A new genus of huntsman spiders (Araneae, Sparassidae, Sparianthinae) from the Neotropical region

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Abstract

Uaiuara gen. nov. is described to include Sparianthis amazonica Simon from Brazil, Sparianthis barroana Chamberlin from Panama, and five new species, namely: Uaiuara quyguaba sp. nov. from the states of Amazonas, Pará and Amapá; Uaiuara ope sp. nov. from Acre and Uaiuara jirau sp. nov. from Rondônia, all in northern Brazil, Uaiuara palenque sp. nov. from Ecuador and Uaiuara dianae sp. nov. from Peru. The genus is easily distinguished from the remaining Neotropical Sparianthinae by the very recurved anterior eye row, the large number of ventral spines on tibiae of legs I-II, the retrolateral groove on the male palpal cymbium and the convoluted duct system of the female vulva. In addition, the female of S. barroana and the male of S. amazonica are described for the first time. The latter species is newly recorded from Colombia, Suriname, Ecuador and Bolivia.

Key words: Uaiuara, taxonomy, new genus, new species, Amazonia

Introduction

The genus Sparianthis was proposed by Simon (1880) to include Themeropis granadensis Keyserling, 1880, described from a subadult female from Nova Granada, Colombia. He stated that the species differed from the remaining Themeropis L. Koch, 1875 by the dorsally convex prosoma, the lack of retromarginal teeth in the chelicerae (which are, in fact, not lacking but reduced to small denticles) and the very poorly developed, or completely lacking leg scopula, and thus merited the proposal of a new genus. In this same paper he described Sparianthis amazonica Simon, 1880, based on a female from Tefé, Amazonas, Brazil. A few years later, Banks (1929) transferred Chemmis barroana Chamberlin, 1925 to Sparianthis thus introducing the first known male of the genus.

A careful examination of the type specimens of all three species showed that neither S. amazonica nor S. barroana are congeneric with the type species, S. granadensis. Although the type specimen of S. granadensis is a moulting subadult female, the visible structures of the pre-epigyne are more similar to those of species of the genus Pseudosparianthis Simon 1887 than to the remaining Sparianthis. Also, it differs from S. amazonica and S. barroana in having only three pairs of spines on ventral tibiae I–II and 2 pairs on ventral metatarsi I–II. Sparianthis amazonica and S. barroana have 8 and 7 pairs of spines, respectively, on ventral tibiae I–II and only one pair on ventral metatarsi I–II.

In this paper I propose the new genus, Uaiuara gen. nov. to include S. amazonica and S. barroana and five new species, all from northern South America and southern Central America. In addition, the male of S. amazonica and the female of S. barroana are described for the first time.

Material and methods

The material examined belongs to the following institutions (curator in parentheses): AMNH—American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA (N.I. Platnick); CAS—California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA
FIGURE 59. Distribution map for *Uaiuara ope* sp. nov., *Uaiuara palenque* sp. nov. and *Uaiuara quyguaba* sp. nov.

Literature cited


http://dx.doi.org/10.1636/h06-16.1
