



## A review of the cellar spider genus *Psilochorus* Simon 1893 in America north of Mexico (Araneae: Pholcidae)

JOZEF SLOWIK

University of Alaska Museum of the North, Department of Entomology, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775 USA.  
E-mail: jslowik@att.net

### Table of contents

Abstract .....	2
Introduction .....	2
Materials and methods .....	2
Taxonomy .....	3
Pholcidae C. L. Koch, 1851 .....	3
<i>Psilochorus</i> Simon, 1893 .....	3
Key to <i>Psilochorus</i> species in America north of Mexico .....	5
<i>Psilochorus acanthus</i> Chamberlin & Ivie, 1942 .....	7
<i>Psilochorus apicalis</i> Banks, 1921 .....	8
<i>Psilochorus bantus</i> Chamberlin and Ivie, 1942 .....	10
<i>Psilochorus californiae</i> Chamberlin, 1919 .....	11
<i>Psilochorus coloradensis</i> new species .....	16
<i>Psilochorus concolor</i> new species .....	16
<i>Psilochorus hesperus</i> Gertsch & Ivie, 1936 .....	19
<i>Psilochorus hooki</i> new species .....	21
<i>Psilochorus imitatus</i> Gertsch and Mulaik, 1940 .....	22
<i>Psilochorus inyo</i> new species .....	28
<i>Psilochorus pallidulus</i> Gertsch, 1935 .....	31
<i>Psilochorus papago</i> Gertsch & Davis, 1942 .....	31
<i>Psilochorus pullulus</i> (Hentz, 1850) .....	33
<i>Psilochorus redemptus</i> Gertsch & Mulaik, 1940 .....	35
<i>Psilochorus rockefelleri</i> Gertsch, 1935 .....	38
<i>Psilochorus simoni</i> (Berland, 1911) .....	39
<i>Psilochorus texanus</i> new species .....	41
<i>Psilochorus topanga</i> Chamberlin & Ivie, 1942 .....	43
<i>Psilochorus utahensis</i> Chamberlin, 1919 .....	44
Acknowledgments .....	52
Literature cited .....	53

## Abstract

The genus *Psilochorus* Simon, 1893 is reviewed for America north of Mexico. Nineteen species, five of which are new, are described, illustrated, mapped, and a key is provided for identification. Species included are: *P. acantus* Chamberlin and Ivie, 1942; *P. apicalis* Banks, 1921 (= *P. gertschi* Schenkel, 1950, new synonym); *P. bantus* Chamberlin and Ivie, 1942; *P. californiae* Chamberlin, 1919; *P. coloradensis* new species; *P. concolor* new species; *P. hesperus* Gertsch and Ivie, 1936; *P. hooki* new species; *P. imitatus* Gertsch and Mulaik, 1940; *P. inyo* new species; *P. pallidulus* Gertsch, 1935 (= *P. coahuilanus* Gertsch and Davis, 1937, new synonym); *P. papago* Gertsch and Davis, 1942; *P. pullulus* (Hentz, 1850); *P. redemptus* Gertsch and Mulaik, 1940; *P. rockefelleri* Gertsch, 1935; *P. simoni* (Berland, 1911) (= *P. simplicior* Chamberlin and Ivie, 1942, new synonym); *P. topanga* Chamberlin and Ivie, 1942; *P. texanus* new species; *P. utahensis* Chamberlin, 1919. Information on *P. cornutus* (Keyserling, 1887) is examined and the species is declared *nomen dubium*.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, synonymy, new descriptions, *nomen dubium*

## Introduction

Cellar spiders of the genus *Psilochorus* Simon, 1893 are small (1–4 mm), long-legged, spiders. Most species show a distinct dark Y shape on the dorsum of the carapace and a globular abdomen of an off blue color. Some species are common house spiders occupying cellars and crawl spaces. In the wild they are usually found in dry, xeric habitats in which they build small messy webs underneath rocks or cow patties. They also have been observed using abandoned webs of other spiders.

The genus *Psilochorus* currently contains 41 species, 16 in the United States and Canada, 19 in Mexico, 1 in Europe, 1 in New Guinea, and 7 in South America (Platnick 2009). Simon (1893) established the genus and designated *P. pullulus* (Hentz, 1850) as the generic type in which he included *P. cornutus* (Keyserling, 1887) and the Australian *Pholcus sphaeroides* L. Koch, 1872 as representatives in the genus. Huber (2001) transferred *Pholcus sphaeroides* into the new genus *Wugigarra* Huber 2001.

Because of the number of apparently undescribed species examined from Mexico during this study, the focus of this paper was narrowed to north of the Mexican border. There are undoubtedly many more undescribed species existing in the New World as demonstrated by the presence of the five new species described in this paper. There may well be more synonymies to be made as many early descriptions are often too vague to make positive identifications possible. It is hoped that by providing a clear description of the genus and more species descriptions this paper will provide the framework for a further New World revision of the genus.

## Materials and methods

In all 3121 specimens from America north of Mexico were examined for use in this paper. Illustrations were made from digital photographs taken using an Olympus U-CMAD3 digital camera mounted on an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope. Illustrations not of type specimens are composites of the most common forms, because of this no scale bars are provided. Type specimens or paratypes were examined where existing descriptions or non type specimens examined could not confirm the identity of the species. Existing types and paratypes are included under the types heading for each species, the separate heading of paratype was reserved for the newly described species.

Specimens used in this paper are housed in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH); Division of Plant Industries Florida (DPI); the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ); Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS); Essig Museum at the University of California Berkley (EM) which also has holdings from the University of California Riverside; California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS); the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC); Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland