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**Taxonomic review of the New World spider genus *Elaver*
O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898 (Araneae, Clubionidae)**

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Abstract

Elaver O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898 is characterized and redescribed, including 49 species occurring from the United States to Argentina. Thirty seven previously known species are redescribed: *Elaver achuca* (Roddy, 1966) **revalidated**, *E. balboae* (Chickering, 1937), *E. barroana* (Chickering, 1937), *E. calcarata* (Kraus, 1955), *E. carlota* (Bryant, 1940), *E. chisosa* (Roddy, 1966), *E. crinophora* (Franganillo, 1934), *E. crocota* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1896), *E. albicans* (Franganillo, 1930) **name restored**, *E. depuncta* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898, *E. elaver* (Bryant, 1940), *E. excepta* (L. Koch, 1866), *E. grandivulva* (Mello-Leitão, 1930), *E. hortoni* (Chickering, 1937), *E. implicata* (Gertsch, 1941), *E. juana* (Bryant, 1940), *E. kohlsi* (Gertsch & Jellison, 1939), *E. linguata* (F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1900), *E. madera* (Roddy, 1966), *E. mirabilis* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1896) **new comb.**, *E. mulaiki* (Gertsch, 1935), *E. multinotata* (Chickering, 1937), *E. orvillei* (Chickering, 1937), *E. placida* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898, *E. portoricensis* (Petrunkevitch, 1930), *E. quadrata* (Kraus, 1955), *E. richardi* (Gertsch, 1941), *E. sericea* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898, *E. sigillata* (Petrunkevitch, 1925), *E. simplex* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1896), *E. texana* (Gertsch, 1933), *E. tigrina* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898 **name restored**, *E. tricuspis* (F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1900), *E. tristani* (Banks, 1909), *E. tumivulva* (Banks, 1909), *E. valvula* (F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1900) and *E. wheeleri* (Roewer, 1933). Ten new species are described: *E. candelaria* **n. sp.** and *E. helenae* **n. sp.** from Mexico; *E. arawakan* **n. sp.** from Haiti; *E. lizae* **n. sp.** from Costa Rica; *E. darwichi* **n. sp.** from Ecuador; *E. juruti* **n. sp.**, *E. tourinhoae* **n. sp.** and *E. vieirae* **n. sp.** from Brazil; *E. shinguito* **n. sp.** from Peru and *E. beni* **n. sp.** from Bolivia. The female of *E. hortoni* is described for the first time. Lectotypes are designated for *E. sigillata* and its actual female is described for the first time. Four new synonyms are proposed: *E. languida* (Gertsch, 1941) is synonymized with *E. multinotata*; *E. dorothea* (Gertsch, 1935) with *E. wheeleri*; *E. exempta* (Gertsch & Davis, 1940) with *E. placida* and *E. vulnerata* (Kraus, 1955) with *E. calcarata*. The drawings in the original descriptions of *E. kawitpaaia* (Barrion & Litsinger, 1995) and *E. turongdaliriana* (Barrion & Litsinger, 1995) are sufficiently informative to exclude these species from *Elaver* but not to accurately establish its generic affiliation. Thus, until the types become available for examination, these species must remain as *Clubionidae incertae sedis*. *Heterochemmis* (F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1900) is synonymized with *Elaver* and *Heterochemmis mutatus* Gertsch & Davis, 1940 is recognized as a junior synonym of *Elaver mirabilis* **n. comb.**, the type species of *Heterochemmis*. New records are presented for *E. valvula*, *E. balboae*, *E. brevipipes* (Keyserling, 1891), *E. grandivulva* and *E. lutescens* (Schmidt, 1971). Two species described by Franganillo, *E. tenera* (Franganillo, 1935) and *E. tenuis* (Franganillo, 1935), are considered *species inquirendae*.

Key words: Neotropical, Nearctic, Dionycha, distribution, systematics

Introduction

The genus *Elaver* was erected by O. Pickard-Cambridge (1898) to include four Mexican species in the subfamily Clubioninae of the old family Drassidae. The genus was thought to be related to *Clubiona* Latreille, 1804, but with a different spination pattern. This character, however, was apparently not enough to create a stable separation between these two genera, as attested by the fact that two species, *C. simplex* and *C. crocota*, previously described in *Clubiona* by the same author (O. Pickard-Cambridge 1896) are currently included in *Elaver*. In 1900, F.O. Pickard-Cambridge, while designating type specimens for the species of *Clubiona* and *Elaver* described by O. Pickard-Cambridge (1896, 1898), considered *Elaver* as a junior synonym of *Clubiona* and designated one of the species originally described in the genus, *E. tigrina* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898, as the type species of *Elaver*. F.O. Pickard-Cambridge (1900) also described two other species: *Clubiona linguata* and *C. tricuspis*, both also currently included in *Elaver*.

Despite the fact that the synonymy of *Elaver* and *Clubiona* was made without justification and the type species of *Clubiona* is from Europe, subsequent authors supported the concept of a single, dominant Clubioninae genus also in the New World and described several Central and South American species in *Clubiona*. This tradition was broken by Edwards (1958), who described *Clubionoides* to include *C. excepta* L. Koch, 1866 and other four species transferred from *Clubiona*, all distributed in the United States, as well as the newly described *E. dorothea*, from United States and Mexico. Edwards (1958) diagnosed *Clubionoides* by the presence of a median scape in the female epigynum and by the embolus frequently hidden by the tegulum in the male palpus. The author was probably not aware that both characters are also found in the species originally described in the genus *Elaver* by O. Pickard-Cambridge (1898). Later, Roddy (1966) described three Nearctic species of *Clubionoides* and Dondale & Redner (1982) redescribed the type species of *Clubionoides*, *C. excepta*. However, the most significant modification in the genus composition was made by Brescovit & Bonaldo (1992) who transferred 32 species of