



Description of a new species of *Pikelinia* (Araneae: Filistatidae) from Brazil, with notes on its ecology

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Abstract

Pikelinia arenicola **sp. n.** is described from a "restinga" ecosystem near Lagoa dos Patos, Rio Grande do Sul. It is the first member of the genus recorded from Brasil. Males of *P. arenicola* **sp. n.** resemble those of *P. tambilloi* but differ in having a larger palpal tibia, a differently shaped bulbus apex and a projection on the ventral face of the tarsus. Females can be distinguished from congeners by the shape of the epigastric flap. Ecological notes on the new species are provided.

Key words: Araneae, spiders, Filistatidae, taxonomy, new species, ecology, Brazil

Introduction

The genus *Pikelinia* was established by Mello-Leitão (1946) to accommodate *Filistata tambilloi* Mello-Leitão, 1941. Subsequent studies (Ramírez & Grismado, 1997; Grismado, 2003; Grismado & Ramírez, 2006) increased the number of species to 11 (nine were described from Argentina, one from the Galapagos Islands and one from Colombia) (Platnick, 2010).

Ramírez & Grismado (1997) reviewed the Filistatidae represented in Argentina. Three prithine genera are recognized from Argentina, *Pikelinia* Mello-Leitão, 1946, *Lihuelistata* Ramírez & Grismado, 1997 and *Misionella* Ramírez & Grismado, 1997, which form a clade united by the strongly incrassate male palpal tibia and by the cymbium being partially fused to the tegulum (Ramírez & Grismado, 1997: 327-329; Grismado, 2003).

According to Ramírez & Grismado (1997), the genus *Pikelinia* can be diagnosed by the males having a dorsal-retrolateral projection on the palpal tibiae, and clasping structures on the second metatarsus and tarsus. Females are characterized by the two consecutive receptacles of their spermathecae.

Grismado (2003: 100) notes: "These small-sized spiders make cribellate webs under stones or in soil crevices, walls of caves, or in leaf-litter and they are known from western South America, from Colombia to Patagonia, including Galapagos Islands (Ramírez & Grismado, 1997: 331.). They live mainly in arid regions, but because of their cryptic habits and small size, they are relatively uncommon in collections."

In this work we describe and illustrate a new species of *Pikelinia* from Viamão, Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil. Ecological notes on the new species are presented.

Material and methods

The material of *Pikelinia* herein described is a part of the material collected during the study of the biodiversity within the area of "restinga" situated between Lagoa Negra and Laguna dos Patos, in the Parque Estadual de Itapuã (50°50' and 51°05' W and 30°20' and 30°27' S), located in Viamão, Rio Grande do Sul,