



Allagelena monticola sp. n. (Araneae: Agelenidae), a new species of funnel-web spiders from northern Thailand

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Abstract

A new species of the funnel-web spiders from Thailand, *Allagelena monticola* sp. n., is described and illustrated. The types of this species were collected from remnant patches of pristine evergreen hill forest in the Doi Inthanon National Park, Chiang Mai Province, northern Thailand. The new species resembles the widely distributed species *A. opulenta* (L. Koch), which is known from China, Korea and Japan. This discovery expands the known zoogeographical distribution of the genus *Allagelena* southwards into tropical Southeast Asia.

Key words: Doi Inthanon, evergreen hill forest, zoogeography, taxonomy

Introduction

Doi [the northern Thai word for Mount] Inthanon, Thailand's highest mountain, was established a national park to protect its rich and remarkable flora and fauna. The towering centerpiece of this 482-square-kilometer park is an eponymous granite massif of 2,565 m altitude. This mountain harbors many high-altitude plant and animal species that cannot be found elsewhere. The high altitude zone of Doi Inthanon contains a high percentage of faunal elements otherwise prevailing in temperate latitudes, e.g., Nematostomatidae (Schwendinger & Gruber 1992), Linyphiidae (Dankittipakul 2002), Agelenidae (in this paper) and Amaurobiidae (Chami-Kranon *et al.* 2006; Dankittipakul & Wang 2003, 2004; Dankittipakul *et al.* 2005, 2006).

The spider family Agelenidae C.L. Koch, 1837 is represented by 40 genera and about 500 nominal species occurring worldwide. Its center of distribution lies in temperate regions of the northern hemisphere (Platnick 2006). The majority of nominal species reported from Asia are known from China, India, Korea and Japan (Song *et al.* 1999; Zhang *et al.* 2005, 2006). Only a few species were reported from tropical forests of Southeast Asia (Hogg 1922, Thorell 1897). These are: *Agelena doris* Hogg, 1922 and *A. tenuis* Hogg, 1922 from Vietnam, *A. limbata* Thorell, 1897 and *Tegenaria chebana* Thorell, 1897 from Myanmar. Except for *A. limbata*, these species have never been reported since their original descriptions.

The only Agelenidae previously known from Thailand belongs to the genus *Tegenaria* Latreille (Dankittipakul 2002). *Tegenaria* cf. *aculeata* Wang, 1992 was recorded from cool high altitudes of the Doi Inthanon National Park. *Tegenaria domestica* (Clerck, 1757), which is considered to be cosmopolitan (Platnick 2006), was also reported from Southeast Asia (Murphy & Murphy 2000) but it has never been collected in Thailand.

The recently established genus *Allagelena* was so far known only from Europe and from northern parts of Asia including China, Korea and Japan (Zhang *et al.* 2006). The occurrence of *Allagelena monticola* sp. n. in a tropical forest of Thailand is remarkable and extends the known distributional range of the *Agelena* +