



## A new species of *Mastigoproctus* Pocock, 1894 (Thelyphonida: Thelyphonidae) from Venezuela

CARLOS VIQUEZ<sup>1</sup> & LUIS F. DE ARMAS<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Investigador Asociado. Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio), Santo Domingo, Heredia, P. O. Box 22-3100, Costa Rica.

E-mail: cviquez@inbio.ac.cr

<sup>2</sup>P. O. Box 4327, San Antonio de los Baños, La Habana 32500, Cuba. E-mail: biokarst@ama.cu

### Abstract

A new species of Venezuelan whip scorpions belonging to the genus *Mastigoproctus* Pocock is herein described from Bolívar state. This new species mainly differs from the Venezuelan *Mastigoproctus formidabilis* Hirst, and the Colombian *Mastigoproctus colombianus* Mello-Leitão in male pedipalp sculpture and proportions as well as in female genitalia. Now, *Mastigoproctus* is represented in Venezuela by two apparently very related species.

**Key words:** Thelyphonida, Uropygi, *Mastigoproctus*, taxonomy, South America, Venezuela

### Introduction

Whip scorpions (Thelyphonida) form one of the smaller arachnid orders (Harvey, 2002, 2003), representing only 0.1% of the arachnids of the world. However, their large size (most are longer than 40 mm length from the pedipalps to the base of the flagellum) and distinctive vinegary odor make them better known for the people than some of its relatives, e.g., the ricinuleids and schizomids.

Whip scorpions are represented in South America by only two genera: *Mastigoproctus* Pocock and *Thelyphonellus* Pocock, the first of which shows a higher species richness. A third genus, *Amauromastigon* Mello-Leitão, was synonymized with *Mastigoproctus* by Rowland (2002). At the present, *Mastigoproctus formidabilis* Hirst is the only whip scorpion recorded from Venezuela (Harvey, 2003).

Until recently *Mastigoproctus* was considered as the only thelyphonid genus represented in Central America (Rowland, 1973; Harvey, 2003), but Viquez and Armas (2005, 2006) transferred some of its species toward two different genera, whereas Viquez & Armas (in press) synonymized *Mastigoproctus liochirus* Pocock with *Mimoscorpius pugnator* (Butler). So then, the genus *Mastigoproctus* has not representatives in mainland Central America.

### Material and methods

The specimens examined for this study are deposited in the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio), Costa Rica, Instituto de Ecología y Sistemática (IES), La Habana, Cuba, Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola Francisco Fernández Yépez, Universidad Central de Venezuela (MIZA), Venezuela, the private collection of Prof. Manuel A. Gonzalez Sponga, Caracas, Venezuela (CMGS) and the private collection of J. Manuel Ayala L., Pleasanton, California, USA (CJMA), The Natural History Museum, London, UK