



Description of *Macutula*, a new genus of jumping spiders from Northeastern Brazil (Araneae: Salticidae: Amycoidea)

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Abstract

Three new species from Northeastern Brazil are described and included in the newly proposed genus *Macutula* **gen. nov.** The type species *M. aracoiaiba* **sp. nov.** and *M. caruaru* **sp. nov.** are described based on specimens from the State of Pernambuco, while *M. santana* **sp. nov.** is based on specimens from the State of Bahia.

Key words: Neotropical Region, systematics, taxonomy

Introduction

Of all the species of jumping spiders in the world, over 90% belong to the Salticoida (Maddison & Hedin 2003), a clade recognized, among other features, by the loss of the female palpal claw. Within this group, the Amycoidea clade is particularly significant for including a large Neotropical radiation and for being the sister group to the rest of the salticoids (Maddison & Hedin 2003; Maddison *et al.* 2008). The amycooid radiation, which includes, for instance, many ant-mimicking and small beetle-like salticids, presently consists of about 60 genera and 420 described species. To this diversity, the genus *Macutula* **gen. nov.** is newly presented, including three new species from Northeastern Brazil.

Material and methods

The material examined is deposited in the following institutions (abbreviation and curator in parentheses): Instituto Butantan, São Paulo (IBSP, I. Knysak); Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE, L. Ianuzzi). The measurements are given in millimeters. Spine notation follows Petrunkevitch (1925), with a few changes. The abbreviations used throughout the text are: RTA: retrolateral tibial apophysis; RvTA: retroventral tibial apophysis; d: dorsal; p: prolateral; r: retrolateral; v: ventral; di: distal.

Macutula **gen. nov.**

Type species: *Macutula aracoiaiba* **sp. nov.**

Etymology. The name is an arbitrary combination of letters to be treated as feminine.

Phylogenetic relationship. Although DNA data consistently support the monophyly of amycooids (e.g., Maddison & Hedin 2003; Maddison *et al.* 2008), morphological synapomorphies remain unknown. The new genus is supposed to belong to Amycoidea by similarities with several amycooid lineages. In general appearance, spiders of this group resemble those of *Breda* Peckham and Peckham, which could be an amycooid according to unpublished DNA data, by the dark, glabrous carapace. The third leg longest is also common in amycoines, such as *Mago* O.P.-