



A new genus of huntsman spiders from the Neotropical region (Araneae: Sparassidae: Heteropodinae)

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Abstract

Guadana **gen. nov.** is proposed to include six new species: *Guadana manauara* **sp. nov.**, *G. urucu* **sp. nov.** and *G. neblina* **sp. nov.** from Brazil; *G. quillu* **sp. nov.**, from Ecuador; and *G. panguana* **sp. nov.** and *G. tambopata* **sp. nov.** from Peru. The genus is distinguished from the remaining Neotropical Sparassidae by the presence of a single row of intermarginal denticles, occupying most of the cheliceral groove, a sickle-shaped dorsal tegular projection in the male palps and epigynal ledges in the female epigynum. It is placed in the subfamily Heteropodinae Thorell due to the presence of intermarginal denticles in the chelicerae, a long toothed female pedipalp claw, a ventral tibial apophysis and a ventral branch in the RTA of the male palps.

Key words: *Guadana* **gen. nov.**, new species, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, taxonomy

Introduction

Spiders of the family Sparassidae are distributed worldwide in tropical and subtropical regions. They have been fairly well studied in the Oriental (e.g., Jäger 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002; Jäger & Ono 2000; Jäger & Yin 2001; Vedel & Jäger 2005) and Australian (e.g., Hirst 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1998, 1999) regions but neglected in other regions until very recently.

The Neotropical species of Sparassidae amount to date to a total of 159 species, distributed in twenty four genera (Platnick 2010). Most of these genera have been recently revised (e.g. Jäger & Rheims 2008; Jäger *et al.* 2009; Rheims 2007, 2008; Rheims & Jäger 2008) but many species remain without mention since their original descriptions. Most were erroneously assigned to the genus *Olios* Walckenaer, one of the largest and most diverse genera in Sparassidae. This genus has been used for years as a dumping site for species that could not be assigned to any other of the currently known genera. A comparison between the Neotropical species and the type species of *Olios*, *O. argelasius* Walckenaer, shows that none of them are congeneric (Rheims unpublished data), which leads to the conclusion that true *Olios* does not occur in the region and that all Neotropical species should be transferred to other or new genera. In addition to the misplaced known species, preliminary studies based on recent collections all around the Neotropical region show an incredibly high number of new species that cannot be assigned to any known genus in the family. All of these should be described in new genera.

This paper is part of a series that aims to describe and properly allocate the Neotropical fauna of Sparassidae. Here I describe a new genus to include six new species distributed in the Amazon region of Ecuador, Brazil and Peru.

Material and methods

The examined material is deposited in the following institutions (abbreviation and curator in parenthesis): Instituto de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad “Escuela Politécnica Nacional”, Quito, Ecuador (EPNC, A.