



## New additions to the Brazilian fauna of the genus *Scytodes* Latreille (Araneae: Scytodidae) with emphasis on the Atlantic Forest species

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## Abstract

The present study is the fourth of a series dealing with the Brazilian Scytodidae fauna and emphasizes the Atlantic Forest species. Nevertheless, other undescribed species from different biomes were also included, in order to supply as much knowledge possible on the Neotropical Scytodidae fauna. Thirty two species are newly described: *Scytodes tapacura* n. sp., *S. itabaiana* n. sp., *S. saaristoi* n. sp., *S. una* n. sp. and *S. guapiassu* n. sp., *S. maromba* n. sp., *S. tyaia* n. sp., *S. jurubatuba* n. sp., *S. bocaina* n. sp., *S. genebra* n. sp., *S. itapecerica* n. sp., *S. antonina* n. sp. and *S. chopim* n. sp., *S. pintodarochai* n. sp., *S. ytu* n. sp., *S. tabuleiro* n. sp., *S. maquine* n. sp., *S. chapeco* n. sp., *S. imbituba* n. sp., *S. ilhota* n. sp. and *S. turvo* n. sp. from the Atlantic Forest, *S. tapuia* n. sp., *S. adisi* n. sp., *S. mangabeiras* n. sp., *S. marlieria* n. sp., *S. nambiobyassu* n. sp. and *S. vassununga* n. sp., from Cerrado (Brazilian savannah), *S. sincora* n. sp., from Caatinga, *S. caratinga* n. sp., *S. domhelvecio* n. sp., *S. brignolii* n. sp. and *S. bonito* n. sp., from transition areas between Cerrado and Atlantic Forest. In addition, *Scytodes lineatipes* Taczanowski is considered a senior synonym of *S. romitii* Caporiacco. With this paper the number of native Brazilian species of *Scytodes* is increased from 41 to 73, representing almost 40% of the *Scytodes* fauna of the world.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, new species, Brazil

## Introduction

Of all the organisms in the planet, spiders are surely amongst the most diverse. Included in the order Araneae they comprise the seventh largest group of Arthropods, with over 40000 described species, distributed in 108 families (Platnick 2009). These numbers however are considered underestimated by the majority of the authors. Coddington & Levi (1991) suggest that only 20% of the spider fauna is currently known and that the actual number of species would surpass the mark of 170000. Platnick (1999) however, considers this is an overestimate and suggests the percentage of known fauna between 45–60%, resulting in approximately 60000–80000 species.

The genus *Scytodes* Latreille is a good example of how little we know of the current spider fauna. Until the year 2000 the genus comprised a total of 44 Neotropical species, randomly described in single species descriptions since the late XIX century (Platnick 2009). From 2000 onwards revisionary work began on the genus and papers tackling the fauna from several Neotropical areas were presented (i.e. Brescovit & Rheims 2001a; 2001b; Rheims & Brescovit 2006). Fourteen species were synonymized (Brescovit & Rheims 2000; Rheims, Brescovit & Durán-Barrón 2007) and 57 newly described (Platnick 2009). This represents an increase of almost 300% in the number of species of the genus known from the Neotropical region.

The present study is the fourth of a series dealing with the Brazilian Scytodidae fauna. The first (Rheims & Brescovit 2004) tackled the Amazonian fauna, and resulted in the description of eight new species; the second (Brescovit, Rheims & Raizer 2004), tackled the single species known from the Pantanal area; and the third (Rheims & Brescovit 2006) tackled species occurring in the Brazilian "Cerrado" and "Caatinga", resulting in the description of 12 new species. This paper was supposed to tackle solely the Atlantic Forest species. Nevertheless, recent collections carried out by students from several Brazilian universities throughout the country as well as material recently sorted from the project "Arachnida and Myriapoda of the State of São Paulo" from the BIOTA/Fapesp program, lead us to rethink the scope of the paper and include not only the Atlantic Forest species but all of the remaining undescribed species in ours and other collections in order to supply as much knowledge possible on the Neotropical Scytodidae fauna, enabling much needed future cladistic studies.

To date, only one species of *Scytodes* was recorded from the Atlantic Forest. *Scytodes lineatipes*, was originally described by Taczanowski (1874) from the French Guyana and recorded in Southern Brazil by Keyserling (1891), who presented descriptions of males and females from the state of Santa Catarina. Examination of the type specimens, deposited in the Polska Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, revealed that this species is actually a senior synonym of another well described species that occurs in northern Brazil, *Scytodes*