New lapsiine jumping spiders from Ecuador (Araneae: Salticidae)

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Abstract

Two new genera and three new species of salticid spider from eastern Ecuador are described, belonging to a group informally called "lapsiines". The new genus Galianora is based on Galianora sacha, new species, and also contains Galianora bryicola, new species. The new genus Thrandina includes the single new species Thrandina parocula. These genera share the ancestral salticid traits, rare among neotropical salticids, of a tarsal claw on the female palp and a median apophysis on the male palp. Galianora is distinguished from other lapsiines by the round tegulum with peripheral embolus. The strikingly large posterior median eyes of Thrandina are unique among New World salticids.

Key words: Araneae, Salticidae, Thrandina, Galianora, Lapsias, lapsiines, jumping spider, new species, Ecuador

Introduction

Phylogenetic studies of salticid spiders have revealed that most species fall in a single large clade, the Salticoida (Maddison & Hedin, 2003). The relatively few salticids outside of this clade therefore occupy a basal position in the family, and have been of considerable interest for studies of the early evolution of the family (Jackson & Pollard, 1996). While the Old World has about 25 genera of basal salticids of diverse body forms (Wanless, 1980, 1982, 1984; Žabka & Kovac, 1996; Logunov, 2004), in the New World only Lyssomanes Hentz and Chinoscopus Simon have been recognized as basal (i.e., outside the Salticoida). However, Maddison and Hedin (2003) have suggested that Lapsias Simon may also be a basal salticid based on several morphological characters. Recent field work in Ecuador has revealed that the neotropics contain a previously unknown diversity of basal salticids apparently related to Lapsias. In this paper I describe three new species in...