

## On the family Fissiphalliidae Martens, 1988, with descriptions of two new Amazonian species (Arachnida: Opiliones: Laniatores)

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### Abstract

Two new species of Brazilian Fissiphalliidae are described. *Fissiphallius chicoi* n. sp. from Pará State, Gurupá municipality, whitewater floodplains (várzea), and *Fissiphallius tucupi* n. sp. from Amazonas State, Castanho municipality (paleovárzea). The number of species for this family in the Amazon rainforest increases from one to three. The two new species are closely related to *Fissiphallius martensi* Pinto-da-Rocha, 2004 from Amazonas State, Manaus. Fissiphalliidae and Zalmoxidae show remarkable similarities in somatic and genital morphology. Fissiphalliidae is kept as a family on the basis of its particular shape of the stragulum, but this character should be tested in a phylogenetic framework. A future phylogenetic analysis should determine if Fissiphalliidae is in fact the sister group of Zalmoxidae, or just a junior synonym. A key for identification, a distribution map, and notes on the distribution of the six species of Fissiphalliidae and the biology of the Amazonian species are given.

**Key words.** Neotropics, Amazonian Rainforest, Amazonian floodplains, Zalmoxidae, taxonomy, BR-319 highway

### Introduction

Our knowledge of the diversity, phylogeny and distribution of organisms in Amazonia is still in its infancy (Silva *et al.* 2005). There are still large areas not yet visited by specialists (Nelson *et al.* 1990, Oren & Albuquerque 1991) and several zoological groups in Amazonia have not yet been studied. Some groups of animals were studied by early naturalist explorers, but most of them were analyzed under poor technical conditions and then classified under obsolete systems (see Cunha 1991; Papavero *et al.* 2002a, 2002b;