



***Charinus bromeliaea* sp. n. (Amblypygi: Charinidae); a new species of bromeliad inhabiting whip spider from French Guyana**

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Abstract

A new species of *Charinus* Simon, 1892 is described from French Guyana, raising the number of species in the genus to 48 (27 for the Neotropical region and 19 for South America). *Charinus bromeliaea* **sp. n.** is distinguished from the other species in the genus by morphological characteristics and unique ecology. Adapted to live in *Achmea* bromeliads on granite inselbergs, this species is an interesting addition to the wide range of habitats *Charinus* species are found in. This is also the first record of the genus from French Guyana and this record extends the geographic distribution of the genus.

Key words: Guiana, inselberg, *Charinus*, identification key, check list, whip spider, bromeliad

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de *Charinus* Simon, 1892 é descrita para a Guiana Francesa, elevando o número de espécies do gênero para 47 (27 para o Neotrópico e 19 para a América do Sul). *Charinus bromeliaea* **sp. n.** se distingue das demais espécies do gênero por suas características morfológicas e ecologia únicas. Adaptados a viver em bromélias *Achmea* em inselbergs de granito, esta espécie é uma adição interessante para a vasta gama de especialização em habitats nas espécies de *Charinus*. Esse é também o primeiro registro de *Charinus* na Guiana Francesa e o mesmo estende a distribuição geográfica do gênero.

Introduction

Amblypygids or whip-spiders occur worldwide in tropical and subtropical conditions. The most speciose genus is *Charinus* Simon, 1892, with 47 species currently described. The neotropical area has 27 species, but there is much work to be done on the amblypygid fauna of South America and in particular the genus *Charinus* as obvious from recent publications on *Charinus* in South America (Pinto-da-Rocha *et al.*, 2002; Giupponi & Kury, 2002; Baptista & Giupponi, 2002, 2003; Miranda & Giupponi, 2011).

Amblypygids in general are nocturnal predators, during the day hiding under logs, bark, stones, or leaves. Adaptations to this ecology typically include a broad and strongly flattened body. All species in the genus *Charinus* follow this general body plan and overall are relatively small (5–15 mm). The high number of species is partly associated with the occurrence and adaptation to a wide range of microhabitats like caves, forest litter, the interior of ants and termite nests, and crevices in synanthropic areas (Weygoldt, 2000; Weygoldt, 2005; Teruel *et al.*, 2009; Miranda & Giupponi, 2011).

During a biodiversity survey of the inselberg (=granite outcrop) Savanna Roche la Virginie in French Guyana in 2008, several specimens of an undescribed *Charinus* species were collected from bromeliads (*Achmea* cf. *melinonii* Hook). These bromeliads on this granite outcrop are large ground growing bromeliads with strong rigid leaves pointing upwards and forming a central water tank. The amblypygids were found living in between the