



## Pseudoscorpions (Arachnida) from Argentina. New records of distributions and habitats, corrections and an identification key

VOLKER MAHNERT<sup>1</sup>, OSVALDO DI IORIO<sup>2</sup>, PAOLA TURIENZO<sup>2</sup> & ANDRES PORTA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>c/o Muséum d'histoire naturelle, 1, route de Malagnou, CH-1208 Geneva, Switzerland. E-mail: volker.mahnert@wanadoo.fr

<sup>2</sup>Entomología, Departamento de Biodiversidad y Biología Experimental, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, 4° Piso, Pabellón II, Ciudad Universitaria C1428EHA, Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mails: megacyllene@yahoo.com.ar; paolaturienzo@yahoo.com

### Abstract

Seventy-two named species of Pseudoscorpiones, representing 14 families, are recorded from Argentina, of which Chernetidae (40 species) and Withiidae (11 species) are the most diverse. Three species are new country records: *Parachernes melanopygus*, *P. plumosus* and *P. peruanus*. The provincial distributions and habitat preferences of the species are given and discussed. Synonymies, old combinations and misidentifications (only those concerning Argentina), original localities, number of specimens, instars and repositories are given (when known), along with new provincial records, localities and habitats, and a key to the families, genera and species known from Argentina.

**Key words:** false scorpions, Argentina, checklist, identification

### Resumen

Setenta y dos especies nominadas de pseudoescorpiones representando 14 familias son registradas para la Argentina, de las cuales Chernetidae (40 especies) y Withiidae (11 especies) son las más diversificadas. Tres especies son nuevos registros para el país: *Parachernes melanopygus*, *P. plumosus* and *P. peruanus*. Se dan y se discuten las distribuciones por provincia y las preferencias de hábitats de las especies. Se proporcionan las sinonimias, combinaciones antiguas y errores de identificación (solo aquellos concernientes a la Argentina), localidades originales, cantidades de ejemplares, estadíos y colecciones (cuando son conocidas), conjuntamente con nuevos registros provinciales, localidades y hábitats, y una clave de familias y de todos los géneros y especies descriptas.

### Introduction

The arachnid order Pseudoscorpiones, commonly known as pseudoscorpions, false scorpions, or book scorpions, comprises about 3.3 % of the described arachnids, with 3,385 known species (Harvey 2009).

Taxonomic and faunistic studies on the pseudoscorpions of the southern portion of South American started fairly early (e.g. Balzan 1890 1892, Ellingsen 1904 1905, With 1908) and these results, combined with those of more recent studies (Beier 1959 1964, Feio 1944 1945 1960, Vitali-di Castri 1970 1975), provide a fairly good knowledge of this fauna. An important synopsis of the pseudoscorpion fauna of Argentina and the history of its exploration has recently been published by Ceballos & Rosso de Ferradas (2008a), who record 78 species from this country, although some of these have yet to be identified and described.

The main purposes of the present work are to: 1) list the species of pseudoscorpions known from continental Argentina and Tierra del Fuego with their geographic distributions, deposition in collections, number of type specimens, old combinations and synonymies (only citations concerning Argentina); 2) summarize the habitats in which they were found; 3) provide a first tentative identification key to the Argentinian species; 4) list the known cases of phoresy in the country; 5) correct previous errors concerning localities and identifications; 6) present new province records, localities, habitats, and cases of phoresy.