



A new genus of Cranaidae from Ecuador (Opiliones: Laniatores)

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Abstract

The new genus *Zannicranaus* is described from the Andes in central Ecuador based on two new species. It is characterized by a guitar-shaped body, short sturdy pedipalpus, unique strong spiniform process in the frontal hump, sexually dimorphic basichelicerite (very strong in male), an erect spine on the cheliceral bulla and paired ventral armature on male coxa IV. *Zannicranaus monoclonius* **sp. nov.**, a species profusely colored in red, yellow and green, is described from Chimborazo Province (Sibambe). *Zannicranaus morlacus* **sp. nov.**, a dull-brown colored species, is the first reported harvestman from Azuay Province (Molleturo). The stylar caps, a novel structure, is described in the male genitalia of Cranaidae.

Key words: Andes, Arachnida, Azuay, Chimborazo, Ecuador, Grassatores, harvestmen, Neotropics

Introduction

The Cranaidae are a gonyleptoid family of harvestmen with less than 200 described species, mainly found in the highlands of South America, as well as in the lower forests of Amazonia. A general treatment of family may be found in Pinto-da-Rocha & Kury (2007). In Ecuador, the cranaiids are represented by the very standard of the family, *Crananus* Simon, 1879, and some unique groups of genera, such as the small *Yania*-like highlanders, and the endemic Heterocranainae, and some Stygnicranainae, otherwise known only from Colombia. In both Andean slopes there are obscure creatures such as *Balزابamba* Mello-Leitão, 1945 and *Bucayana* Mello-Leitão, 1942, and also bizarre species with huge ventral processes arising from stigmatic area, arranged in a multitude of monotypic genera such as *Alausius* Roewer, 1932, *Angistrisoma* Soares & Soares, 1948, *Ventripila* Roewer, 1917 and *Ventrivomer* Roewer, 1913. The eastern part of the country (moist lowland Amazonian forest) has many large bodied species of *Phareicrananus* Roewer, 1913 and the western Pacific semi-dry lowland forests harbor many species of *Guayaquiliana* Mello-Leitão, 1935 and related genera.

A recent expedition of the Arachnology section of the MNRJ to Ecuador as well as study of the QCAZ collection yielded many representatives of Opiliones, including two new species, described below, which are deemed to constitute a new genus of Cranaidae. The new genus for the moment is included in the Cranainae, although none of the four subfamilies of Cranaidae is sharply defined, pending more study on their relationships (see “Discussion” below and also Orrico & Kury 2009).

Methods

Descriptions of colors use the standard names of the 267 Color Centroids of the NBS/IBCC Color System (<http://people.csail.mit.edu/jaffer/Color/Dictionaries#nbs-isc>) as described in Kury and Orrico (2006). Their color names have uppercase initials. Specimens were prepared for SEM with triple ultrasonication in water and detergent, no critical point preparation, gold coated and examined with a JEOL JSM-6390LV at the Center for Scanning Electron Microscopy of Museu Nacional/UFRJ. All measurements are in mm and μm .

Abbreviations of the repositories cited are: MNRJ (Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro), MZSP (Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo) and QCAZ (Museo de Zoologia, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Quito). Other