



Article

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Linyphiid spiders of Peru: description of a new species, complementary descriptions and new distribution records (Araneae: Linyphiidae)

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Abstract

The spider family Linyphiidae is poorly known from many countries in South America, including Peru. In this paper we describe a new species of *Asemostera* Simon, 1898, *Asemostera diana* **new species**, from Madre de Dios, the males of *Meioneta lauta* Millidge, 1991 and *Meioneta oculata* Millidge, 1991, and the female of *Myrmecomelix pulcher* (Millidge, 1991). New occurrence records for Peru include *Exechopsis conspicua* Millidge, 1991 (known from Brazil), and *Novafrofrontina uncata* (F. O. P.-Cambridge, 1902) (known from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela). New distribution records within Peru for endemic species include *Asemostera janetae* Miller, 2007, *Lygarina finitima* Millidge, 1991, *Meioneta propinqua* Millidge, 1991, *Meioneta silvae* Millidge, 1991 and *Sphecozone niwina* (Chamberlin, 1916). Illustrations are provided for *Asemostera diana* **new species** and for the undescribed sexes of previously described taxa. Known distributional records are also provided for the above discussed taxa.

Key words: Neotropical, new species records, new species, Peru, spider taxonomy

Introduction

The spider family Linyphiidae is currently the second species rich family in the order Araneae (Platnick 2012), but is poorly known from many countries in South America, including Peru. Nearly 90 species of Linyphiidae are recognized from Peru (Platnick 2012), but, due to the scarcity of taxonomic studies in the Neotropical Region, a gross underestimation of the actual species count in Peru is likely.

Examination of specimens from the collection of the Museo de Historia Natural da Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru revealed a new species of *Asemostera* Simon 1898, from Madre de Dios, *Asemostera diana* **new species**, which we describe here. The males of *Meioneta lauta* Millidge, 1991 and *M. oculata* Millidge, 1991 and the female of *Myrmecomelix pulcher* (Millidge, 1991) are here described for the first time. New records from Peru include *Exechopsis conspicua* Millidge, 1991 (known from Brazil) and *Novafrofrontina uncata* (F.O.P.-Cambridge, 1902) (known from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela). New distribution records within Peru for endemic species include *Asemostera janetae* Miller, 2007, *Lygarina finitima* Millidge, 1991, *Meioneta propinqua* Millidge, 1991, *Meioneta silvae* Millidge, 1991, and *Sphecozone niwina* (Chamberlin, 1916).

Material and Methods

Specimens are deposited in the arachnological collection of Museo de Historia Natural da Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru (MUSM, curator: Diana Silva) and Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (IBSP, curator: Darci M. B. Battesti). The study of reproductive structures of both male and female was performed by immersing the epigynum and the embolic division in methyl salicylate and/or clove oil for approximately 30 minutes until the internal structures could be clearly visualized. In order to expand the bulb,