Chileotrecha romero (Kraus, 1966) comb. nov. and Pseudocleobis patagonicus (Roewer, 1934) comb. nov. transferral from Mummuciidae to Ammotrechidae (Arachnida, Solifugae)

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Abstract

The solifuge species Mummucina romero Kraus, 1966, from Chile, and Mummucia patagonica Roewer, 1934, from Argentina, are here transferred from Mummuciidae Roewer, 1934 to Ammotrechidae Roewer, 1934. Chileotrecha romero (Kraus, 1966) comb. nov. and Pseudocleobis patagonicus (Roewer, 1934) comb. nov. are proposed. Comments on their morphology are made and previous distributional records are discussed. Pseudocleobis patagonicus is proposed as a nomen dubium. In addition, we confirm that female and immature specimens of the family Mummuciidae, just like males, can be reliably recognized based on features that had been suggested by Maury (1984).

Key words: Solifuges, Mummucina romero, Mummucia patagonica, Argentina, Chile

Introduction

The sun-spider family Mummuciidae Roewer, 1934 currently contains 20 species in eight genera from South America (Harvey 2003; Martins et al. 2004; Rocha & Carvalho 2006; Carvalho et al. 2010; González-Reyes & Corronca 2013; Botero-Trujillo 2014). Six genera are monotypic, while Mummucia Simon, 1879 and Mummucina Roewer, 1934 comprise eight and six species respectively. Some of the species are known only from the type specimens, some of which are lost (Kury & Nogueira 1999).

Members of this family were grouped by Roewer (1934) in Mummuciinae, originally a subfamily of Ammotrechidae Roewer, 1934 which was later elevated to family rank (Maury 1984). The one classical character of Mummuciidae is the male flagellum, which is immovably fixed to the cheliceral fixed finger and vesicular in shape (Maury 1984; El-Hennawy 1990; Xavier & Rocha 2001; Martins et al. 2004). Although the flagellum is no doubt an important character for solifuge systematics (e.g., Bird et al. 2015), it is not the only character by which the family Mummuciidae can be distinguished. Maury (1984: 77) proposed additional diagnostic features of this family; among those, three are remarkable for they can be evaluated in adults of both sexes, as well as in immatures. These allow Mummuciidae to be effectively distinguished from the other two families found in South America, i.e., Ammotrechidae and Daesiidae Kraepelin, 1899.

One of these features is the coloration pattern, which in Mummuciidae consists, according to Maury (1984), of three conspicuous longitudinal dark stripes on the abdominal tergites (Maury 1984). Of these, only the medial stripe is found along the tergites, the others being actually placed sub-dorsally on the lateral pleural membranes. While this is unique for this family among New World solifuges, a similar pattern has been reported for other diurnal species, e.g., in the family Solpugidae (Lawrence 1963). The other features suggested by Maury (1984) are the absence of latero-ventral ‘spines’ (spiniform setae) on the pedipalps and the presence on the posterior margin of post-spiracular sternite II (4th post-genital sternite) of males, and less evidently of females, of a comb of ‘rigid hairs’ (referred to as ‘ctenidia’ by Maury 1984).

In contrast, species of Ammotrechidae and South American Daesiidae are coloured differently, and when a median longitudinal band is present on the tergites (in some Ammotrechidae), it corresponds to a light band in a darker contour and not the other way around as in Mummuciidae (i.e., always a dark band across the midline; see, e.g., Botero-Trujillo