

A new *Savignia* from Cretan caves (Araneae: Linyphiidae)

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Abstract

Savignia naniplopi sp. nov. is described from one male and nine female specimens collected in two adjacent limestone caves in Crete. The taxonomy of the *Savignia* group of species and the relationships of the new species are discussed.

Key words: Arachnida, Araneae, Linyphiidae, *Savignia*, new species, Greece, Crete, cave, troglonbiont

Introduction

Blackwall (1833) created the genus *Savignia* Blackwall, 1833 in order to accommodate the peculiar linyphiid spider *Savignia frontata* Blackwall, 1833. Many authors (Simon 1926; Wiehle 1960; Millidge 1977; Roberts 1987; Eskov 1988, 1991; Heimer & Nentwig 1991) have since spelled the genus name as *Savignya* but, in spite of the fact that Blackwall dedicated the genus to the entomologist and arachnologist Jules-César Savigny, the original orthography is now used (Platnick 2002). In a later publication, Blackwall (1864: 318) transferred *Savignia frontata* to *Walckenaeria* with the following argument: "This spider, on which the genus *Savignia* was founded, was supposed, when discovered, to have only six eyes. Since then it has been found to possess an additional pair of visual organs, difficult to be discerned, situated towards the front of the apex of its conical cephalic prominence; consequently it had to be removed from the tribe *Senoculina*, in which a place had been assigned to it, to the genus *Walckenaëra*, with the spiders of which genus it is connected by marked relations of affinity." Hull (1909) returned *Walckenaeria frontata* to *Savignia*. Dahl (1912) described two additional *Savignia* species, *S. conwentzi* Dahl, 1912 and *S. foveata* Dahl, 1912, which were later transferred to other genera. In the second half of the twentieth century, 16 more linyphiid spiders were described in the genus *Savignia*: *S.*