

Notes on *Acanthoscurria chacoana* Brèthes, 1909 (Araneae: Theraphosidae) in Brazil, and its synonymy with *Acanthoscurria altmanni* Schmidt, 2003

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Abstract

The types of *Acanthoscurria chacoana*, a species described from Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay were studied and compared with Brazilian material. Spermathecal and palpal bulb morphology was found to exhibit a high degree of variability, both within and between populations. *A. chacoana* can be distinguished by male having a short, thickened embolus with a very long, narrow prolateral inferior keel, and female having fused spermathecae that are typically longer than wide, with their terminal receptacles close together. Its geographical distribution is extended into Brazil within and around the ‘Pantanal Matogrossense’ region. The species *Acanthoscurria altmanni* Schmidt, 2003 is considered a junior synonym of *A. chacoana*.

Key words: Theraphosidae, *Acanthoscurria chacoana*, *Acanthoscurria altmanni*, *Acanthoscurria musculosa*, spider taxonomy, geographic distribution, junior synonym

Introduction

Acanthoscurria Ausserer, 1871 is a speciose Theraphosidae genus, with 37 described species (Platnick 2004). It is distributed in most areas of South America, mainly Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia. Identification of *Acanthoscurria* species is difficult due to the lack of a taxonomic revision of the genus, and only a few species can be identified accurately. Moreover, little is known of intraspecific morphological variation or specific geographical distributions.

During examination of specimens from the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, deposited in the mygalomorph collection of the Instituto Butantan, specimens resembling *Acanthoscurria chacoana* Brèthes, 1909 were discovered. To date this species was only known from Bolívia, Paraguay and Argentina (Schiapelli & Gerschman de Pike-lin 1964).