

A new species of *Pherania* Strand, 1942 from southern Brazil (Arachnida: Opiliones: Gonyleptidae)

ADRIANO B. KURY

Departamento de Invertebrados, Museu Nacional/UFRJ, Quinta da Boa Vista, São Cristóvão, 20.940-040, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, BRAZIL
adrik@alternex.com.br

Abstract

Pherania giupponii sp. nov. is herein described from a coastal island in Santa Catarina state, southern Brazil. The genus *Pherania* Strand, 1942, was hitherto monotypic and the type species, *Pherania pygmaea* (Sørensen, 1932), is known from the nearby mainland. A new diagnosis is given to *Pherania* and the geographic distribution of the two species is illustrated on a map.

Key words: Harvestmen, Neotropical, Atlantic Forest, Santa Catarina, Pachylinae, *Antetriceras*

Introduction

Sørensen (1932) described the new monotypic genus *Phera* in the family Minuidae, based on material from Santa Catarina state (southern Brazil). This placement seemed strange, because it was based on a trivial character and the biogeographical information on Minuidae (typical from Venezuela and later discovered in the Antilles) was conflicting with that of *Phera*. Strand (1942) noticed that the generic name was preoccupied and proposed the variant *Pherania* to amend the homonymy — this change was ignored by all subsequent authors until Kury (1995). No one questioned the placement of *Phera*/*Pherania* in the Minuidae, but Kury (1995) examined Sørensen's holotype, redescribing it and allocating *Pherania* to the Gonyleptidae Pachylinae. Now, fresh material from a coastal island in Santa Catarina state was brought to the Arachnological Laboratory of the Brazilian National Museum, and it was found to contain specimens of a further species of *Pherania*, very distinct, but sharing some special similarity with *Pherania pygmaea*. This species is described below. Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazilian National Museum) is herein abbreviated as MNRJ. All measurements are in mm. Terms relating to anatomy follow Kury & Pinto-da-Rocha (2002).