Linyphiid spiders of Peru: description of a new species, complementary descriptions and new distribution records (Araneae: Linyphiidae)

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Abstract

The spider family Linyphiidae is poorly known from many countries in South America, including Peru. In this paper we describe a new species of Asemostera Simon, 1898, Asemostera dianae new species, from Madre de Dios, the males of Meioneta lauta Millidge, 1991 and Meioneta oculata Millidge, 1991, and the female of Myrmeconelix pulcher (Millidge, 1991). New occurrence records for Peru include Exechopsis conspicua Millidge, 1991 (known from Brazil), and Novafrontina uncata (F. O. P.-Cambridge, 1902) (known from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela). New distribution records within Peru for endemic species include Asemostera janetae Miller, 2007, Lygarina finitima Millidge, 1991, Meioneta propinqua Millidge, 1991, Meioneta silvae Millidge, 1991 and Sphecozone niwina (Chamberlin, 1916). Illustrations are provided for Asemostera dianae new species and for the undescribed sexes of previously described taxa. Known distributional records are also provided for the above discussed taxa.

Key words: Neotropical, new species records, new species, Peru, spider taxonomy

Introduction

The spider family Linyphiidae is currently the second species rich family in the order Araneae (Platnick 2012), but is poorly known from many countries in South America, including Peru. Nearly 90 species of Linyphiidae are recognized from Peru (Platnick 2012), but, due to the scarcity of taxonomic studies in the Neotropical Region, a gross underestimation of the actual species count in Peru is likely.


Material and Methods

Specimens are deposited in the arachnological collection of Museo de Historia Natural da Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru (MUSM, curator: Diana Silva) and Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (IBSP, curator: Darci M. B. Battesti). The study of reproductive structures of both male and female was performed by immersing the epigynum and the embolic division in methyl salicylate and/or clove oil for approximately 30 minutes until the internal structures could be clearly visualized. In order to expand the bulb,