



The first *Myrmecotypus* O. P.-Cambridge (Araneae: Corinnidae) from Argentina: description of *Myrmecotypus iguazu* new species

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The Castianeirinae genus *Myrmecotypus* was described by O. Pickard-Cambridge (1894) and currently includes eight species. All of them, except the atypical *M. lineatus* (Emerton 1909) (only record from USA), occur in the Neotropical region (known from Mexico to Panamá), Panamá being the southern most representative distribution of genus. Reiskind (1969) carried out the revision of the subfamily Castianeirinae Reiskind 1969 from North and Central America, concluding that much more study of more extensive collections will be needed to clarify the origin and distribution of South American species of this subfamily.

The influence of selection for ant-mimicry still poses many difficulties in the classification of the spider taxa involved (Reiskind 1966; 1977). Ant-mimicry implies an extreme specialization that leads in many cases to well defined, easily identifiable genera, e.g. *Myrmecium* Latreille 1824 and *Sphecotypus* O.P.-Cambridge 1895; in other cases, the selection for mimicry results in a morphological convergence that makes the separation difficult, either in genera *Myrmecotypus* and *Apochinomma* Pavesi 1881, both extremely similar but the latter of African origin, and it is not known with certainty if it really occurs in Neotropical areas (Candiani pers. comm.). Nevertheless, some characters exist that can be useful diagnoses. The genus *Myrmecotypus* has been retained on the ground that the posterior row of eyes is only slightly wider than the anterior and almost straight; the posterior median eyes are further from each other than from the lateral eyes, and the anterior medians are much larger than the anterior lateral; the thoracic groove is absent, with a slight depression instead; moreover, the abdomen of *Myrmecotypus* is only very slightly petiolated (Cambridge 1897–1905).

The present work enhances the geographical distribution of *Myrmecotypus*, describing a new species from Argentina that represents the southernmost record of the genus so far.

Materials and methods

Specimens were collected in two localities in the Misiones Province, Argentina, the vegetation of which corresponds to the Paranaense phytogeographic region (Cabrera & Willink 1980), comprising subtropical rainforests. Descriptions and terminology mainly follow Reiskind (1969). Female epigynum was dissected and cleared in clove oil to study the internal structures (Levi 1965). Illustrations were made on photograph models and using a Leica MS5 stereoscopic microscope; a photo was taken with a Nikon D80 digital camera of a female spider in its natural habitat. All measurements were taken with a micrometric ocular and are in millimeters. Because the selection for ant mimicry in spiders influences their morphology, several morphological indices as mimicry indicators are used in this description, following Reiskind (1969). The derived measurements of these indices are useful in making objective comparisons between different species, because the emphasis on linear size, which is so variable, is diminished (Reiskind 1969). The specimens examined were deposited in the following institutions (abbreviations and curators in parenthesis): Colección Nacional Aracnológica, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, (MACN-Ar, C. Scioscia & M. Ramírez); Museo de La Plata (MLP, L. Pereira); Colección Aracnológica de la Cátedra de Diversidad Animal I, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (CDA, L.E. Acosta); and Colección de Artrópodos de la Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (CARTROUNNE, G. Avalos).