

Redescription of the male of *Pikelinia tambilloi* (Mello-Leitão, 1941) and its synonymy with *Pikelinia toba* Ramírez & Grismado, 1997 (Araneae: Filistatidae: Prithinae)

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Abstract

The male and female of *Pikelinia tambilloi* (Mello-Leitão, 1941) is redescribed from specimens recently collected in Santiago del Estero and Córdoba, Argentina. We report on variability in the internal female genitalia, and newly synonymize *Pikelinia toba* Ramírez & Grismado with *P. tambilloi*. The known range of *P. tambilloi* is thus widely extended. New records of *P. kolla* Ramírez & Grismado from Argentina are also reported.

Key words: Spiders, taxonomy, new synonymy, Neotropics, Argentina

Introduction

The genus *Pikelinia* was erected by Mello-Leitão (1946) for *Filistata tambilloi* Mello-Leitão, 1941 from La Rioja Province, Argentina. The males of *Pikelinia* are recognised by having a dorsoretrolateral projection of the palpal tibia, and the second metatarsus and tarsus with clasping structures, which are presumably used during mating; the females by having two consecutive receptacles in their spermathecae. These small-sized spiders make cribellate webs under stones or in soil crevices, walls of caves, or in leaf-litter and they are known from western South America, from Colombia to Patagonia, including the Galapagos Islands (Ramírez & Grismado 1997: 331, Grismado 2003: 100). They live mainly in arid regions, but because of their cryptic habits and small size, they are relatively uncommon in collections.

While preparing the revision of the Argentinean filistatid fauna (Ramírez & Grismado 1997), we only had access to fragmentary data for the proper identification of *P. tambilloi*. The only male examined was the holotype, poorly preserved and lacking the opisthosoma and most of the legs, plus two females collected near the type locality, in La Rioja province. Those two females had uniform grey opisthosomae, as was mentioned in the