Taxonomic notes on the crab spider genera Stephanopoides and Isaloïdes (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 Isaloïdes 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 Isaloïdes, 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.

Isaloïdes is a Stephanopinae genus including three species from Central America and south of North America. The type species Isaloïdes 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, Isaloïdes, by F. O. Pickard-Cambridge (1900). Isaloïdes toussainti Banks, 1903 was described based on a female from Hayti, and later a male from Cuba was described by Bryant (1940). The species Isaloïdes yollotl Jiménez, 1992 was described in both sexes from Baja California, Mexico. The species of Isaloïdes are distinguished from other Neotropical