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## **The Amazonian Goblin Spiders of the New Genus *Gradunguloonops* (Araneae: Oonopidae)**

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## Abstract

A new genus of soft-bodied oonopids, *Gradunguloonops*, is established for a group of goblin spiders found in the Amazonian rainforests of northern South America. Members of this genus differ from other oonopids in that the proclaw of tarsi I and II is notably larger than the corresponding retroclaw, a putative synapomorphy of the group. *Gradunguloonops* comprises twelve species, all new and described in this contribution: *G. mutum* (type species) from Brazil and Peru, *G. bonaldoi*, *G. amazonicus*, *G. urucu*, *G. pacanari*, *G. juruti* from Brazil, *G. erwini* from Peru, *G. orellana* and *G. nadineae* from Ecuador, *G. benavidesae* and *G. florezi* from Colombia, and *G. raptor* from Venezuela. Two preliminary intrageneric groups are proposed on the basis of their female genital morphology: the *bonaldoi* group, to which are assigned the species with the anterior section comprising only a single anterior sclerite, and the *mutum* group, with a more complex, tripartite anterior section.

**Key words:** Neotropical region, new species, taxonomy, genital morphology

## Introduction

The family Oonopidae (goblin spiders) currently includes 1518 species and 103 genera (World Spider Catalog 2014) and continues to grow fast, mainly as a result of revisionary studies carried out by the Planetary Biodiversity Inventory (PBI) project ([www.research.amnh.org/oonopidae](http://www.research.amnh.org/oonopidae)). It is well known that these very small, six-eyed, haplogyne spiders are most abundant and diverse in the tropics (Jocqué & Dippenaar 2006). Recent contributions have shown that the American fauna is among the most diverse and interesting; for example, the *Dysderina* complex constitutes over 270 species belonging to at least nine genera (World Spider Catalog 2014), while recent revisions of other hard-bodied oonopids (formerly “gamasomorphines”), such as *Escaphiella* Platnick & Dupérré, *Scaphiella* Simon, *Pescennina* Simon, *Niarchos* Platnick & Dupérré, *Stenoonops* Simon, *Scaphioides* Bryant, *Varioonops* Bolzern & Platnick, *Simlops* Bonaldo, Ott & Ruiz, and *Reductoonops* Platnick & Berniker, have resulted in more than 250 described species, most of them newly described.

Despite the spectacular progresses in the oonopid systematics, the research effort is still unbalanced considering differing lineages within the family. The soft-bodied oonopids (formerly “oonopines”) in particular have received less attention. The most diverse genus of this group is probably *Neotrops* Grismado & Ramírez, with

bulb, with a clearly defined seam between; bulb yellow, 1 to 1.5 times as long as cymbium, stout, middle part bent dorsally after a constriction, distal part with conductor on the prolateral side, as a curved, strong, dark spiniform projection, embolus curved distally, with an acute dorsal terminal projection and accompanied prolaterally by a scaly curved lobe.

Female unknown.

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: None.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality in Mérida (Venezuela).

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