



Zootaxa 3958 (1): 001–258
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

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Monograph

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)

ZOOTAXA

ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3958.1.1>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:A722F37A-A630-4284-B00B-D684C90298E2>

ZOOTAXA

3958

A revision of ant-mimicking spiders of the family Corinnidae (Araneae) in the Western Pacific

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Magnolia Press
Auckland, New Zealand

Accepted by M. Ramirez: 19 Mar. 2015; published: 20 May 2015

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A revision of ant-mimicking spiders of the family Corinnidae (Araneae) in the Western Pacific
(*Zootaxa* 3958)

258 pp.; 30 cm.

20 May 2015

ISBN 978-1-77557-693-8 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-77557-694-5 (Online edition)

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2015 BY

Magnolia Press

P.O. Box 41-383

Auckland 1346

New Zealand

e-mail: zootaxa@mapress.com

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/>

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ISSN 1175-5326 (Print edition)

ISSN 1175-5334 (Online edition)

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Abstract

The Corinnidae of the western Pacific are revised. The formerly sparassid genus *Anchognatha* Thorell, 1881, and the gnaphosid genus *Battalus* Karsch, 1878, are transferred to the Castianeirinae. The Corinninae include only the introduced *Creugas gulosus* Thorell, 1878 and *Medmassa christae* sp. nov. from the northern Torres Strait islands. *Medmassa pallipes* (L. Koch, 1873) and *Medmassa pusilla* Simon, 1896 are newly synonymised with *Creugas gulosus*. The Castianeirinae from the Western Pacific including Australia includes *Battalus* Karsch, 1878, *Copa* Simon, 1886, *Leichhardtus* Raven & Baehr, 2013, *Nyssus* Walckenaer, 1805, *Poecilipia* Simon, 1897, and eight new genera: *Disnyssus* gen. nov., *Iridonyssus* gen. nov., *Kolora* gen. nov., *Leptopicia* gen. nov., *Melanesotypus* gen. nov., *Nucastia* gen. nov., *Ozcopa* gen. nov. and *Ticopa* gen. nov. *Battalus* includes *B. adamparsonsi* sp. nov., *B. baehrae* sp. nov., *B. bidgemia* sp. nov., *B. byrneae* sp. nov., *B. diadens* sp. nov., *B. helenstarkae* sp. nov., *B. microspinosus* sp. nov., *B. rugosus* sp. nov., *B. spinipes* Karsch, 1878, *B. wallum* sp. nov., *B. zuytdorp* sp. nov. and *B. semiflavus* (Simon, 1896), new combination (transferred from *Medmassa*). *Copa*, an otherwise African and Sri Lankan genus, includes *C. kabana* sp. nov. *Disnyssus* gen. nov. includes *D. helenmirrenae* sp. nov. and *D. judidenchae* sp. nov. *Iridonyssus* gen. nov. includes *I. auripilosus* sp. nov., *I. formicans* sp. nov., *I. kohouti* sp. nov. and *I. leucostaurus* sp. nov. *Kolora* gen. nov. includes *K. cushingae* sp. nov., *K. cooloola* sp. nov. and *K. lynneae* sp. nov., and *K. sauverubens* (Simon, 1896) new combination (transferred from *Corinnomma* Karsch, 1880). *Leichhardtus* includes *Leichhardtus yagan* sp. nov., *Leichhardtus evschlingerii* sp. nov., *Leichhardtus strzelecki* sp. nov., as well as eight recently described species. *Leptopicia* gen. nov. includes only *Methesis bimaculata* (Simon, 1896) new combination (transferred from *Methesis* Simon, 1896). *Melanesotypus guadal* gen. et sp. nov. is described from the Solomon Islands. *Nucastia* gen. nov., includes *N. culburra* sp. nov., *N. eneabba* sp. nov., *N. muncoonie* sp. nov., *N. supunnoides* sp. nov. and *N. virewoods* sp. nov.; *Medmassa fusca* Hogg, 1900 is transferred to *Nucastia* but is considered a *nomen dubium*. The genera *Anchognatha* and *Supunna* Simon, 1897 are junior synonyms of *Nyssus*, which includes *Supunna albopunctatus* (Hogg, 1896), *Anchognatha avida* Thorell, 1881, *Nyssus coloripes* Walckenaer, 1805, *N. emu* sp. nov., *Agroeca insularis* L. Koch, 1873 (from Fiji and the Solomon Islands), *N. jaredwarden* sp. nov., *N. jonraveni* sp. nov., *N. loureedi* sp. nov., *N. luteofinis* sp. nov., *N. paradoxus* sp. nov., *N. pseudomaculatus* sp. nov., *N. robertsi* sp. nov., *N. semifuscus* sp. nov., *N. wendyae* sp. nov. and *N. yuggera* sp. nov. *Supunna funerea* (Simon, 1896) and *Supunna albomaculata* (Rainbow, 1902) are junior synonyms of *Nyssus albopunctatus*; *Supunna picta* (L. Koch, 1873) and *Storena auripes* Rainbow, 1916 are junior synonyms of *Nyssus coloripes* Walckenaer, 1805. *Ozcopa* gen. nov. includes *O. chiunei* sp. nov., *O. colloffii* sp. nov., *O. margotandersenae* sp. nov., *O. mcdonaldii* sp. nov., *O. monteithi* sp. nov. and *O. zborowskii* sp. nov. *Poecilipia* includes *P. carnarvon* sp. nov., *P. contorqua* sp. nov., *P. davidi* sp. nov., *P. elvis* sp. nov., *P. formiciforme* (Rainbow, 1904) comb. nov. (transferred from *Corinnomma*), *P. gloverae* sp. nov., *P. harveyi* sp. nov., *P. kgari* sp. nov., *P. samueli* sp. nov., *P. janthina* Simon, 1896, *P. kohouti* sp. nov., *P. lugubris* sp. nov., *P. marengo* sp. nov., *P. metallica* sp. nov., *P. micaelae* sp. nov., *P. qunats* sp. nov., *P. rawlinsonae* sp. nov., *P. ruthae* Santana & Raven, sp. nov., *P. smaragdinea* (Simon, 1909) new combination (transferred from *Supunna*), *P. tinda* sp. nov., *P. venusta* Rainbow, 1904, *P. waldockae* sp. nov., *P. wallacei* sp. nov., *P. yambuna* sp. nov., and *P. zbigniewi* sp. nov. *Ticopa* gen. nov. includes *T. australis* sp. nov., *T. carnarvon* sp. nov., *T. chinchilla* sp. nov., *T. dingo* sp. nov., *T. hudsoni* sp. nov., and *T. longbottomi* sp. nov. For comparative purposes, males of the South-east Asian *Corinnomma severum* (Thorell, 1881) (the type-species) and *C. javanum* Simon, 1905 are figured and supplementary notes provided. *Liocranum australiensis* L. Koch, 1873 is transferred from *Medmassa* to *Miturga* where it is a *nomen dubium*.

One hundred and eight species are treated in this work, of which 77 are new, 21 existing species are recognised; five existing genera are recognised, two are placed in synonymy, eight new genera are added; and one species is transferred to Miturgidae and another is listed as a *nomen dubium*. The Australian corinnid fauna includes 14 genera and 97 species.

Keywords: Corinnidae, taxonomy, Australia, Pacific, distribution, ant-mimicry

Introduction

Throughout Australia and parts of New Zealand, small fast-moving spiders catch the eye as they move in a stop-start fashion, often in sunny patches. Many of these spiders belong to the subfamily Castianeirinae (family Corinnidae) which show diverse forms of mimicry, mostly of ants, sometimes of wasps, and possibly even of other spiders (Cushing 2012). They are taken commonly in pitfall traps in open forest, heath and desert but are less often taken in rainforest, perhaps reflecting the diversity of their insect models.

In the collections of the Queensland Museum (in 2006), Corinnidae were represented by over 2200 samples and rank 9th largest (after the Lycosidae with 6146, Salticidae with 4942, Theridiidae with 4250, Oonopidae with 3694, Araneidae with 3681, Zodariidae with 3640, Gnaphosidae with 3564, and Linyphiidae with 2448).