

## Description of *Ossinissa*, a new pholcid genus from the Canary Islands (Araneae: Pholcidae)

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### Abstract

*Ossinissa* new genus (Araneae, Pholcidae) is described to place a Canary pholcid species formerly considered belonging to *Spermophorides*. The male of the type species, *Ossinissa justoi* (Wunderlich) new combination, is described for the first time and the female is re-described. This new genus is supported by a revision of the morphological characters of the female, the newly discovered male, and a cladistic analysis.

**Key words:** spiders, pholcids, new genus, taxonomy, Canaries, El Hierro

### Introduction

The Canary archipelago includes seven islands and various islets of volcanic origin situated between 100 and 550 kilometers off the northwest coast of Africa. The proximity to this continent facilitates colonization by North African species. The numerous colonization episodes and the high diversity of habitats, ranging from arid lowlands to humid subtropical forests and alpine zones, offer optimum conditions for the diversification of local fauna. Consequently, the biodiversity of the flora and fauna of the archipelago is high and includes many endemic species and even endemic genera. Spiders (Araneae) are an important component of this high endemism.

The pholcids are one of the spider families with highest diversity in the Canary Islands (Wunderlich 1987, 1992; Dimitrov & Ribera, in press). With few exceptions, such as *Pholcus phalangioides* and *Spermophora senoculata*, all species in the archipelago are endemic. Except for *S. senoculata*, all belong to only two genera: *Pholcus* and *Spermophorides*. The first record of a Canary pholcid dates from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when *P. ornatus* Bösenberg 1895 was described. Thereafter, no new species was recorded until the description of *P. gomerae* by Wunderlich in 1980. After Wunderlich's work,