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Taxonomic notes on the crab spider genera *Stephanopoides* and *Isaloides* (Araneae: Thomisidae: Stephanopinae)

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Abstract

According to current catalogues, two species are allocated to the genus *Parastephanops* F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1900. The examination of the type of *Parastephanops cognatus* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1892) (type-species of *Parastephanops*) has revealed the presence of a high cephalic region, legs with dark metatarsus and apex of tibia, and triangular epigynum with median ridge, all diagnostic features of *Stephanopoides* Keyserling, 1880. However, the female of *P. echinatus* (Banks, 1914) has a low cephalic region, a median ocular quadrangle longer than wide and a large atrium of the epigynum, which are diagnostic features of *Isaloides* F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1900. Thus, *Parastephanops* is synonymized with *Stephanopoides* and its two species, *P. cognatus* and *P. echinatus*, are redescribed, illustrated and assigned to *Stephanopoides* and *Isaloides*, respectively. We also propose that *Pyresthesis berlandi* Caporiacco, 1947 is a junior synonym of *Stephanopoides simoni* Keyserling, 1880 based on shape and arrangement of the epigynal plate, copulatory ducts and spermathecae.

Key words: Neotropical Region, new Synonymy, *Parastephanops*, Stephanopinae, taxonomy

Introduction

Stephanopinae—*sensu* Simon (1895) and Ono (1988)—is a Pantropical thomisid subfamily, currently comprising 284 species in 33 genera. Few Neotropical genera of Stephanopinae have been revised, e.g. *Sidymella* Strand, 1942, *Onocolus* Simon, 1895 and *Stephanopoides* Keyserling, 1880 by Lise (1973, 1981) and Bonaldo and Lise (2001), respectively. Most unrevised Neotropical Stephanopinae genera are composed of few species, which were described a long time ago, and have been diagnosed by uninformative or variable characters. These taxonomic impediments have led to some misidentifications, as it is the case with the *Parastephanops* species and *Pyresthesis berlandi*. We have examined the holotype of *P. berlandi* and, although the genus is assigned to Dietinae, it appeared clearly as a junior synonym of *Stephanopoides simoni*, as the epigynal plate has the same shape, and the copulatory ducts and spermathecae have the same arrangement in both species (see Bonaldo & Lise 2001 for details).

Parastephanops was described to include *Stephanopoides cognata* O. P.-Cambridge, 1892 that, according to F. O. P.-Cambridge (1990), differs from the *Stephanopoides* species by the lateral eyes slightly split by longitudinal grooves and the longer median ocular quadrangle. The transfer of *Misumessus echinatus* Banks, 1914 to *Parastephanops* took into account the eye arrangement and teeth number on the chelicerae (Bryant 1940).

Stephanopoides was revised by Bonaldo and Lise (2001), who characterized the genus mainly by presence of a high prosoma, dark coloration of the metatarsus and distal third of tibia I and II, and stripes of guanine on abdomen; features also present in *Parastephanops cognatus*.

Isaloides is a Stephanopinae genus including three species from Central America and south of North America. The type species *Isaloides putus* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1891) is known from females only. This species was originally assigned to *Dieae* by O. Pickard-Cambridge (1891) and transferred to a new genus, *Isaloides*, by F. O. Pickard-Cambridge (1900). *Isaloides toussainti* Banks, 1903 was described based on a female from Hayti, and later a male from Cuba was described by Bryant (1940). The species *Isaloides yollotl* Jiménez, 1992 was described in both sexes from Baja California, Mexico. The species of *Isaloides* are distinguished from other Neotropical