



Four new species of the spider genus *Telema* (Araneae, Telemidae) from Southeast Asia

CHUNXIA WANG¹ & SHUQIANG LI^{1,2}

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

²Corresponding author: lisq@ioz.ac.cn

Abstract

Four new species of the spider genus *Telema* from Southeast Asia are described and illustrated: *T. acicularis* **sp. nov.** and *T. anguina* **sp. nov.** from Thailand, *T. fabata* **sp. nov.** from Singapore, and *T. malaysiaensis* **sp. nov.** from Malaysia.

Key words: Taxonomy, cave, rainforest, variation, distribution

Introduction

The family Telemidae contains only 7 genera and 53 species (Platnick 2010, Wang & Li 2010), but is widely distributed from tropical Africa, Europe, and East Asia to North and Central America (Brignoli 1977). The spiders of this family are small, usually less than 2 mm, and can be distinguished from other spiders by the presence of a transverse, zigzagged ridge anterodorsally on the abdomen (Bennett & Ledford 2005). In Southeast Asia, four telemids species have been recorded: *Apneumonella jacobsoni* from Sumatra and Malaysia (Brignoli 1977); *Telema cucphongensis* and *Telema exiloculata* from Vietnam (Lin, Pham & Li 2009); and *Telemofila samosirensis* from Sumatra (Wunderlich 1995).

The genus *Telema* was erected by Simon in 1882 with the type species *T. tenella* from Spain and France. A total of 36 *telema* species have been described (Platnick 2010, Wang & Li 2010). Study of a series of telemid spiders collected by Christa L. Deeleman-Reinhold in Southeast Asia yielded four new *Telema* species, which are described in this paper.

Material and methods

Specimens were examined and measured using a LEICA M205 C stereomicroscope. Further details were studied and measured under an Olympus BX41 compound microscope. All drawings were made using a drawing apparatus attached to an Olympus BX41 compound microscope, and then inked on ink jet plotter paper. Male palps and female genitalia were examined and illustrated after they were dissected from the spiders' bodies. Vulvae were removed and treated in lactic acid before illustration. The left palpi of male spiders were illustrated, except where otherwise indicated. All type specimens were preserved in 80% ethanol solution. Photos were taken with an Olympus C7070 wide zoom digital camera (7.1 megapixels) mounted on an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope. The images were montaged using Helicon image stacking software. All measurements are given in millimeters. Palp and leg measurements are shown as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). Palp and leg segments were measured on their dorsal side. The following abbreviations are used: EM and SP for embolus and spermatheca respectively.

All the type specimens are deposited in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum in Leiden, the Netherlands (RMNH).