



Redescription of *Tagulis mystacinus* (Araneae: Thomisidae) from Sri Lanka

SURESH P. BENJAMIN^{1,3} & ZIYARD JALEE²

¹Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History MRC 105, PO Box 37012, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, 20013–7012, USA. E-mail: suresh.benjamin@gmail.com

²38/7, Mohideen Masjid Lane, Maradana, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka

³Corresponding author

Abstract

Tagulis mystacinus Simon, 1895 from Sri Lanka is redescribed based on a pair of newly collected male and female specimens. *T. mystacinus* may be separated from other thomisids by the presence of very peculiar leaf-shaped macrosetae immediately posterior to anterior and posterior lateral eyes. They also may be separated by details of their genitalia.

Key words: Biodiversity, Bominae, Crab spiders, Sri Lanka, Tagulini, Taxonomy

Introduction

Sri Lanka possesses a diverse, highly endemic spider fauna unusual for an island of its size. Sri Lanka's endemic species are concentrated mostly in the small remnants of rain forest in the southwest, and in the central highlands (Benjamin and Bambaradeniya 2006). Unfortunately, the lack of detailed taxonomic studies hinders our understanding of these patterns of endemism. Here we provide a description of an endemic thomisid species from Western and South-central Sri Lanka. This study is part of an ongoing island-wide survey of spider diversity (Benjamin 2000; 2001; 2004; 2006a; 2006b; Huber and Benjamin 2005).

Crab spiders of the genus *Tagulis* Simon, 1895 have never been collected or studied since its original description. *Tagulis* currently contains two species: *Tagulis mystacinus* Simon, 1895 from Sri Lanka and *Tagulis granulatus* Simon, 1895 from Sierra Leone (Platnick 2007; Simon 1895a,b). Here we redescribe *T. mystacinus* and provide a diagnosis. We have been unable to locate the type specimen of *T. granulatus*. Thus, the monophyly and the taxonomic status of *Tagulis* and its affinities to other thomisid genera remain unresolved. The placement of *T. mystacinus* in *Tagulis* should be considered provisional.

Material and methods

Methodology follows (Benjamin 2004). Specimens used for habitus illustrations were placed on washed sand in 70% ethanol and photographed using a dissecting microscope (Leica MZAPO) with top illumination and a magnification of up to 50x. Digital images were taken with a Nikon DXM1200F camera. Images were edited using an Auto-Montage software package. Left structures are depicted. Hairs and macrosetae are usually not depicted in the final palp drawings. All measurements are given in millimeters and were made with a compound microscope (Leica MZAPO) equipped with a 10x ocular and an ocular micrometer scale.

Abbreviations: ALE—anterior lateral eyes, AME—anterior median eyes, PLE—posterior lateral eyes, PME—posterior median eyes.