



## Review of the Brazilian harvestman genus *Roeweria* Mello-Leitão, 1923 (Opiliones: Gonyleptidae)

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### Abstract

The genus *Roeweria* Mello-Leitão, 1923 is revised and a variation on external morphological characters and male genitalia is presented for *Roeweria virescens* (Mello-Leitão, 1923). The monotypic genus *Harpachylus* Roewer, 1943 is a junior synonym of *Roeweria* Mello-Leitão, 1923 because its type-species, *H. tibialis* Roewer, 1943 is a junior synonym of the type-species *Roeweria bittencourti* Mello-Leitão, 1923. *Roeweria garrincha* **sp. n.** from Cananéia, São Paulo, Brazil, is described and can be distinguished from other members of the genus by the presence of a ventral process on the penis and by very large ventral apophyses on the apex of the male femur and patella IV.

**Key words:** Atlantic Rain Forest, intraspecific variation, Neotropical Region, Pachylinae, taxonomy

### Introduction

The genus *Roeweria* was established by Mello-Leitão (1923) to include only one species, *R. bittencourti* from the Brazilian state of Santa Catarina. Two similar species, *Lyopachylus mitobatooides* Mello-Leitão, 1926 and *Discocyrtoides catarinae* B. Soares, 1946, were described from the same state and later recognized as junior synonyms of *R. bittencourti* by Soares & Soares (1988).

Mello-Leitão (1940) established the genus *Jupuvura* to include only one species, *Jupuvura virescens*, from the state of São Paulo. Two other species closely related to *J. virescens* were described from Paraná, *Paranaincola mourei* B. Soares, 1943 and *Discocyrtus fortis* B. Soares, 1945. *Paranaincola mourei* was transferred to *Lyopachylus* by H. Soares (1945) and later to the megadiverse genus *Discocyrtus* by Soares & Soares (1949). Later, Soares & Soares (1988) synonymized *D. fortis* and *D. mourei* under *J. virescens* and transferred this species and *Roeweria bittencourti* to the mitobatine genus *Discocyrtoides*. Kury (2003), in his catalogue of the New World Laniatores, recognized *Roeweria* as a monophyletic group, which he revalidated and transferred it to the Pachylinae.

*Roeweria* is an example of the fragility of the Roewerian system of classification, where one species, *R. virescens*, was described under three different genera in two subfamilies. In the Roewerian system, the definition of a given group is based on a combination of fixed characteristics, mainly armature of ocularium, scutal areas and free tergites, and number of tarsomeres of legs I–IV. This system prevented the addition of more remarkable characters (e.g. shape of a given structure) taking into account intraspecific variation so that specimens of the same species could be included in several genera and subfamilies (Kury, 1990). The aim of this study is to review *Roeweria*, emphasizing morphological variation on dorsal scutum, legs and penis, and to describe a new species of the genus.