



***Lobizon* and *Navira*, two new genera of wolf spiders from Argentina (Araneae: Lycosidae)**

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Abstract

Two new genera in the family Lycosidae Sundevall, 1833 from Argentina are proposed. *Lobizon* **gen. nov.** comprises five species: *Lobizon corondaensis* (Mello-Leitão, 1941) **comb. nov.** (type species), *L. minor* (Mello Leitão, 1941) **comb. nov.**, and *L. humilis* (Mello-Leitão, 1944) **comb. nov.**, all these with a wide distribution in Argentina, and two new species: *L. ojangureni* **sp. nov.** from the montane forests of Northwestern Argentina, and *L. otamendi* **sp. nov.** from the northeastern Buenos Aires Province. The monotypic *Navira* **gen. nov.** is erected for *N. naguan* **sp. nov.** from Córdoba and San Luis Provinces. *Trochosippa anomala* (Mello-Leitão, 1945) and *Alopecosa unguiculata* Mello-Leitão, 1944 are considered junior synonyms of *L. corondaensis* and *L. humilis* respectively. A putative synapomorphy uniting the two genera is the massive, greatly elongated terminal apophysis which is grooved along its length. The subfamily placement of the two new genera is briefly discussed, and it is concluded that they probably belong to the Artoriinae Framenau, 2007 or Venoniinae Lehtinen & Hippa, 1979.

Key words: Artoriinae, Venoniinae, taxonomy, South America

Introduction

The family Lycosidae Sundevall, 1833, usually known as wolf spiders, is one of the most diverse groups of spiders, with 2339 described species in 110 genera (Platnick 2009). It comprises small to large, three-clawed, ecribellate, mainly hunting spiders that occur in significant numbers in virtually every terrestrial habitat (Murphy *et al.* 2006). Wolf spiders are easily recognised by the characteristic arrangement of the eyes in three rows (4:2:2), the absence of a retrolateral tibial apophysis on the male palp and their typical behaviour of carrying the eggsac attached to the female spinnerets and transporting the newly hatched spiderlings on the female opisthosoma for several days before dispersing (e.g., Dondale 2005).

Most lycosids are active hunters that use a stalking and ambushing strategy, using vision to detect their prey, but some genera, for example those in the subfamily Sosippinae Dondale, 1986, spin sheet webs for prey capture (e.g., Santos & Brescovit 2001). This behaviour was traditionally considered plesiomorphic for the family, but this presumption was recently questioned (Murphy *et al.* 2006).

A considerable number of investigations have covered several aspects of the biology of wolf spiders: courtship, mating, habitat preference, and general behaviour, mainly in Holarctic species (see Dondale 2005 for references), and also in a few Neotropical representatives (e.g., Costa 1975, 1979; Aisenberg & Costa 2005; Aisenberg *et al.* 2008). Only few studies have investigated behavioural patterns in a phylogenetic context (e.g., Murphy *et al.* 2006; Stratton *et al.* 1996; Stratton *et al.* 2004).

The knowledge of the taxonomy of the group is far from satisfactory. The principal reasons for systematic problems at the genus level are due to the morphological conservatism of the Lycosidae and the lack of useful characters to define and separate genera.