



## New Linyphiidae spiders associated with playas in the Southern High Plains (Llano Estacado) of Texas (Arachnida: Araneae)

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### ABSTRACT

Three species [*Ceratinella playa* new species, *Erigone denticulata* Chamberlin & Ivie, *Mermessus denticulatus* (Banks)] in the spider family Linyphiidae were associated with emergent vegetation in playa wetlands in the Southern High Plains of Texas. Playa wetlands are being rapidly degraded in the Great Plains of the U.S.A. We describe and illustrate the new species *Ceratinella playa* from a male and female from Briscoe County, Texas. *Erigone denticulata* is redescribed and illustrated from males and females from Texas. New distributional records are provided for *E. denticulata* from the U.S.A.: Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. All of these except those from Wyoming are new state records. A new county record of *Mermessus denticulatus* is reported from Texas.

### RESUMEN

Tres especies [*Ceratinella playa* nueva especie, *Erigone denticulata* Chamberlin & Ivie y *Mermessus denticulatus* (Banks)] de la familia Linyphiidae fueron asociadas a la vegetación emergente en cuerpos de aguas temporales “playas” de humedales en las Grandes Planicies del sur de Tejas. Los humedales están siendo degradados rápidamente en las Planicies de los E.E.U.U. Se describe e ilustra macho y hembra de la nueva especie *Ceratinella playa* del condado Briscoe, Tejas. Machos y hembras de *Erigone denticulata* de Tejas son redescritos e ilustrados. Nuevos datos distribucionales son reportados para *E. denticulata* para los estados de Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregón, Tejas, Utah y Wyoming. Todos, excepto los de Wyoming, son nuevas citas para estos Estados. *Mermessus denticulatus* se cita por primera vez para Tejas.

**Key words:** *Ceratinella*, *Ceraticelus*, *Erigone*, *Mermessus*, wetland, new records, new species, playa, taxonomy, U.S.A.

### INTRODUCTION

The family Linyphiidae currently has 578 genera and > 4,300 described species (Platnick 2007). Member species are found throughout the world, except for mainland Antarctica. They occupy almost all terrestrial habitats, even ice and snow, but are most diverse and abundant in mesic environments or wetlands (Ubick *et al.* 2005). Because ballooning is a common means of moving great distances by some members of this family, some species have global distributions. Others are much more limited in their range and occupy restricted environments such as caves and isolated islands (Buckle *et al.* 2001; JCC, ND pers. obs.).