



## Redescription of five Amazonian species of *Ctenus* Walckenaer (Araneae, Ctenidae, Cteninae)

DANIELE POLOTOW<sup>1</sup> & ANTONIO D. BRESCOVIT<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

<sup>2</sup> Laboratório Especial de Coleções Zoológicas, Instituto Butantan, Av. Vital Brasil 1500, CEP 05503-900, São Paulo, SP, Brazil  
E-mail: danielopolotow@gmail.com; adbresc@terra.com.br

### Abstract

Five species of *Ctenus* from the Amazon basin are redescribed: *C. delesserti* (Caporiacco, 1947), *C. falconensis* Schenkel, 1953, *C. nigrinus* F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897, *C. serratipes* F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897 and *C. sigma* (Schenkel, 1953). Three new synonymies are proposed: *Ctenus fulvipes* Caporiacco, 1947, *C. itatiayaeformis* Caporiacco, 1955 and *C. scenicus* Caporiacco, 1947 with *C. serratipes*. The female of *Ctenus nigrinus* is described for the first time. The distributional ranges of *Ctenus nigrinus* and *C. serratipes* are extended. We also present distributional maps of the five redescribed species.

**Key words:** taxonomy, spider, South America, Neotropical region

### Introduction

*Ctenus* Walckenaer, 1805 is currently composed of more than 230 species distributed worldwide (Platnick 2011) and abundant in tropical forests of South America, Africa and Asia. The genus was proposed by Walckenaer (1805) to include the type species *C. dubius* Walckenaer, 1805, which was collected in French Guiana. The immature type specimen designated by the author was lost (F.O. Pickard-Cambridge 1897: 57) and the original description did not allow the identification of the species. Brescovit and Simó (2007) redescribed *C. dubius* and proposed a neotype, collected at the type locality.

Recent cladistics analyses suggest that the genus is polyphyletic as currently delimited (Simó & Brescovit 2001; Silva 2003; Polotow & Brescovit 2009a), with several misplaced species worldwide. The large number species described in *Ctenus* and its worldwide distribution is an obstacle to a complete taxonomic revision at genus level. Several species lack complete descriptions or illustrations and cannot be identified; this prevents the correct placement these species and the understanding of their phylogenetic relationships.

In this paper we redescribe five species of *Ctenus* from the Amazon basin: *Ctenus delesserti* (Caporiacco, 1947), which was originally described in the genus *Celaetycheus* from a female and an immature from Guyana, and recently transferred to *Ctenus* by Polotow & Brescovit (2009b); *C. serratipes* F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897, which was described from a male from Guyana; *C. falconensis* Schenkel, 1953, which was described from a male and a female, and *C. sigma* (Schenkel, 1953), which was described from a male, both species from Venezuela; and *C. nigrinus* F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897, which was described from a male, and originally collected in Brazilian Amazon.

### Material and methods

The material examined is deposited in the following institutions (curator in parentheses): BMNH, The Natural History Museum, London (J. Beccaloni); MPEG, Museu Paraense “Emílio Goeldi”, Belém (A.B. Bonaldo); NHMB, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Basel (U. Wüest); MZS, Museo Zoologico de “La Specola”, Firenze (L. Bartolozzi).