



Studies in Liocranidae (Araneae): redescriptions and transfers in *Apostenus* Westring and *Brachyanillus* Simon, as well as description of a new genus

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Abstract

Three poorly known species of *Apostenus* Westring 1851 are redescribed: *A. humilis* Simon 1932, *A. ochraceus* Hadjissarantos 1940 and *A. rutilius* Simon 1897. *A. rutilius* is transferred to *Agraecina* Simon 1932 as *A. rutilia* new combination. The genus *Brachyanillus* Simon 1913 is synonymised with *Cybaeodes* Simon 1878 and *B. liocraninus* Simon 1913 is redescribed and transferred to *Cybaeodes* as *C. liocraninus* new combination. *Arabelia pheidoleicomis* gen. n., sp. n. (Araneae, Liocranidae) is described from Rhodos, Lesbos and Cyprus.

Key words: Arachnida, Araneae, Liocranidae, Mediterranean, islands, *Apostenus*, *Agraecina*, *Cybaeodes*, *Brachyanillus*, *Arabelia*

Introduction

The family Liocranidae, formerly subfamily Liocraninae within the family Clubionidae (Simon 1897a), was raised to family rank by Lehtinen (1967). No synapomorphies have yet been discovered which delimit the family as a monophyletic taxon. As discussed in Bosselaers & Jocqué (2002) neither the presence, on the anterior pairs of legs, of modified ventral leg bristles with a peculiar basal socket (Ubick & Platnick 1991), nor flattened female posterior median spinnerets (Dippenaar-Schoeman & Jocqué 1997; Jocqué & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2006), the presence of a male palpal median apophysis (Lehtinen 1967), or the presence of numerous paired ventral spines on the anterior tibiae and metatarsi (Platnick & Ubick 1989; Platnick & Baptista 1995) can be considered truly synapomorphic characters restricted to Liocranidae alone. After Platnick & Baptista (1995) and Bosselaers & Jocqué (2002) transferred the subfamilies Attacobiinae and Phrurolithinae, respectively, to Corinnidae, and Marusik *et al.* (2008) described a new subfamily, Liocranidae encompasses the subfamilies Liocraninae (but see Ubick & Richman 2005: 163), Cybaeodinae and Paratinae. Platnick (2009) lists 30 genera for the family Liocranidae, but quite a few of these, for example *Andromma* Simon 1893, *Argistes* Simon 1897, *Coryssiphus* Simon 1903, *Donuea* Strand 1932, *Liparo-chrysis* Simon 1909, *Mesobria* Simon 1897, *Montobello* Hogg 1914 and *Rhaeboctesis* Simon 1897 can be considered *incertae sedis*, some of them probably belonging elsewhere. Nine liocranid genera occur in the Mediterranean area. Two of these Mediterranean genera, *Liocranum* L. Koch 1866 and *Mesiotelus* Simon 1897 are badly in need of revision, while a third genus, *Brachyanillus* Simon 1913, has not been analysed again since its original description, about a century ago. The remaining six genera have either been recently described (*Liocranoeca* Wunderlich 1999) or at least partly revised in recent decades (*Agraecina* Simon 1932, *Agroeca* Westring 1851, *Apostenus* Westring 1851, *Cybaeodes* Simon 1878, *Scotina* Menge 1873). However, the genus *Apostenus* still encompasses Mediterranean species of which no detailed illustrations exist. Until 1987 only five species of *Apostenus* were known: the type species *A. fuscus* Westring 1851, *A. humilis* Simon 1932 and *A. ochraceus* Hadjissarantos 1940 from Europe and the Mediterranean, *A. annulipes* Caporiacco 1935 from