



Sparassidae of China 4. The genus *Pseudopoda* (Araneae: Sparassidae) in Yunnan Province

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Table of contents

Introduction	2
Material and methods	2
Taxonomy	3
Family Sparassidae Bertkau, 1872	3
Subfamily Heteropodinae Thorell, 1873	3
Genus <i>Pseudopoda</i> Jäger, 2000	3
<i>Pseudopoda sinapophysis</i> sp. n.	3
<i>Pseudopoda interposita</i> sp. n.	5
<i>Pseudopoda gongschana</i> sp. n.	6
<i>Pseudopoda saetosa</i> sp. n.	8
<i>Pseudopoda contentio</i> sp. n.	10
<i>Pseudopoda amelia</i> sp. n.	12
<i>Pseudopoda yinae</i> sp. n.	14
<i>Pseudopoda bibulba</i> (Xu and Yin, 2000)	15
<i>Pseudopoda</i> sp. cf. <i>bibulba</i> (Xu and Yin, 2000)	17
<i>Pseudopoda yunnanensis</i> (Yang and Hu, 2001) comb. n.	17
<i>Pseudopoda roganda</i> sp. n.	18
<i>Pseudopoda cangschana</i> sp. n.	19
<i>Pseudopoda shuqiangi</i> sp. n.	21
<i>Pseudopoda daliensis</i> sp. n.	23
<i>Pseudopoda obtusa</i> sp. n.	25
<i>Pseudopoda rivicola</i> sp. n.	27
<i>Pseudopoda digitata</i> sp. n.	29
<i>Pseudopoda contraria</i> sp. n.	31
<i>Pseudopoda spiculata</i> (Wang, 1990)	32
Additional specimens	34
Discussion	34
Acknowledgements	37
References	37

Abstract

The genus *Pseudopoda*, Jäger, 2000 is revised for Yunnan Province, China. Fifteen new species are described: *Pseudopoda sinapophysis* sp. n., *Pseudopoda interposita* sp. n., *Pseudopoda gongschana* sp. n., *Pseudopoda saetosa* sp. n., *Pseudopoda contentio* sp. n., *Pseudopoda amelia* sp. n., *Pseudopoda yinae* sp. n., *Pseudopoda roganda* sp. n., *Pseudopoda cangschana* sp. n., *Pseudopoda shuqiangi* sp. n., *Pseudopoda daliensis* sp. n., *Pseudopoda obtusa* sp. n., *Pseudopoda rivicola* sp. n., *Pseudopoda digitata* sp. n., *Pseudopoda contraria* sp. n. The male of *Pseudopoda bibulba*

(Xu and Yin, 2000) and the female of *Pseudopoda spiculata* (Wang, 1990) are described for the first time. *Pseudopoda yunnanensis* (Yang and Hu, 2001) comb. n. is transferred from the genus *Sinopoda* Jäger, 1999. Limits of species groups in *Pseudopoda* are discussed. Some characters are confirmed to be dependent on size of the spider (e.g., leg formula, ratio between head region and width of posterior eye row).

Keywords: Taxonomy, new species, unknown sex, transfer, new combination, revision, zoogeography, Heteropodinae

Introduction

The genus *Pseudopoda* Jäger, 2000 was described in recent times (Jäger 2000). Its distributional range includes Pakistan in the west and Japan in the east. The range reaches its northern limit in China, Shaanxi Province, representatives occur southwards up to Thailand and Sumatra. *Pseudopoda* was revised in detail mainly in the Himalayan region (Jäger 2001) with description of 51 new species. More species were described or transferred to *Pseudopoda* by Jäger (2002), Jäger *et al.* (2002), Jäger and Ono (2001, 2002). Recently, species from Vietnam and Laos were described (Jäger & Vedel 2005; Jäger *et al.* 2006; Jäger 2007). From China, 14 species were recorded so far (Jäger & Yin 2001).

Almost all species exhibit very small distribution ranges, but sympatric occurrences of several species were frequently observed. Representatives live in forest habitats mainly in mountain ranges (1000–3800 m) with the species being confined to distinct altitudinal zones (Jäger 2001: 121). Those species groups that show derived characters live in the highest ranges. Biology of *Pseudopoda* species is only known fragmentary: spiders live in the leaf litter, under bark of trees, under stones and few on plants. Moultings were observed in the herblayer during the night or early in the morning, spiders were hanging on a thread attached to the spinnerets avoiding contact with the substrate and thus potential predators.

For the eastern and southern part of the range only a few single and scattered records are known. In the present paper the diversity of *Pseudopoda* is investigated in the center of the distribution range of the genus, i.e. Yunnan Province, China.

Material and methods

Specimens were made available from a cooperative expedition in the years 1998 and 2000 carried out by the Hunan Normal University in Changsha (Hunan Prov., China) and the Californian Academy of Sciences San Francisco, USA, as well as from collections of the senior author made on an expedition in 1999 with Wolfgang Schawaller (Stuttgart). Additional material was provided by David Wrase (Berlin). All material is kept in 70% ethanol. Internal duct systems of females were treated with 96% lactic acid. All measurements are in millimetres. General style of description follows Jäger (2000), except for length of appendages which is included in the text of description and listed in the following order: total length [femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus]. Variation of spination is given in parentheses within formula (=asymmetrical variation) and behind formula (=paratype). Parentheses within leg formula point to same leg lengths. Arising points of tegular appendices (i.e. embolus, conductor) are given by means of the left palp in a ventral view. In all illustrations hairs are omitted, except for spines on palps. For a definition and description of the median field of the epigyne in female *Pseudopoda* species compare Jäger (2001). Colouration is exclusively described from preserved material. Photos are made from preserved specimens in ethanol. All photos by P. Jäger, exceptions are indicated. Size classes follow Jäger (2001: 14). Supplementary information from labels, including numbers others than collection numbers, is listed in squared brackets.

Abbreviations. ALE – anterior lateral eyes, AME – anterior median eyes, AW – anterior width of prosoma, CC – chelicerae, CH – clypeus height, CX – coxa, DS – dorsal shield of prosoma, FE – femur, GC –