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Redescriptions of poorly known species of jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae) from South Africa and Namibia

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Abstract

The following seven species of southern African Salticidae, known only from type specimens or one sex, and last described in the early 20th century, are redescribed: *Baryphas ahenus* Simon, 1902, *Brancus muticus* Simon, 1902, *Euophrys quadrispinosa* Lawrence, 1927, *Evarcha natalica* Simon, 1902, *Mogrus macrocephalus* Lawrence, 1927, *Thyene damarensis* Lawrence, 1927 and *Thyene bilineata* Lawrence, 1927. Two new synonyms are proposed, *Thyene damarensis* Lawrence, 1927 **syn. n.** with *Hyllus dotatus* (Peckham et Peckham, 1903) and *Thyene bilineata striatipes* Lawrence, 1927 **syn. n.** with *T. bilineata* Lawrence, 1927. One new combination is proposed, *Thyenula natalica* **comb. n.** (ex *Evarcha*). Lectotypes for *Baryphas ahenus* Simon, 1902 and *Thyene bilineata* Lawrence, 1927 are designated. The female of *Brancus muticus* Simon, 1902 is described for the first time.

Key words: new synonymy, new combination, Salticidae, jumping spiders

Introduction

The family Salticidae is the largest family in the order Araneae with 5570 known species in 591 genera (Platnick 2013). The family has a worldwide distribution and its diversity peaks in the tropical regions of the world. Currently, 980 species and 144 genera are known from the Afrotropical Region. A third of this, 344 species in 74 genera, are found in southern Africa (sensu Dippenaar-Schoeman & Jocqué 1997). Some of these southern African species are only known from original, often poor, descriptions and/or were described on the basis of a single or a few specimens that only include one sex. It is likely that some of these species could fall into synonymy and the redescription of type specimens is therefore an important step in determining the taxonomic status of these taxa. In this paper we redescribe seven southern African jumping spider species, first described in the early twentieth century and not included in any subsequent revisions. All seven species are illustrated and their distributions mapped.

Material and methods

This paper is based on the type material deposited in museums of Republic of South Africa (Iziko and Natal Museums, RSA) and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris, France). Non-type material used in comparisons is deposited in the National Collection of Arachnida (Pretoria, RSA) and in the Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren, Belgium). Specimens for this study were borrowed from the following museums: SAM = Iziko Museum, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa (D. Larsen); NMSA = Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, Republic of South Africa (A. Ndaba); MRAC = Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium (R. Jocqué); MNHN = Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (E.-A. Leguin), NCA = National Collection of Arachnida, Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa (P. Marais).