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New Species of the Spider Genus *Cheiracanthium* from Continental Africa (Araneae: Eutichuridae)

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Abstract

Eleven new species of *Cheiracanthium*, *C. boendense* **sp. nov.** (Democratic Republic of Congo), *C. falcis* **sp. nov.** (Gabon), *C. foordi* **sp. nov.** (South Africa), *C. ghanaense* **sp. nov.** (Ghana), *C. kabalense* **sp. nov.** (Uganda), *C. kakamega* **sp. nov.** (Kenya), *C. kakumense* **sp. nov.** (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Ghana), *C. lukiense* **sp. nov.** (Democratic Republic of Congo), *C. mayombense* **sp. nov.** (Democratic Republic of Congo), *C. shilabira* **sp. nov.** (Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya) and *C. tanzanense* **sp. nov.** (Tanzania) are described. Males of *C. punctipedellum* Caporiacco, 1949, *C. sansibaricum* Strand, 1907 and *C. schenkeli* Caporiacco, 1949 are described for the first time.

Key words: Afrotropical region, taxonomy, distribution

Introduction

Ramírez (2014) elevated Eutichuridae to family and included 12 genera, of which four, *Cheiracanthium* C.L. Koch, 1839, *Cheiramiona* Lotz & Dippenaar-Schoeman, 1999, *Lessertina* Lawrence, 1942 and *Tecution* Benoit, 1977 are represented in the Afrotropical Region. The genus *Cheiracanthium* includes 196 species distributed throughout the world except for the Polar Regions (World Spider Catalogue, 2014). In the Afrotropical Region the genus *Cheiracanthium* is presently represented by 49 species (Lotz 2007a, 2007b, 2011, 2014), distributed mostly on the eastern half of the region and in the equatorial belt, between 10 degrees north and south. Representatives of the genus are also found on most of the Afrotropical Islands and on Madagascar (Lotz 2014) they are found mostly on the eastern half of the island. The present study adds a further 11 new species from continental Africa. Furthermore, males of *C. punctipedellum* Caporiacco, 1949, *C. sansibaricum* Strand, 1907 and *C. schenkeli* Caporiacco, 1949, also from continental Africa, are described for the first time.

Material and methods

More than 900 adult specimens from the following collections, were examined: CASC: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, U.S.A. (C.E. Griswold); MRAC: Musée royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium (R. Jocqué); NCAP: National Collection of Arachnida, Pretoria, South Africa (A.S. Dippenaar-Schoeman); NMBA: National Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa (L.N. Lotz); NMBZ: National Museum of Zimbabwe, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (M. FitzPatrick). Descriptions and methodology follows Lotz (2007a). External and internal female genitalia, ventral and retrolateral views of male palps and cheliceral dentition were illustrated from photographs. An ocular micrometer was used for the measurements, given in mm. Specimen label data are given as: sex, country, locality, map reference, date collected, collector and collection number. Abbreviations of morphological terms: AER = Anterior eye row; ALE = Anterior lateral eyes; AME = Anterior median eyes; CA = Cymbial apophysis; CI = Carapace index; CL = Carapace length; CLL = Clypeal length; CON = Conductor; CW = Carapace width; DTA = Dorsal tibial apophysis; EM = Embolus; FB = Fang base; LL = Total length of leg I; LL:CL = Leg I / Carapace length; MOQ = Median ocular quadrangle; MOQAW = MOQ anterior width; MOQPW

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