



Thirteen new species of the spider genus *Karaops* (Araneae: Selenopidae) from Western Australia

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Abstract

Thirteen new species of the recently-described genus *Karaops* Crews and Harvey, 2011 are described from Western Australia, bringing the total number of species of this genus to 37. The new species are *K. umiida* sp. nov. (♀,♂), *K. nyiyaparli* sp. nov. (♀), *K. kariyarra* sp. nov. (♀), *K. yurlburr* sp. nov. (♀,♂), *K. feedtime* sp. nov. (♀), *K. forteyi* sp. nov. (♀,♂), *K. yindjibarndi* sp. nov. (♂), *K. jaburrara* sp. nov. (♂), *K. ngarluma* sp. nov. (♂), *K. nyangumarta* sp. nov. (♀,♂), *K. nyamal* sp. nov. (♀), *K. banyjima* sp. nov. (♀) and *K. yumbu* sp. nov. (♂). The male of *K. martamarta* Crews and Harvey, 2011 is described for the first time, and new distribution records are given for this species and for *K. burbidgei* Crews and Harvey, 2011. Finally, a new key to all of the described species of *Karaops* is provided.

Key words: taxonomy, endemism, biodiversity, flatties, wall crab spiders, Southern Hemisphere, Kimberley

Introduction

The spider family Selenopidae currently comprises 239 species in 10 genera (Platnick 2012), and several genera have only recently been described (Crews & Harvey 2011). Here, I focus on the recently-described genus *Karaops*. Like all members of the family Selenopidae, *Karaops* species are dorsoventrally flattened and very fast (Crews and Harvey 2011). This genus is restricted to Australia and widespread throughout the continent, occurring everywhere except Tasmania. There are large gaps in which no *Karaops* species have been recorded (Crews and Harvey 2011), but this most likely represents a lack of detection in these areas rather than an absence of the genus. The spiders are elusive because they are nocturnal, fast and can easily fit into tight crevices. Opportunistic collecting by turning rocks, peeling bark or using pitfall traps appears to be the best ways to collect them (Crews 2011; Crews & Harvey 2011).

The diagnosis of *Karaops* given in Crews and Harvey (2011) remains the same after the examination of the new species described here; however, there is a minor change in the description regarding the dentition of the males. They may have two prolateral teeth and one retrolateral tooth, a condition found in the males of two species described here, or they may have four prolateral and three retrolateral teeth or three prolateral and two retrolateral teeth, as was previously known. As mentioned in Crews and Harvey (2011), many species are known only from a single sex and a single specimen. Most of the species described here occur in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, with one new species from the Kimberley and one new species from near the boundary of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. There is a large diversity of species in the Pilbara, in which the distributions of most species appear to be restricted, yet they overlap with the distributions of other species (Fig. 37).

In this paper, I describe and illustrate thirteen new species of *Karaops* from Western Australia and the male of the previously described *K. martamarta*. I provide new distributional records for *K. martamarta* and *K. burbidgei*. Finally, an updated key to all of the known species of *Karaops* is provided.