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A new species of *Losdolobus* Platnick & Brescovit 1994 (Araneae: Orsolobidae) from Argentina with notes on its ecology and distribution

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Abstract

A new species of *Losdolobus*, *L. nelsoni* sp. nov., is described based on females and males collected from grasslands in the mountains of southern Buenos Aires province, Argentina. Additionally, the phenology of this new species is presented and some aspects of the biogeography and distribution of the genus are discussed.

Key words: spiders, new species, South America, biogeography

Introduction

The family Orsolobidae Cooke 1965 includes haplogyne spiders with six eyes that can be distinguished by the presence of an elevated tarsal organ (Forster & Platnick 1985; Izquierdo & Labarque 2010). This family is represented in South America by seven genera and 39 species (World Spider Catalog 2015). Most of the species treated in the revision by Forster and Platnick (1985) were known from Chile, and only two species of Orsolobidae were reported for Argentina: *Orsolobus pucara* Forster & Platnick 1985, from Neuquén and Rio Negro Provinces, and *Falklandia rumbolli* (Schiapelli & Gerschman, 1974) from Malvinas Islands. Recently four new records for the family (including the species described here) were listed for Argentina (Grismado & Izquierdo 2014, as “*Losdolobus* sp. nueva? Bs. As.”, p. 166). The genus *Losdolobus* Platnick & Brescovit 1994 is the only genus of this family that occurs in Brazil (Platnick & Brescovit 1994). The first described species was *Losdolobus parana* Platnick & Brescovit 1994 from the state of Paraná, Brazil (Platnick & Brescovit 1994). The authors proposed the following diagnostic characters for this genus: absence of purple pigment on the abdomen, presence of spines on tibiae III and IV, and the simple morphology of the male palpal bulb. Subsequently, three additional species of *Losdolobus* were described from Brazil: *L. opytapora* Brescovit *et al.* 2004 and *L. ybypora* Brescovit *et al.* 2004 (Brescovit *et al.* 2004), and *L. xaruanus* Lise & Almeida 2006 (Lise & Almeida 2006). Recently, several specimens of an unknown species of *Losdolobus* were collected with pitfall traps during ecological studies in three different areas of southwestern Buenos Aires Province, Argentina. Here, this new species from the southern mountains of Buenos Aires Province is described, making it the first species of this genus from Argentina. In addition, the phenology of the new species is presented and the biogeography of the genus is discussed.

Material and methods

Individuals are deposited in the following institutions: Laboratorio de Zoología de Invertebrados II (LZI, Gabriel Pompozzi), Universidad Nacional del Sur, Bahía Blanca, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia” (MACN-Ar, Cristina Scioscia), Buenos Aires. The female genitalia were observed in temporary preparations in clove oil under an Olympus SZ40 stereoscopic microscope equipped with a calibrated ocular micrometer scale. All photos were taken with a high resolution Micrometrics camera attached to a Nikon Eclipse 600 microscope. Scanning electron microscope images (SEM) of the male genitalia were made with