



Two new species of *Roquettea* Mello-Leitão, 1931 from northern Brazil (Opiliones: Laniatores: Cosmetidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Roquettea* Mello-Leitão, 1931 (Opiliones: Cosmetidae) are described from Pará State, northern Brazil. *Roquettea carajas* **sp. nov.** has two broad swellings on mesotergal area I of male and *Roquettea peba* **sp. nov.** has a wide and high eye mound with globoid eyeballs and the closest structure to a chelate pedipalpus in Laniatores so far described. Both species have greatly thickened conic apophyses on mesotergal area III. A key is given to the (now) 6 species of *Roquettea*. The described diversity of genus *Roquettea* increased from only one species to six in only a few years, mostly known from only a few specimens, suggesting a high degree of undersampling of those rare cosmetids.

Key words: Amazonia, terrestrial arthropods, Neotropics

Introduction

The cosmetid genus *Roquettea* Mello-Leitão, 1931 is remarkable by having the strangest scutal armature in the family, displaying bizarre shapes such as immense quadruple drop-shaped structures replacing the mesotergal armature in males (*Roquettea singularis* Mello-Leitão, 1931), which were described almost simultaneously in the early 1930s by Mello-Leitão (1931) and Sørensen (1932). Recently, the knowledge of *Roquettea* was enhanced by Ferreira & Kury (2010) and its diversity raised from only one to four known valid species, all distributed in northern Brazil, adding to its diagnosis further uncommon structures such as a huge column topped by a pair of geminated balls (*Roquettea scrotalis* Ferreira & Kury 2010) and a robust bulged-horned eye mound (*Roquettea taurina* Ferreira & Kury 2010) starkly contrasting with the otherwise humble cosmetid eye mound. The pedipalpal tibia of males was also reported as having a strong ecto-distal projection with short and thick setae, and which is opposed to the tarsus, forming a clamp. The dorsal scutum is covered with small rounded white dots except mesotergum in the area encircling the tuberos complex/mesotergal armature. The four hitherto described species are distributed in the Brazilian States of Amapá, Pará and Tocantins, lower Amazon basin (Ferreira & Kury 2010). This year, one member of our laboratory has brought a male specimen of a new species collected in Parauapebas, Pará State, Brazil, which has a powerful elevated eye mound, not unlike that of *R. taurina*. This prompted us to prospect for eventual specimens of *Roquettea* in samples from this region, to increase the numbers of our type series, and we ended up with a pair of further specimens from a nearby locality, which represent yet a second undescribed species, notable for having a great pair of swellings in mesotergal area I. Both species are described below.

Material and methods

Descriptions of colors use the standard names of the 267 Color Centroids of the NBS/IBCC Color System (<http://people.csail.mit.edu/jaffer/Color/Dictionaries#nbs-isc>) as described in Kury & Orrico (2006). WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions are used here according to the division of the world in 867 such areas (WWF 2012), until recently a full list of all ecoregions was available, but the website seems to be undergoing some reorganization and presently we