



Synonymy of *Homalopollys* (Araneae: Araneidae) with the genus *Dolichognatha* (Araneae: Tetragnathidae) and descriptions of two new species

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Abstract

Through discovery of their males, females described as *Homalopollys* Simon (Araneidae) are found to be congeneric with *Dolichognatha* O.P.-Cambridge (Tetragnathidae). Some of the character states seen in *Homalopollys* (type species *H. incanescens* Simon) do not fit within the current diagnosis of *Dolichognatha* so the potential transfer is tested using the data matrix of Hormiga *et al.* (1995). It is found that the synonymy of *Homalopollys* with *Dolichognatha* is justified according to current terms of reference. Both described *Homalopollys* species were known only from Sri Lanka. The male of *D. incanescens* (Simon) (NEW COMBINATION) is described for the first time, and the range of this species is extended to north-eastern Australia. *Dolichognatha albida* (Simon) (NEW COMBINATION) is redescribed and new material is reported from Thailand but the species is still known only from females. *Dolichognatha mandibularis* (Thorell), with similar morphology to *D. incanescens*, is also redescribed but is only known from a single male (Sumatra). Two new species are described: *D. deelemanae* **sp. nov.** is from Kalimantan and *D. raveni* **sp. nov.** is from north-eastern Australia and New Guinea. The character states that unite the genus *Dolichognatha* are discussed and some potential new character systems are put forward. Some of the fresh specimens of *D. albida* and *D. incanescens* show that reflective tapeta are present in the secondary eyes and the abdominal morphology of these and the newly described species differs from that of other known *Dolichognatha* species.

Key words: Canoe tapetum, Sri Lanka, Borneo, Thailand, Sumatra, New Guinea, Australia

Introduction

The genus *Dolichognatha* O.P.-Cambridge 1869 is widespread, mainly in tropical and sub-tropical areas (Levi 1981; Platnick 2007). *Dolichognatha* have a characteristic appearance, with large prominent anterior median eyes and a distinctively shaped carapace, which often has the sides almost parallel in the caput region and is evenly rounded posteriorly. Males have elongate chelicerae, some spectacularly so to an extent that some authors have attributed species to the Archaeidae (see Forster & Platnick 1984; Levi 1981). All previously recognised species (except *D. mandibularis* (Thorell 1894)) have two pairs of posterodorsal humps on the abdomen, and Levi (1981) reported that reflective tapeta are absent from all the secondary eyes. *Dolichognatha* species construct horizontal or sloping orb webs.

Levi (1981) synonymised five genera with *Dolichognatha*: *Landana* Simon 1883, *Paraebius* Thorell 1894, *Prolochus* Thorell 1895, *Nicholasia* Bryant & Archer 1940, and *Afiamalu* Marples 1955. One of these synonymies, that of *Paraebius*, was considered uncertain by Levi due to the lack of abdominal tubercles and the arrangement of cheliceral teeth in the holotype male—the only known specimen. Whilst trying to identify the male of *Homalopollys* Simon 1895 for a study of the tribe Poltyini (Smith 2005), it was noticed that the male type of *Paraebius*, *D. mandibularis*, had certain features in common with the female types of both species of *Homalopollys* (based on notes and drawings of H. Levi). The females of *Homalopollys albidus* Simon