



Araneid orb-weavers (Araneae, Araneidae) associated with riparian forests in southern Brazil: a new species, complementary descriptions and new records

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Abstract

The Araneidae is a speciose family including web-spinning spiders that are very abundant in various terrestrial ecosystems. Sixty-five araneid species from 20 genera were collected during an inventory of riparian forests in southern Brazil. Among these were one new species, described here as *Mangora piratini* **sp. nov.** Also discovered were the previously unknown males of *Alpaida citrina* (Keyserling, 1893), *A. octolobata* Levi, 1988 and *Testudinaria lemniscata* (Simon, 1895), which are described here for the first time. *Metazygia floresta* Levi, 1995, *Ocrepeira malleri* Levi, 1993 and *Testudinaria quadripunctata* Taczanowski, 1879 are recorded for the first time for Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil.

Key words: Araneidae, Neotropical, new species, spiders, taxonomy

Introduction

The family Araneidae Clerck, 1757 ranks third in number of genera and species globally (Platnick 2010), including ecribellate, entelegyne, three-clawed spiders, having eight eyes in two rows; they are notable for building orb webs (Levi 2002), which helps in sampling them, as well as for their relatively large size and colourfulness.

Spiders in this family are generally among the most abundant and speciose among those sampled from the tree-shrub plant strata in faunal inventories in southern Brazil, even from distinct ecosystems (Indrusiak & Kotzian 1998, Baldissera *et al.* 2004, Rodrigues 2005, Silva & Araújo 2005, Bonaldo *et al.* 2007, Podgaiski *et al.* 2007, Baldissera *et al.* 2008). A species list was presented by Indrusiak & Buss (2003) for the central region of Rio Grande do Sul State. Even though riparian forests have an important function as corridors, potentially helping araneofauna disperse between distant areas (Raizer *et al.* 2005), the spider fauna of this ecosystem remains poorly known.

Data obtained from a spider inventory in riparian forests in southern Brazil revealed a new species: *Mangora piratini* **sp. nov.**, described and illustrated here based on a female; males of *Alpaida citrina* (Keyserling, 1893), *A. octolobata* Levi, 1988 and *Testudinaria lemniscata* (Simon, 1895) are also described and illustrated; and the species *Metazygia floresta* Levi, 1995, *Ocrepeira malleri* Levi, 1993 and *Testudinaria quadripunctata* Taczanowski, 1879 are recorded for Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil, for the first time.

Material and methods

The specimens examined were deposited in the collection of Araneae of Museu de Ciências Naturais, Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul (MCN; E. H. Buckup) from Porto Alegre, Brazil. The description style and ter-