



Two new Neotropical spiders of the genera *Oecobius* and *Platoecobius* (Araneae: Oecobiidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of Oecobiidae are described from Central and South America, representing the first native members of the family recorded south of Mexico. *Oecobius eberhardi* **sp.nov.** is described based on male and female specimens collected from two localities in Costa Rica. *Platoecobius kooch* **sp.nov.**, the second species in the genus, is described from female specimens collected in Southern Argentina. A new diagnosis is proposed for the genus *Platoecobius* Chamberlin & Ivie, 1935, which now includes one species endemic to the south-eastern USA and another from Argentinean Patagonia.

Key words: Taxonomy, Eresoidea, Oecobiinae

Introduction

The spider family Oecobiidae Blackwall, 1862 has a worldwide distribution and currently includes 103 described species in six genera (Platnick 2008). The family is represented in the New World by two genera: *Oecobius* Lucas, 1846, with 15 species distributed from USA to southern Brazil, and the monotypic *Platoecobius* Chamberlin & Ivie, 1935 (Shear 1970; Santos & Gonzaga 2003; Jiménez & Llinas 2005). Most of the diversity of oecobiid species in the Americas is concentrated in the south-western USA and Mexico, with a few, mainly synanthropic species, occurring in northern and southern parts of the continent.

Synanthropic oecobiids are generally cosmopolitan, occurring abundantly in urban areas of several continents, generally on crevices or corners of walls (Santos & Gonzaga 2003; Voss *et al.* 2007). In South America, all oecobiid specimens examined so far have belonged to three synanthropic species of *Oecobius*. Two of them, *Oecobius navus* Blackwall, 1859 and *O. marathaus* Tikader, 1962, were possibly introduced from somewhere else (Santos & Gonzaga 2003; Wunderlich 1987, 1991, 1995). A third species, *O. concinnus* Simon, 1893, is possibly native to the West Indies, Central America or northern South America, judging by its current known distribution (Shear 1970; Santos & Gonzaga 2003). The oecobiid fauna of southern parts of Central America (Guatemala to Panama) includes only a few records of *O. navus* and *O. concinnus* (Shear 1970).

As opposed to synanthropic species of *Oecobius*, native species usually have narrow distribution ranges, occupying mostly cryptic microhabitats, such as crevices and cavities under stones (Shear 1970). The relatively restricted distribution of native species and their cryptic habits may have contributed to the absence of records of a native South American species. In this study we describe for the first time two native, apparently