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A new species of the spider genus *Taczanowskia* (Araneae, Araneidae) from Mexico

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Abstract

A new species of the spider genus *Taczanowskia*, *T. gustavoi* n. sp. is described from Chiapas, Mexico. This finding extends the distribution of *Taczanowskia* species, hitherto known only from South America to Southern Mexico. *T. gustavoi* n. sp. can be differentiated from all other species in this genus by having more than six tubercles in the dorsum of its opisthosoma. This species is included in an earlier determination key for all previously known *Taczanowskia* species.

Key words: *T. gustavoi*, spider, Mexico, Chiapas, taxonomy

Introduction

The spider genus *Taczanowskia* Keyserling, 1879 was revised by Levi (1996) who recognized four species: *T. mirabilis* Simon, 1897, *T. sextuberculata* Keyserling, 1892, *T. striata* Keyserling, 1879 and *T. trilobata* Simon, 1897; all these species were distributed in South America (Northern Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia). Simon (1897) also described *T. penicillata* and Soares (1944) described *T. pulchra* (both from Brazil), but these two species were considered junior synonyms (of *T. striata* and *T. mirabilis* respectively) by Levi (1996). Specimens of *Taczanowskia* seem to be very rare in collections, as before this publication only 15 specimens were cited in the literature: 11 females, one male and three immatures, including two lost female holotypes and the two holotypes of the synonymized species (Levi 1996). Since the revision of Levi (1996), no further taxonomic changes were made to the genus (Platnick 2013).

Being a member of the orb-weaver family Araneidae, *Taczanowskia* is remarkable because these spiders catch their prey without use of a web. Instead, it seems that these nocturnal spiders lure prey (Lepidoptera) by means of a pheromone mimic and when the prey is within reach, the spider impales it with the large claws on their front legs (Eberhard 1981), in a similar way as is known for the spiders of the genus *Celaenia* Thorell, 1868, another araneid known from Australia and New Zealand. In this paper a new species of *Taczanowskia*, *T. gustavoi* n. sp. is described, expanding the distribution area of the genus to the south of Mexico. This new species is added to the determination key published by Levi (1996).

Material and methods

The type material consisting of a holotype and one paratype are deposited at Colección de Arácnidos del Sureste de México (ECOTAAR), El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), Tapachula, Chiapas, México (Official Register of Scientific Collection CHI.IN.016.0497).

Morphological observations, measurements, drawings and photographs were made with a Nikon SMZ 1500 stereomicroscope, provided with a digital camera Canon Power-Shot S5SI. Measurements were recorded with a micrometric ocular and are given in millimeters, legs measurements were made from the dorsal side. Color descriptions were made on living or recently killed specimens. The program Combine ZP (Hadley 2009) was used