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***Aguapanela*, a new tarantula genus from the Colombian Andes (Araneae, Theraphosidae)**

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Abstract

A new monotypic genus of Theraphosidae is described from Colombia: *Aguapanela* Perafán & Cifuentes **gen. nov.** with only the type species *Aguapanela arvi* Perafán, Cifuentes & Estrada **sp. nov.**, from Caldas and Medellín, Antioquia, Colombian Andes. The new genus differs from other theraphosid spiders mainly in the presence of stridulatory setae on the palps and legs I and II, together with the presence of type III and IV urticating setae. Males lack a tibial apophysis on leg I and have a simple palpal bulb with the subtegulum less extended than usual in Theraphosinae, elongated curved embolus, ventrally concave, and with two prolateral keels very flat and developed on the dorsal edge. The female spermathecae have two digitiform elongated and granulated seminal receptacles attached to a semicircular wide membranous base. We describe, diagnose and illustrate the new genus and give some biological remarks. Morphological, systematic and biogeographic aspects are discussed. Chromatographic and electrophoretic profiles of its venom are analyzed.

Key words: Antioquia, Neotropical, new species, taxonomy, Theraphosinae, venom

Introduction

Theraphosidae Thorell, 1869 are the most speciose family within the Mygalomorphae, with 975 species valid in 128 genera (World Spider Catalogue 2015). These spiders are predominantly found in tropical and subtropical regions. The family is currently divided into 10–11 subfamilies (Guadanucci 2014), of which ‘Ischnocolinae’, Aviculariinae and Theraphosinae occur in South America (Raven 1985; Guadanucci 2014). ‘Ischnocolinae’ are small terrestrial theraphosids found widely distributed in the world (Guadanucci 2014), Aviculariinae are typical arboreal tarantulas found in the tropical rainforest of the New World, but also in Africa and Asia (West *et al.* 2008), while Theraphosinae are endemic to America, inhabiting tropical, subtropical and temperate regions. Theraphosinae are mainly terrestrial, living in burrows, other natural cavities or under rocks in a great variety of habitats, from sea level up to high Andean forests, with a few species reported in high mountainous areas (around 3000 meters above sea level(masl)).

Among the mountains surrounding the city of Medellín, Colombia, around 2400 masl, we discovered tarantulas that did not fit any known theraphosid genera. This taxon shares the main synapomorphies of Theraphosinae, but presents clear differences compared to other genera known. They have type III and IV urticating setae, but differ from all basal Theraphosinae with type IV urticating setae principally by the presence of stridulatory setae on the palps and legs I and II, and the morphology of the copulatory organs. Supported by these singular morphological characteristics, we propose a new monotypic Theraphosinae genus which is diagnosed, described and illustrated.

Morphological, systematic and biogeographic aspects are discussed, as well as a partial characterization of its venom.