



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3709.3.3>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:2956FC7F-971C-4362-B1F1-34F8AACF50A9>

New records and geographical distribution of ctenid spiders (Araneae: Ctenidae) in Colombia

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Abstract

This study provides new records, geographical distribution extensions and a checklist of the current ctenids species in Colombia based on the review of four arachnological collections and published literature. A total of 15 new records for Ctenidae in Colombia are reported; nine of these species are new records for the country and the distribution of the remaining six is expanded. The genus *Centroctenus* Mello-Leitão, 1929 (*C. ocelliventer* Strand, 1909) is recorded for first time in Colombia and *Cupiennius coccineus* (F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1901) for South America. Due to the strategic geographic position of Colombia, which is a transition zone between Southern and Central American biotas, species inventories in different localities are important to fill distributional gaps. The number of known species of ctenids in Colombia is increased from 16 to 25 and these data will be useful for future studies in taxonomy, systematics and biogeography of this family.

Key words: Neotropical Region, diversity, checklist, South America

Introduction

The family Ctenidae is well represented in the Neotropics by medium to large sized wandering spiders that usually inhabit the ground of forests and low vegetation; only few species are known to be arboreal (Jocqué & Dippenar-Schoeman 2006). This family is one of the most diverse in Araneae, comprising 475 species in 40 genera (Platnick 2013) and it is abundant in tropical forests all over the world (Silva 2003). In the past, Ctenidae was one of the least studied families and the taxonomic status of most genera was not clear. Nevertheless, during the last three decades significant advances were published in multiple generic taxonomic revisions and systematic works, especially in the Neotropics, which have helped to clarify the phylogenetic relationships and the diagnosis of most of Neotropical genera (Lachmuth et al. 1985; Brescovit 1996; Höfer & Brescovit 2000; Simó & Brescovit 2001; Silva 2003, 2004; Polotow & Brescovit 2008, 2009a, 2009b, 2009c; Brescovit & Simó 2007; Martins & Bertani 2007; Hazzi & Silva 2012; Polotow & Brescovit 2013). This has also facilitated advances in natural history and ecological studies (Merret 1988; Simó & Bardier 1989; Höfer et al. 1994; Schuster et al. 1994; Almeida et al. 2000; Simó et al. 2000; Gasnier & Höfer 2001; Folly et al. 2002; Gasnier et al. 2002; Dias & Brescovit 2004; Polotow et al. 2007; Torres & Gasnier 2010).

Literature is mostly focused on Brazilian ctenids and a few neighbouring countries, but the general knowledge of ctenids in Colombia still very incipient. In this study, we present new records, geographical distribution extensions and a checklist of the current ctenids in this country that connects the Central and South America biota.