



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3972.1.3>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:FA022B0E-9F20-4A4C-A0EA-112B60BD42B8>

## Four new caponiids species (Araneae, Caponiidae) from the West Indies and redescription of *Nops blandus* (Bryant)

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### Abstract

We update the knowledge of the unusual Caponiidae spiders from the West Indies with the description of four new species, and the redescription of *Nops blandus* (Bryant) including the first description of the female. Specimens previously assigned to *N. blandus* from Hispaniola and Puerto Rico represents two new species: *Nops hispaniola* **n. sp.** and *Nops agnarssoni* **n. sp.** respectively; while the distribution of the former is limited to British and U. S. Virgin Islands. The others two new species are *Nops finisfurvus* **n. sp.** from British Virgin Islands and *Cubanops luquillo* **n. sp.** from Puerto Rico. Female internal genitalia of *Nops* species are described, photographed and illustrated for the first time.

**Key words:** *Nops*, *Cubanops*, taxonomy, Haplogynae, Caribbean

### Introduction

The family Caponiidae is an unusual group of haplogynae spiders, typically found on the ground, under rocks, and in leaf litter. This family is currently represented by 15 genera and 90 species, distributed in the Americas, Africa and Asia (World Spider Catalog, 2015). The West Indies is represented by three genera: *Nops* MacLeay, distributed in almost all the Caribbean islands (Sánchez–Ruiz, 2010), *Cubanops* Sánchez–Ruiz, Platnick & Dupérré, occurring in Bahamas, Cuba and Hispaniola (Sánchez–Ruiz *et al.*, 2010), and *Caponina* Simon, with the species: *C. testacea* Simon occurring in the St. Vincent island, Lesser Antilles (Platnick, 1994). All West Indian caponiids have a remarkable endemism, and except *Nops blandus* (Bryant), *Nops glaucus* Hasselt and *Nops simla* Chickering, the remainder of the West Indian species are single island endemics. The species with a larger distribution area is *N. blandus*, which was recorded from U. S. Virgin Islands (Bryant, 1940; Chickering, 1964), Haiti (Bryant, 1948: as *Nops coccineus* Simon), Dominican Republic (Sánchez–Ruiz, 2005) and Puerto Rico (Armas, 2010).

The present paper provides description of four new caponiids species from West Indies: *Nops agnarssoni* **n. sp.**, *Nops hispaniola* **n. sp.**, *Nops finisfurvus* **n. sp.** and *Cubanops luquillo* **n. sp.** The first two species based on the material assigned to *N. blandus* from Puerto Rico and Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republic) respectively. Additionally, we provide a redescription of *N. blandus*, including the first description of the female.

Female internal genitalia of *Nops* species was traditionally overlooked in previous papers describing females from this genus (Chickering, 1967; Sánchez–Ruiz, 2004, 2005; Dupérré, 2014). Therefore in this paper, female internal genitalia are described and illustrated for the first time.

### Material and methods

Specimens examined were supplied by the following collections and curators: American Museum of Natural History, USA (AMNH, L. Prendini), Florida State Collection, USA (FSCA, G.B. Edwards), Instituto Butantan,