

***Megaphobema teceae* n. sp. (Araneae, Theraphosidae), a new theraphosine spider from Brazilian Amazonia**

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Abstract

A new species from Juruti River Plateau, Juruti, Pará, Brazil that fits the generic characters of *Megaphobema* is described. *Megaphobema teceae* n. sp. differs from the other four species known in this genus mainly by the presence of a conspicuous post-ocular process. This is the first record of the genus to both oriental Amazon and Brazil.

Keywords: Araneae, Theraphosidae, *Megaphobema*, Brazilian Amazon, Neotropical, Taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Megaphobema* Pocock 1901 comprises very large spiders from Central América (Costa Rica) and North-western South America (Colombia and Ecuador). Males are characterized by a palpal organ with a very wide concave-convex embolus with prolateral superior and inferior keels, and apical and prolateral accessory keels. The prolateral accessory keels are also present in males *Sericopelma* Ausserer 1875 but they can be distinguished from *Megaphobema* by the absence of a tibial apophysis. Females have one spermathecal receptacle transversely striated the synapomorphy of *Megaphobema* + *Sericopelma* + *Theraphosa* Thorell 1870. The genus has both Type I and III urticating hairs. Using these characters among others, this genus was placed in the apical portion of the cladogram of the Theraphosinae (Pérez-Miles et al. 1996; Pérez-Miles 2000) and seems to be more related to *Sericopelma* and *Theraphosa* than to *Brachypelma* Simon 1891, although *Brachypelma* appears to be the sister-group of the clade formed by *Megaphobema* + its sister-group. Our study of 14 individuals collected in