

A new *Troglosiro* species (Opiliones, Cyphophthalmi, Troglosironidae) from New Caledonia

PRASHANT SHARMA & GONZALO GIRIBET

Department of Organismic & Evolutionary Biology and Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, 16 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

Abstract

A new species of Cyphophthalmi belonging to the New Caledonian endemic genus *Troglosiro* Juberthie, 1979 is described and illustrated using SEM, including the first description of a troglosironid ovipositor. *T. longifossa* sp. nov., known only from its type locality in Port Boisé, and found at low elevation near sea level, constitutes the seventh species of *Troglosiro* to be described to date. The new species has a unique disposition of the four ventral opisthosomal gland pores in the anterior portion of a long depression of the sternal segments 3 to 7. Information on other specimens recently collected in New Caledonia indicates that the number of described species in the island is a gross underestimate of the real diversity of New Caledonian Cyphophthalmi, both in number of species and morphology.

Key words: Taxonomy, new species, Arachnida

Introduction

Among the less known opilionid taxa, the genus *Troglosiro* Juberthie, 1979 was described by Juberthie (1979) on the basis of a single species, *Troglosiro aelleni* Juberthie, 1979, collected in the Grotte d'Adio (also known as Ninrin-Reu), near Poya, New Caledonia. The placement of the genus in the system of Cyphophthalmi was indefinite, though it was suggested by Juberthie (1979, 1989) and Shear (1980, 1985) that *Troglosiro* was somehow related to the families Pettalidae Shear, 1980 and Sironidae Simon, 1879. With the description of five additional species attributed to this genus, Shear (1993) erected the family Troglosironidae Shear, 1993, based on a number of apomorphies, namely (1) the two to four median exocrine gland orifices on the male opisthosomal sterna, (2) the basally fused and enlarged apical microtrichia of the penis, and (3) the enlarged movable fingers of the penis with dentate lateral margins. Based on these and other morphological characters, Shear (1993) explicitly proposed a sister group relationship of Troglosironidae