



The spider genus *Segestria* Latreille, 1804 in South America (Araneae: Segestriidae)

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Abstract

The genus *Segestria* Latreille, 1804 includes 21 species distributed mainly in the Palearctic region. Only two species have been described from South America: *Segestria ruficeps* Guérin, 1832 (known from Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina) and *Segestria pusilla* Nicolet, 1849 (known only from Chile). A study of the female genitalia shows that *S. ruficeps* is a junior synonym of the Palearctic species *Segestria florentina* (Rossi 1790), which is redescribed and illustrated. *S. pusilla* is transferred to the genus *Ariadna* as a *nomen dubium*.

Key words: taxonomy, Haplogynae, synonymy

Introduction

The genus *Segestria* Latreille, 1804 currently includes 21 species distributed mainly in the Palearctic region (Platnick 2011). The species are very similar to those of *Ariadna* Audouin, 1826 and *Gippsicola* Hogg, 1900, but can be distinguished from those genera by the three anterior and two posterior triangular cheliceral teeth, the shape of the labium, which is long, narrow, and nearly parallel-sided, with the greatest width near the middle, and the female spination pattern, with tibiae and metatarsi I–II with two ventral rows of long and slender spines, and legs IV with many spines (Beatty 1970). Only two species of *Segestria* have been described from South America, *S. pusilla* from Chile by Nicolet (1849) and *S. ruficeps* from Brazil by Guérin (1832); the latter species was later recorded from Uruguay and Argentina (Keyserling 1877; Mello-Leitão 1933, 1944; Capocasale 1990, 1993, 1998; Platnick 2011). *Segestria ruficeps* is a synanthropic species. In Brazil this species is commonly found in and near houses in urban areas, in crevices or under rocks or stones.

The female genitalia of *S. ruficeps* were never described in detail. Recently we examined a large number of specimens from Brazilian collections and studied the internal genitalia of this species. To our surprise, the genitalia strongly resembled those of the European species *Segestria florentina* (Rossi 1790) as illustrated by Brignoli (1976) and Kraus (1978). A careful comparison of specimens of *S. ruficeps* and *S. florentina* (kindly provided by Norman I. Platnick, American Museum of Natural History) confirmed the morphological resemblance. *S. ruficeps* is therefore synonymized with *S. florentina*. Presumably, *S. florentina* is an old introduction in South America.

The type of the second Neotropical species, *Segestria pusilla* from Chile, is considered lost. However, the original description by Nicolet (1849) suggests that this species was based on a juvenile specimen of *Ariadna*. Consequently, *S. pusilla* is here transferred to the genus *Ariadna* as a *nomen dubium*.

Material and methods

The specimens studied are deposited in the Instituto Butantan, São Paulo (IBSP; I. Knysak), the Museu de Ciências Naturais, Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (MCN; E. H. Buckup) and the American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH; N. I. Platnick). The types of Latreille, Walckenaer and Guérin are lost (information provided by the curator of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, MNHN, Paris).