



New cave-dwelling huntsman spider species of the genus *Sinopoda* (Araneae: Sparassidae) from southern China

JIE LIU¹, SHUQIANG LI¹ & PETER JÄGER^{2,3}

¹ Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100101, P. R. China

² Research Institute Senckenberg, Senckenberganlage 25, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

³ Corresponding author: Peter.Jaeger@Senckenberg.de

Abstract

Nine new species of the genus *Sinopoda*, collected from Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and Hainan Island of southern China, are described: *Sinopoda anguina* sp. nov., *Sinopoda crassa* sp. nov., *Sinopoda fornicata* sp. nov., *Sinopoda grandispinosa* sp. nov., *Sinopoda nuda* sp. nov., *Sinopoda semicirculata* sp. nov., *Sinopoda triangula* sp. nov., *Sinopoda undata* sp. nov. and *Sinopoda yaojingensis* sp. nov. The type specimen of *Sinopoda longshan* Yin, Peng, Yan & Bao 2000 is redescribed and illustrated. All nine new species were collected from caves. The type specimens of new species are deposited in the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing (IZCAS) and Research Institute Senckenberg in Frankfurt am Main (SMF).

Key words: Taxonomy, new species, Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, Hainan Island

Introduction

Sparassidae are mainly known as large hunting spiders, living under tree bark, in leaves of shrubs and trees, rock crevices or in synanthropic habitats. Sparassidae from caves have been poorly investigated (Jäger 2001, 2005), although most representatives may play an important role in subterranean ecosystems, such as caverns, caves and underground passages. A considerable number of huntsman spiders are reported as cave-dwellers in particular in Africa and Southeast Asia (Table 1). Additional species in the genera *Sinopoda* Jäger 1999 and *Heteropoda* Latreille 1806 have been collected in caves, most of them in China, Laos, Thailand and Malaysia (Jäger, unpublished data). Some *Sinopoda* species are only found close to rock crevices during the night, possibly living predominantly in subterranean habitats but occasionally ambushing prey at the surface (Jäger 1998). No cave-dwelling Sparassidae have so far been reported from Australia and the Americas.

Most species from underground environments are described in *Heteropoda* (Table 1) and it appears that they independently moved underground in different regions, i.e. cave-dwellers are more related to their respective local fauna than to each other (Jäger 2005). However, the percentage of cave-dwelling species and those with troglomorphic features is highest in *Sinopoda* (Jäger, unpublished data). Many members of this genus do not necessarily show troglomorphic features such as reduced eyes, elongated legs and palps, or reduced body pigmentation, but a number of species are exclusively found in caves or rock crevices. In some cave-dwelling species of *Sinopoda* pigmentation is somewhat less pronounced, i.e. annulations or other colour markings are absent and body colouration is paler. Some undescribed species have reduced eyes, one species known to the authors has only four eyes and another is completely eyeless (Jäger, unpublished data).

The genus *Sinopoda* is found in northeastern India, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia (including Sarawak), China (southern, central and eastern provinces), Japan and Korea (Jäger 1999; Jäger, unpublished data). Illustrations