



A revision of the endemic South African spider genus *Austrachelas*, with its transfer to the Gallieniellidae (Arachnida: Araneae)

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Abstract

The endemic South African spider genus *Austrachelas* Lawrence, 1938 is revised. The type species, *A. incertus* Lawrence, 1938, and *A. natalensis* Lawrence, 1942, are redescribed, and their males described for the first time. Seven new species are described: *A. bergi* n. sp. (female only), *A. kalaharinus* n. sp. (male only), *A. merwei* n. sp. (both sexes), *A. pondoensis* n. sp. (both sexes), *A. reavelli* n. sp. (both sexes), *A. sexoculata* n. sp. (male only), and *A. wassenaari* n. sp. (both sexes). A cladistic analysis performed including *Austrachelas* and various species of the corinnid subfamilies Trachelinae, Castianeirinae, Corinninae and Phrurolithinae, and species from the Liocranidae, Gallieniellidae, Gnaphosidae and Lamponidae, suggests that *Austrachelas* is currently misplaced. Its transfer to the Gallieniellidae is proposed.