



***Heteropoda schwendingeri* Jäger 2005 (Araneae: Sparassidae)
— first description of female with notes on intraspecific variation
and evidences supporting species status**

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Abstract

The female of *Heteropoda schwendingeri* Jäger 2005 is described for the first time. Notes on intraspecific variation are given from two males and three females from the type locality, Than Lod Yai cave. Small variation and consistent combination of both male and female characters confirm its species status.

Key words: Taxonomy, systematics, huntsman spiders, Heteropodinae, Thailand, cave-dwelling

Introduction

The genus *Heteropoda* Latreille 1804 currently includes about 180 species (Platnick 2006). Its diversity seems to be situated in tropical Southeast Asia (Jäger 2002, 2005), from where even large cave-dwelling species have been described just recently (Jäger 2001, 2005). Among these is *Heteropoda schwendingeri* Jäger 2005, described from a single male collected in the Than Lod Yai cave, Thailand. This species was diagnosed by male palpal characters only. Due to the difficult taxonomy within the genus *Heteropoda* it was not clear whether it represents a species on its own or belonged as an undescribed male to another, already described, species. More specimens of both sexes were collected by Peter Schwendinger in 2005. In this paper, we describe the female for the first time, give some additional notes on the variation of some characters in this species and show evidences supporting species status of *H. schwendingeri*.