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The spider genus *Kukulcania* in South America (Araneae: Filistatidae): a redescription of *K. brevipes* (Keyserling) and new records of *K. hibernalis* (Hentz)

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Abstract

Two species of the spider genus *Kukulcania* are known from South America. *Kukulcania brevipes* (Keyserling), originally described from Peru, is here diagnosed, illustrated and redescribed, with several new records provided for eastern Peru and northern Chile. The synanthropic *Kukulcania hibernalis* (Hentz) is illustrated and diagnosed, with several new records extending the distribution of this species from northern Venezuela to southern Brazil.

Key words: taxonomy, Haplogynae, redescription, Neotropical region

Introduction

The spider family Filistatidae currently comprises 17 genera and 115 species worldwide (Platnick, 2013). The largest specimens of this family belong to the genus *Kukulcania* Lehtinen, 1967, which currently includes nine species from the Americas (Platnick, 2013). Two species of the genus are known from South America, *Kukulcania brevipes* (Keyserling, 1883), from Peru, and *K. hibernalis* (Hentz, 1842), which was recorded as synanthropic in Argentina (Ramírez & Grismado 1997, 2008), Brazil (Buckup *et al.* 2010; Brescovit *et al.* 2011), Chile (Taucare-Ríos 2010), Colombia (Flórez & Sánchez 1997), Paraguay (Kochalka 1996) and Uruguay (Capocasale 1990). *Kukulcania brevipes* was described based on a female from Peru, without illustrations or the indication of a specific locality (Keyserling 1883). After its original description, the species was never mentioned again in the literature, except when transferred to *Kukulcania* by Lehtinen (1967), who did not examine the holotype. Thus, the identity of this species remained a mystery and, considering that most species of the genus are restricted to the southern USA and Mexico (Cambridge 1896, 1899, Chamberlin & Ivie 1935, 1942), one could suspect it is actually a junior synonym of *K. hibernalis*.

During a recent expedition to the coast of Peru, we collected several specimens of one species of *Kukulcania* that, together with additional material already deposited in the Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Lima), showed to be remarkably different from other species of the genus. Although we could not examine the holotype of *K. brevipes*, the distribution of the specimens we examined, together with characters from the original description (Keyserling 1883) convinced us that it actually represents a different species. In this study we redescribe the female and describe the male for the first time, and provide detailed information and illustrations on the morphology, distribution and natural history of *K. brevipes*. To facilitate the recognition of this species we also provide comparative images, as well as new data on the distribution of *K. hibernalis*, the other species of the genus recorded from South America. From these results emerges an interesting distribution pattern for the genus, with one species restricted to coastal Peru and Chile (*K. brevipes*), five species from the southern USA to Mexico (Cambridge 1896, 1899, Chamberlin & Ivie 1935, 1942), one species in Cuba (Alayón, 1972) and one widespread, synanthropic species (*K. hibernalis*), of uncertain origin (Platnick 2013).

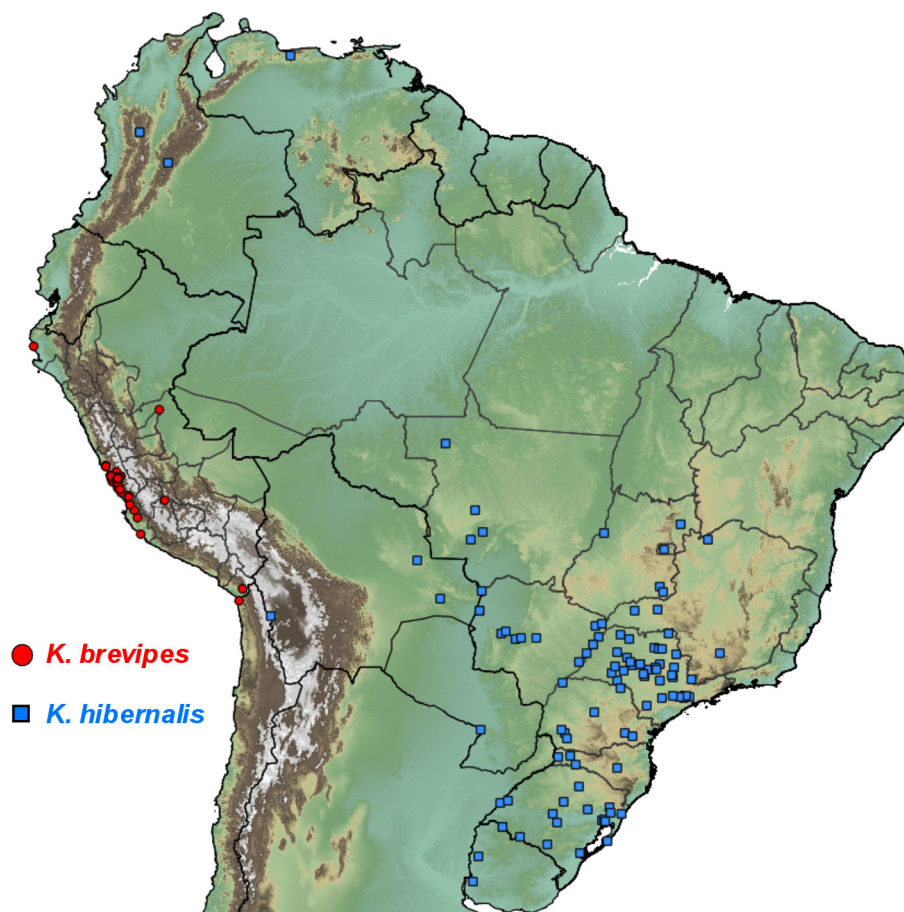


FIGURE 9. Geographic distribution records of *Kukulcania brevipes* (Keyserling) and *K. hibernalis* (Hentz) in South America based on the material examined in this study. Note that *K. hibernalis* is also known from several localities in Argentina (Ramírez & Grismado 1997, 2008).

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