

A new tarantula species from northern Australia (Araneae, Theraphosidae)

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Abstract

A new species of tarantula, *Coremiocnemis tropix* (Araneae, Mygalomorphae, Theraphosidae) is described from northern Australia; it is the first record of the genus outside of Malaysia. New hair types on legs of the Selenocosmiinae are figured.

Key words: *Coremiocnemis*, spiders, pet trade, conservation, Mygalomorphae, rainforest

Introduction

All Australian Theraphosidae belong to the subfamily Selenocosmiinae. Apart from a generic level treatment (Raven 1985), a review (Smith 1987), and two transfers (Schmidt 1995, 2002), the Selenocosmiinae have not been revised in Australia or elsewhere. To date, selenocosmiine genera formally recorded (Main 1985; Raven 1985) from Australia include *Selenocosmia* Ausserer 1871, *Selenotypus* Pocock 1895, and *Selenotholus* Hogg 1902. Raven et al. (2002) indicated that the genera *Coremiocnemis* Simon 1892 and *Phlogiellus* Pocock 1897 are also present in Australia. With the growing pressure of the pet trade in Australia, the need to document the diversity of Australian theraphosids presses. Unlike many Asian and South American theraphosids, Australian species are not brightly coloured but tend to be earth coloured brown, reddish brown and some darker brown. Recognition of the different Australian species from live animals will present a much greater problem unless the native geographic location is specified and that is usually withheld on the basis of commercial-in-confidence issues.

This paper describes the first species of *Coremiocnemis* from Australia.