (Platnick 2007); they include some of the largest spiders in the world, usually called tarantulas. The subfamily Theraphosinae is known only from the New World, primarily the Neotropics, and includes about half of all known theraphosid species. Considering that one-third of spider genera occur in the Neotropics and only 20% of world spider fauna is known (Coddington & Levi 1991), most new Theraphosidae are expected to be in the Neotropics.

The Theraphosinae were characterized by the combination of well-developed embolic keels and an extended subtegulum on the male palpal organ (Raven 1985) and by the presence of abdominal urticating hairs (Type I and/or Type III and/or Type IV). They appear closely related to the Harpactirinae, Aviculariinae and part of the Ischnocolinae in an unresolved polytomy in the first cladistic approach for the group. (Raven 1985). The cladistic relationships of representatives of the subfamily were analyzed by Pérez-Miles (1992, 1998, 2000), Pérez-Miles et al. (1996, 2007), Bertani (2000) and Guadanucci (2005). Despite the scarcity of characters and the low support of parts of the cladogram, a poorly resolved basal group can be recognised

 Accepted by R. Raven: 7 Oct. 2008; published: 27 Oct. 2008