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The first record and the description of a new species of *Dendrolycosa* Doleschall, 1859 (Araneae: Pisauridae: Pisaurinae) from Madagascar

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Spiders, like other Madagascan organisms, exhibit remarkable richness and endemism (Griswold 2003). Whereas there are only just over 550 species known from Madagascar (Platnick 2013), the rate of new species discovery suggests that the total may be much higher. In a comprehensive study of the Madagascar spider fauna, Griswold (2003) found that 29% of the 207 genera and 85% of the 459 described species or subspecies known at that time are endemic to Madagascar. Notably, the spider fauna is not disharmonic and contains most of the families found in Africa or Asia. The spider fauna known to Griswold (2003) showed a relatively strong affinity to Africa (19 species and 22 genera shared exclusively by Africa and Madagascar), and much weaker affinity to Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

According to Platnick (2013), eleven genera of Pisauridae are known from Madagascar, with a total of sixteen described species. Seven genera are endemic and monotypic: *Caripetella madagascariensis* (Lenz, 1886), *Paracladycnis vis* Blandin, 1979, *Ransonia mahasoana* Blandin, 1979, *Tallonina picta* Simon, 1889, *Thalassiospis vachoni* Roewer, 1955 and *Tolma toreuta* Jocqué, 1994.

Five other genera are also distributed in Madagascar: *Dolomedes* Latreille, 1804 (*D. saccalavus* Strand, 1907), *Hala* Jocqué, 1994 (*H. impigra* Jocqué, 1994 and *H. paulyi* Jocqué, 1994), *Hygropoda* Thorell, 1894 (*H. linearis* (Simon, 1903) and *H. madagascariensis* Strand, 1907), *Maypaci* Simon, 1898 (*M. bilineatus* (Pavesi, 1895), *M. vittiger* Simon, 1898) and *Nilus* (*N. esimoni* (Sierwald, 1984), *N. leoninus* (Strand, 1907) and *N. majungensis* (Strand, 1907)).

The spider genus *Dendrolycosa* was proposed by Doleschall (1859) and comprises 15 known species (Platnick 2013). Recently, the genus was revised by Jäger (2011), who described four new species. Silva (2013) described the male of *Dendrolycosa cruciata* (Roewer, 1955) from Tanzania. Most of the known species of *Dendrolycosa* are from the Indo-Pacific region and only *D. cruciata* and *D. rossi* **sp. nov.** are distributed in the Afrotropical region. This is the first species of *Dendrolycosa* described from Madagascar.

Specimens were examined using a Zeiss Stemi SV 6 stereomicroscope equipped with a camera lucida. For scanning electron microscopy (SEM), structures were excised, air-dried and mounted on stubs with double-sided adhesive tape. Specimens were sputter coated with gold and examined using a Philips XL 30. The structures of the male palpus or female epigynum did not shrink or deform during the SEM process. To study the excised epigyna, the soft tissue was removed by a combination of dissection with a small surgical blade and immersion in the trypsin enzyme for 48 hours at 25°C (Silva *et al.* 2012).

All measurements are in millimeters. The nomenclature of the male palpus and epigynum structures follows Sierwald (1984, 1989, 1990, 1997). Photographs of the habitus were made using a Sony W560 attached to the stereomicroscope. Photographs of male and female genitalia were made using a Q-color microscope camera Olympus attached to a SZH10 Olympus stereomicroscope. Distributional maps were made with the programs Google Earth 6.2 and Croizat version 1.16b (Cavalcanti 2009).

The material examined is deposited in California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA (CAS, C. E. Griswold). Abbreviations related to eye measurements: OQA = width of ocular quadrangle anteriorly, equivalent to the outer distance of anterior median eyes, OQP = width of ocular quadrangle posteriorly, equivalent to the outer distance of posterior median eyes, OQH = height of ocular quadrangle, equivalent to the outer distance of anterior median eyes and posterior median eyes, PLE = posterior lateral eye, PME = posterior median eye, ALE = anterior lateral eye, AME = anterior median eye, PLE-PME = distance between posterior lateral eye and posterior median eye, PME-PME = distance between posterior median eyes, ALE-AME = distance between anterior lateral eye and anterior median eye, AME-AME = distances between anterior median eyes.