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A taxonomic review of the wolf spider genus *Agalenocosa* Mello-Leitão (Araneae, Lycosidae)

LUIS N. PIACENTINI

División Aracnología, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Av. Angel Gallardo 470, C1405DJR, Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: piacentini@macn.gov.ar

Abstract

The lycosid genus *Agalenocosa* Mello-Leitão, 1944 comprises at least eight species from northern and eastern Argentina and neighbouring countries: *Agalenocosa velox* (Keyserling, 1891) **comb. nov.** (from southern Brazil and Argentina), transferred here from *Pirata* Sundevall, 1833, *A. tricuspudata* (Tullgren, 1905) **comb. nov.** (from northwestern Argentina), transferred here from *Pardosa* C.L. Koch, 1847, *A. luteonigra* (Mello-Leitão, 1945) (from Argentina and Uruguay), *A. punctata* Mello-Leitão, 1944 (from Buenos Aires and Entre Ríos, Argentina), *A. gentilis* Mello-Leitão, 1944 (from Buenos Aires, Argentina), and three new species: *A. pivity* **sp. nov.**, *A. gamas* **sp. nov.** (from eastern Argentina), and *A. gris-madoi* **sp. nov.** (from eastern Argentina and Paraguay). *Agalenocosa singularis* Mello-Leitão (type species of the genus) is considered a junior synonym of *A. velox*. *Agalenocosa fimbriata* Mello-Leitão, 1944 is considered *species inquirenda*; *Agalenocosa bryantae* (Roewer, 1951), *A. chacoensis* (Mello-Leitão, 1942), *A. denisi* (Caporiacco, 1947), *A. kolbei* (Dahl, 1908), *A. melanotaenia* (Mello-Leitão, 1941), *A. pickeli* (Mello-Leitão, 1937), *A. yaucensis* (Petrunkevitch, 1929), *A. fallax* (L. Koch, 1877), *A. helvola* (C. L. Koch, 1847), *A. subinermis* (Simon, 1897) are considered misplaced species.

The subfamily placement of *Agalenocosa* is briefly discussed, and it could be placed in either Piratinae Zyuzin, 1993 or Venoniinae Lehtinen & Hippa, 1979.

Key words: Subfamily, taxonomy, South America

Introduction

The wolf spider (Lycosidae Sundevall, 1833) genus *Agalenocosa* Mello-Leitão, 1944 was proposed by Mello Leitão (1944) based on four new species from Buenos Aires Province, Argentina: *Agalenocosa singularis* Mello-Leitão, 1944 (type species), *A. fimbriata* Mello-Leitão, 1944, *A. gentilis* Mello-Leitão, 1944 and *A. punctata* Mello-Leitão, 1944. The genus was characterised by Mello-Leitão by the eye arrangement, shape of the chelicerae, number of cheliceral teeth, shape of the labium, spination pattern of the anterior tibiae and the presence of an apophysis on the male palpal tibia. Without explicit morphological justification, Roewer (1955) transferred ten species from Southeast Asia and Australia, Central America, West Indies and India to *Agalenocosa*, and listed the genus in the subfamily Lycosinae Sundevall, 1833. Most recently, Capocasale (2001) transferred *Aulonia luteonigra* Mello-Leitão, 1945 from Argentina to *Agalenocosa* and Alvares (2006) suggested that the genus must be placed on Venoniinae Lehtinen & Hippa, 1979.

The aim of this study is to review the currently known species of *Agalenocosa*, and describe three new species discovered in several arachnological collections in recent years. The morphology of the genus is analysed with respect to currently recognised wolf spider subfamilies.

Material and methods

Specimens and figures. Specimens are deposited in the Arachnological collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Buenos Aires, Argentina (MACN-Ar, Cristina L. Scioscia), Museo de La Plata, Argentina (MLP, Luis Pereira, Cristina Damborenea), American Museum of Natural History (AMNH,

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