



Neotype designation for *Sphingius thecatus* Thorell, 1890, synonymies, new records and descriptions of six new species from Southeast Asia (Araneae, Liocranidae)

PAKAWIN DANKITTIPAKUL¹, MARIA TAVANO² & TIPPAWAN SINGTRIPOP¹

¹Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand.
E-mail: pakawin@gmail.com; scboi020@chiangmai.ac.th

²Museo Civico di Storia Naturale 'Giacomo Doria', Via Brigata Liguria, 9, Genova, 16121, Italy.
E-mail: mtavano@comune.genova.it

Abstract

A neotype is designated for *Sphingius thecatus* Thorell, 1890, the type species of the genus from type locality of Penang Island, Malaysia; its conspecific female is described for the first time. Detailed morphological descriptions and illustrations for both sexes are provided. Six new species are described from Southeast Asia: *S. rama* **sp. nov.** and *S. prolixus* **sp. nov.** from eastern Thailand; *S. elongatus* **sp. nov.** from southern Thailand; *S. superbus* **sp. nov.** and *S. bifurcatus* **sp. nov.** from Thailand and Malaysia; *S. spinosus* **sp. nov.** from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. *Sphingius pingtung* Tso *et al.*, 2005 known from Taiwan, China is considered a junior synonym of *S. scrobiculatus* Thorell, 1897. *Sphingius sinensis* (Schenkel, 1963), originally placed in *Scotophaeoides* (Gnaphosidae), is regarded as a junior synonym of *S. gracilis* (Thorell, 1895). Additional specimens of *S. gothicus* Deeleman-Reinhold, 2001 were collected from northeastern and central Thailand, expanding species distribution range towards the south. Specimens of *S. punctatus* Deeleman-Reinhold, 2001 were collected from Thailand and Indonesia. *Sphingius vivax* (Thorell, 1897) and *S. scrobiculatus* Thorell, 1897 are recorded from Thailand for the first time.

Key words: new species, new record, new synonymy, first description, biodiversity, taxonomy

Introduction

Sphingius was established by Thorell in 1890 for a male spider from Penang Island, Malaysia. A majority of species described during the late 19th century are known only from Southeast Asia, namely from Malaysia (Thorell 1890), Myanmar (Thorell 1897) and Sri Lanka (Simon 1897). Two species from Myanmar (Thorell 1895, 1897) were originally placed in *Thamphilus* Thorell, 1895—a genus that was placed in synonym with *Sphingius* by Simon (1897). Later, more species were included from Vietnam (Simon 1903), India (Gravely 1931; Simon 1906), and southern China (Tso *et al.* 2005; Zhang *et al.* 2009). *Sphingius* was recently redefined and enlarged by Deeleman-Reinhold (2001) who added five additional species to the genus, expanding its distribution range southwards to the Indonesian Sundaland. In 1995 a monotypic genus, *Alaeho* Barrion & Litsinger, was erected for a male spider from the Philippines. Unfortunately, its mere member, *A. linoi* Barrion & Litsinger, 1995, was misidentified and subsequently regarded as a junior synonym of *S. vivax* (Thorell, 1897) by Deeleman-Reinhold (2001). More recently, Zhang *et al.* (2009) transferred *Scotophaeoides sinensis* Schenkel, 1963 (originally placed in the Gnaphosidae) to *Sphingius*. Prior to this revision, 23 species of *Sphingius* have been described (Platnick 2011).

The spider genus *Sphingius* is apparently well represented in South and Southeast Asia. The Southeast Asian fauna has proved to be extensive with intensive collecting (Deeleman-Reinhold 2001; Jäger 2007). Many specimens in museum collections that have not yet been studied now become available. This includes those specimens examined by Deeleman-Reinhold (2001: 489) from several localities in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. We present herein the results of a comparative survey of some adult specimens of *Sphingius* from Southeast Asia. As a result, a neotype is designated, six new species are described and two synonymies are proposed.