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## Descriptions of twelve new species of ochyroceratids (Araneae, Ochyroceratidae) from mainland Ecuador

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### Abstract

Twelve new species in three different genera from the spider family Ochyroceratidae are described from mainland Ecuador: *Speocera bioforestae* sp. n., *Speocera violacea* sp. n., *Speocera musgo* sp. n., *Ochyrocera rinocerotos* sp. n., *Ochyrocera callaina* sp. n., *Ochyrocera italoï* sp. n., *Ochyrocera minotaure* sp. n., *Ochyrocera losrios* sp. n., *Ochyrocera zabaleta* sp. n., *Ochyrocera otonga* sp. n., *Ochyrocera cashcatotoras* sp. n. and *Psiloochyrocera tortilis* sp. n. *Speocera machadoi* Gertsch 1977 is transferred to *Ochyrocera*.

**Key words:** Spider, *Speocera*, *Ochyrocera*, *Psiloochyrocera*, Ecuador

### Introduction

The family Ochyroceratidae includes 175 species in 15 genera (World Spider Catalogue 2015), which are found in tropical regions around the world (Jocqué & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2006) and fossil records show that they were present in the Cretaceous period (Dunlop *et al.* 2015).

In the New World, 49 species of Ochyroceratidae are found, however, no generic taxonomic revision has ever been done. The New World fauna of ochyroceratids has been mainly described by Simon (1891), Fage (1912), Gertsch (1973) and Brignoli (1974, 1978). More recently, González-Sponga (2001) described five species from Venezuela, Hormiga *et al.* (2007) and Baptista *et al.* (2008) respectively described one new species from the Dominican Republic and from Brazil, and Valdez-Mondragón (2009) described two species from Mexico. Study of the ochyroceratid fauna of Ecuador has been limited; two species were described from female specimens by Baert & Maelfait (1986) from the Galápagos Islands and four species were recently described by Baert (2014) from the mainland of Ecuador.

Ochyroceraatidae are small (1.0–2.0 mm), 6-eyed (anterior median eyes missing), ecribellate, haplogyne spiders often with a purplish shine (Paquin & Ubick 2005). These cryptozoic spiders live in wet, dark places (Jocqué & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2006) and are often associated with caves where “they build tiny tangled webs in wall crevices and under litter” (Gertsch 1973: 155). In 1973, Gertsch described two species found in caves; the troglotic *Theotima pura* Gertsch 1973 from a cave in Mexico and the trogliphilic *Ochyrocera formosa* Gertsch 1973 from a cave in Guatemala. In 1974, Brignoli also described a trogliphilic species from a cave in Mexico, *Ochyrocera fagei* Brignoli 1974. Two other troglomorphic species with highly reduced eyes were also described in South America, one from Peru, *Ochyrocera peruana* Ribera 1978, and one from Brazil, *Speocera eleonora* Baptista, 2003 (Ribera 1978, Baptista 2003).

Most species are found in leaf litter, frequently in bamboo litter (Deeleman-Rheinhold 1995), or on the forest floor. The genus *Speocera* is often found in humus where species “construct tiny irregular webs inside a dead curved leaf, a bamboo stem or among debris” (Deeleman-Rheinhold 1995). Hormiga *et al.* (2007) described and presented photos of the web structure of *Ochyrocera cachote* and proposed that the pattern observed in the web is related to the arrangement of the spinneret spigots and not to the spider’s behaviour. Female ochyroceratids are often found carrying the eggsac in their chelicerae (Paquin & Ubick 2005) and have “been observed sitting in their