



The Southeast Asian genus *Stedocys* Ono, 1995 (Araneae: Scytodidae): first descriptions of female genitalia and a new species from China

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Abstract

The genus *Stedocys* was known only from males. Here we describe the first females of the genus. *Stedocys* genitalia are atypical for Scytodidae. Males are distinguished by having the palpal tarsus subequal or smaller than the tegulum, not prolonged apically, without prolateral blunt macrosetae; the tegulum long, inserted apically on the tarsus; embolus slightly shorter than bulb, aciculate distally, and females by lacking fovea or positioning ridges below the epigastric furrow, and by having an anterior epigynal pouch. In this contribution, we describe the female and redescribe the male of *Stedocys leopoldi* (Giltay, 1935), and describe male and female of *Stedocys pagodas* new species from China (Yunnan). The lack of a projection on the male palpal tarsus suggests that *Stedocys* is the sister group of all other genera of Scytodidae.

Key words: Araneae, Scytodoidea, taxonomy, morphology, Thailand, spider

Introduction

The genus *Stedocys* (Scytodidae) was established in 1995 by Ono, based on males of *Stedocys uenorum* Ono, 1995 and *Stedocys leopoldi* (Giltay, 1935). So far this genus comprises only these two species (Platnick 2009). Ono (1995) distinguished *Stedocys* from *Scytodes* Latreille, 1804 by having a peculiar male palp atypical for the family: a tarsus smaller than the copulatory bulb, not prolonged distally, the apical implantation of the copulatory bulb, and a slender, aciculate embolus. Before the establishment of *Stedocys*, Lehtinen (1986: 156) had already suggested that *Scytodes leopoldi* should be placed in a new subfamily and a new genus (see Discussion below). Here we provide illustrations and a discussion on the distribution of the characters mentioned by Lehtinen that support such arrangement.

Stedocys females and their genitalia are here described for the first time. Details of the anatomy of the female genitalia provide additional characters to diagnose the genus. In addition, we redescribe the male of *S. leopoldi*, and describe *Stedocys pagodas* **n. sp.** from Yunnan Province, in China.

Material and methods

The material examined belongs to the following institutions (abbreviation and curator in parenthesis): California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS, C. Griswold); George Washington University, Washington DC (GWU, G. Hormiga); National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution,