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A new species of the spider genus *Eridantes* Crosby & Bishop from the southwestern United States and mainland Mexico with a revised diagnosis of the genus (Araneae, Linyphiidae, Erigoninae)

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Abstract

A new *Eridantes* Crosby & Bishop (1933) species, *E. diodontos* **n. sp.**, discovered in the United States in the state of Arizona and in Mexico in the state and city of San Luis Potosí, is described and illustrated. Both males and females are very similar to the respective sexes of the type species, *E. erigonoides* (Emerton 1882), but can be distinguished by the higher cephalic lobe, position of the prosomal pit, and the form of the palpal tibia in the male and by the convolution of the m-shaped carinae of the epigynum in the female. Comparative illustrations of the male bulb of *E. erigonoides* and a distribution map of the three known species are also provided. Pending formal taxonomic revision of *Eridantes*, a revised diagnosis and a brief description of the genus are presented based on examination of specimens of the type species and of the new species described here. The mesal rather than ectal position of the paracymbium and the broadly divided dorsal and ventral sclerites of the largely membranous radix are proposed synapomorphies that distinguish *Eridantes* from all similar genera.

Key words: Leaf litter spiders, Arizona spiders, Mexican erigonine spiders, prosomal pits, cephalic lobe, pectinate tarsal claws

Introduction

In their disposition of *Lophocarenum* Menge into which Emerton (1882) had assigned his new species *L. erigonoides* Emerton, Crosby and Bishop (1933) erected *Eridantes* without providing an adequate genus definition. They distinguished the genus only by the presence in the male of prosomal pits and a thin flat tailpiece that directly gives rise to a stout style which makes a partial coil, the slender tip of which is turned inward (mesally) and rests just inside the bezel (tegulum). The authors separated *Eridantes* from *Pelecopsis* Simon (junior synonym, *Lophocarenum*) by the lack of a dorsal abdominal shield in males. Although we are not reviewing the genus in the present paper, we provide a provisional definition based on examination of specimens of the type species as well as specimens of the herein described new species, *E. diodontos* **n. sp.** The erigonine genus *Eridantes* heretofore was composed of only two species, *E. erigonoides*, the type species, and *E. utibilis* Crosby & Bishop (1933). Based on morphological similarity, the type species is, in all probability, more closely related to *E. diodontos* **n. sp.** than to *E utibilis*. The distributions of both *E. erigonoides* and *E. utibilis* occur within the northeastern quarter of the United States and southeastern Canada (Fig 17). *Eridantes diodontos* **n. sp.** has, thus far, been discovered in two counties in Arizona, Yavapai and Cochise and in San Luis Potosí in the state of Mexico of the same name (Fig 17). The smallest male and female were both collected from the Mexican locality.

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