

A new species of Fissiphalliidae from Brazilian Amazon Rain Forest (Arachnida: Opiliones)

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Abstract

The fourth species of the family Fissiphalliidae is described, *Fissiphallius martensi* **new species**, from Reserva Ducke, Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. It differs from other 3 species of the family by having ventral plate sword-like, sulcus II straight, the presence of a high spine on the eye mound, spines on coxa IV, lateral margin of dorsal scute, tergites, anal operculum and sternites, and the genital operculum shorter than stigmatic area.

Key words: Arachnida, Opiliones, Fissiphalliidae, Neotropics, Brazil, Amazonia

Introduction

The harvestman family Fissiphalliidae was recently discovered by Martens (1988). The erection of this family brought some hope to understanding the relationships among the small members of the suborder Laniatores, those having a common eye mound and without a tarsal process and mostly included in the paraphyletic Phalangodidae. Martens (1988) described this new family based on the peculiar genitalic morphology and hypothesized that Phalangodidae was the most promising candidate for subdivisions among Laniatores, due to its worldwide distribution and heterogeneity of forms. Pinto-da-Rocha & Kury (2003) placed this family with the Guasiniidae and the Zalmoxidae by the presence of well developed accessory structures of the glans forming a solid unfoldable bifid plate articulated with the truncus, called “capsula externa” by Kury & Pérez (2002). In fact, as suggested by Kury & Pérez (2002), Fissiphalliidae is a monophyletic group, possibly the sister-group of Zalmoxidae or a group within Zalmoxidae. Additional characters that support both hypotheses are the division of the ventral plate into two regions by a rounded median keel (“pergula” *sensu* Kury 2003) and with pairs of thin setae on venter of ventral plate (on pergula and rutrum). Unfortunately, we are only beginning to understand the gen-