



## ***Ctenus monaghani* spec. nov., a nocturnal hunter from the forest floor in Laos (Araneae: Ctenidae)**

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The genus *Ctenus* Walckenaer 1805 was recently revised by Jäger (2012) for Laos and neighbouring countries. He followed the broader definition of the genus by Steyn *et al.* (1997) and recorded five species from Laos, three of which were described as new (Jäger 2012). In May 2012 one male of the genus *Ctenus* was collected in the Khammouan Province, Laos. It belongs to an undescribed species, which is described below.

Material is preserved in 70% denatured ethanol. Size classes are used according to Jäger (2001: 14; for Sparassidae), since Ctenidae have a similar range of total lengths: small (> 10 mm), medium (10–20 mm), large (20–30 mm), very large (> 30 mm). Colour is described from the preserved specimen in ethanol. Arising points of embolus, median apophysis and conductor in the male palp are given as clock-positions of the left palp in a ventral view.

Spination pattern is given in two different formulae: in leg patellae and palp the sum of all spines is listed for the prolateral, dorsal, retrolateral, and ventral sides, and when ventral spines are absent only three digits are listed (following Davies 1994). In other leg segments, spine positions are given from proximal to distal on each side (prolateral, dorsal, retrolateral, ventral, if present) following Thorell (1887) and Petrunkevitch (1925). Leg formula is given as order of legs according to their length (femur to tarsus measured).

The type material is deposited in SMF—Senckenberg Research Institute, Frankfurt, Germany (Julia Altmann, Peter Jäger). Abbreviations. ALE—anterior lateral eyes, AME—anterior median eyes, d—dorsal, p—prolateral, PLE—posterior lateral eyes, PME—posterior median eyes, r—retrolateral, RTA—retrolateral tibial apophysis, v—ventral, I–IV—legs I to IV.

Liphone Nophaseud (Vientiane) and Thomas Calame (Vientiane) accompanied me during my nocturnal tours in Khammouan. BBC America (New York), "The Outdoor Life Network" (OLN; Toronto), and Cream Productions (Toronto) provided financial support for travelling to Laos, Alice Robinson (London) as field producer arranged for an excellent organisation on site. I am grateful for all support that helped to complete this paper, especially to Daniele Polotow, Hirotsugu Ono and Cor Vink for helpful comments on the manuscript.

### **Results**

#### **Ctenidae Keyserling, 1877**

#### ***Ctenus* Walckenaer, 1805**

#### ***Ctenus monaghani* spec. nov.**

Figs 1–9

**Type material. Holotype male** (SMF), Laos, Khammouan Province, E Thakek, Ban Kouanphavang, N 17°27.150', E 104°56.321', 180 m altitude, secondary forest close to limestone cliff, leaf litter, by hand, at night, P. Jäger leg. 29.IV.2012.

**Etymology.** This species is named in honour of the British actor Dominic Monaghan who filmed together with the author in Laos for the documentary show "Wild Things"; Dom's enthusiasm for nature in general, and spiders and other little respected animals in particular, was the driving force behind the production of this documentary; name in genitive.

**Diagnosis.** Medium-sized Ctenidae (total length male 10.0). Similar to *C. pulchrivertris* (Simon, 1897) from Central