

New species of *Cheiracanthium* (Araneae: Eutichuridae) from Madagascar and the Comoros Islands

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Abstract

The Afrotropical representatives of the spider genus *Cheiracanthium* C.L. Koch, 1839 from Madagascar and the Comoros Islands are revised, and new species are described. Five described species are recognized: *C. africanum* Lessert, 1921, *C. furculatum* Karsch, 1879, *C. insulare* (Vinson, 1863), *C. leucophaeum* Simon, 1896, and *C. ludovici* Lessert, 1921. The internal genitalia of the female of *C. insulare*, and the female of *C. ludovici*, are described for the first time. Thirteen new species, *C. ambrense* sp. nov. (♂♀), *C. ampijoroa* sp. nov. (♀), *C. andranomay* sp. nov. (♀), *C. anjozorobe* sp. nov. (♂♀), *C. ashleyi* sp. nov. (♂♀), *C. fisheri* sp. nov. (♂♀), *C. foulpointense* sp. nov. (♂♀), *C. griswoldi* sp. nov. (♂♀), *C. jocquei* sp. nov. (♂♀), *C. madagascarensis* sp. nov. (♂♀), *C. mahajanga* sp. nov. (♀), *C. ransoni* sp. nov. (♂♀) and *C. rothi* sp. nov. (♂♀), are described. In most of the endemic Madagascan species the female genital depression is divided by a central septum and the male cymbial apophysis is bent distally.

Key words: spiders, new species, Afrotropical Region, taxonomy, distribution

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