



A new troglomorphic *Metagonia* Simon 1893 (Araneae, Pholcidae) from Brazil

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The genus *Metagonia* Simon 1893 currently has 81 species widely distributed in South and Central America (Platnick, 2011). The majority of species are leaf-dwellers (Gertsch 1986; Huber 1997; 2004; Huber & Schütte 2009) but some inhabit leaf-litter (Huber *et al.* 2005) or live in caves (Gertsch 1986; Gertsch & Peck 1992; Huber 1998; Pérez González & Huber 1999). Three species were described from cave environments as eyeless troglobites: *M. bellavista* Gertsch & Peck 1992 and *M. reederi* Gertsch & Peck 1992 from the Galapagos Islands and *M. debrasi* Pérez González & Huber 1999 from Cuba. These species may be local relicts from extinct groups (Gertsch & Peck 1992, Pérez González & Huber 1999). Huber (2000) placed these eyeless species in his ‘group 4’.

In this paper we describe *Metagonia diamantina*, a new species from Brazil. *Metagonia diamantina* was collected in a cave and is probably a troglobite (exclusively subterranean species): the spider is completely eyeless and has reduced pigmentation. The Lapa do Bode cave, where the specimens were found, is inserted in carbonate rocks dating from the upper Proterozoic. The cave is located at the “Caatinga” formation, which comprises the only semi-arid system occurring in Brazil (Rizzini, 1997).

Material and methods

Specimens were examined using a Leica MZ12.5 stereomicroscope with camera lucida. The epigynum was dissected and immersed in clove oil for visualization of internal structures following Levi (1965). Descriptions and measurements follow Huber (2000). The carapace length, due to the absence of eyes, was taken from the chelicerae internal base to the rear margin excluding the clypeus. Measurements are given in millimeters. The ratio tibia I length/diameter (L/d) is a measure of the robustness of the legs (Huber 2000). The material was deposited in the ISLA—“Coleção de Invertebrados Subterrâneos de Lavras”, Universidade Federal de Lavras (Lavras, curator: R.L. Ferreira).

Taxonomy

Family Pholcidae Koch, 1850

Genus *Metagonia* Simon, 1893

Metagonia Simon, 1893: 472

Type species: *M. bifida* Simon, 1893, by original designation.

Metagonia diamantina new species

(Figures 1–11)

Type material. Male holotype and paratype female from Lapa do Bode cave (12°56'02"S; 41°03'44"W), Itaeté, Bahia, Brazil, 26.VII.2007, R.L. Ferreira col., deposited in ISLA 1429 and ISLA 1428, respectively.