



## *Selenops muehlmannorum* spec. nov. from Southern Laos (Araneae: Selenopidae)

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The spider fauna of Laos was for a long time neglected in terms of arachnological investigations. Only recently the spider fauna is investigated, new species are described, new records are listed and illustrations of species are provided for identification purposes (Jäger 2007; Jäger & Praxaysombath 2009, in press). Currently, 150 spider species are recorded for Laos (Jäger & Praxaysombath in press).

The family Selenopidae Simon, 1897 was not thoroughly revised in Southeast Asia. Dankittipakul and Corronca (2009) described a new genus, *Siamspinops*. Representatives are diagnosed, among others, by their large number of ventral spines at tibiae and metatarsi I–II. We include the present species in *Selenops* Latreille, 1819 due to the spination pattern of the legs, the large branched median apophysis and the broad and relatively short embolus, both of the latter characters are observed in American species, e.g., *S. aztecus* Valdez-Mondragón, 2010 (Valdez-Mondragón 2010: figs 3–4; Corronca in litt.). A comparison with Asian species from China (according to Song *et al.* 1999), Taiwan (according to Kayashima 1943) and India (according to Reimoser 1934; Gravely 1931; Patel & Patel 1973) showed that material from Champasak Province in Southern Laos belonged to an unknown species, which is described below. The family Selenopidae is firstly recorded for Laos.

Material was examined and is preserved in 70% ethanol. The female copulatory organ was treated with 96% lactic acid. Leg measurements are given as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). All measurements are in millimetres. Arising points of tegular appendages in males are described as clock-positions of the left palp in ventral view. As in Sparassidae (Jäger 2008), slit sense organs close to the epigyne are illustrated as descriptive character. Material is deposited in the Senckenberg Research Institute, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (SMF) and can be traced in the collection database SeSam (online at <http://sesam.senckenberg.de>). Abbreviations used in the text: AME—anterior median eyes, ALE—anterior lateral eyes, AW—anterior width of dorsal shield of prosoma, d—dorsal, OL—length of opisthosoma, OW—width of opisthosoma, p—prolateral, PME—posterior median eyes, PL—length of dorsal shield of prosoma, PLE—posterior lateral eyes, PW—width of dorsal shield of prosoma, r—retrolateral, SD—subsequent number of spiders with tissue sample for DNA-analysis, v—ventral, I–IV—leg I–IV.

### *Selenops muehlmannorum* spec. nov.

Figs 1–14

**Type material. Holotype:** Male, Laos, Champasak Province, Muang Pathoumphone, 2.5 km S of Pakse, Vat Phou Salao, N 15°05'38.8", E 105°48'34.6", 149 m altitude, secondary forest, dry bed of stream, rocks, by hand, at night, 23 November 2009, P. Jäger & S. Bayer leg. (SMF).

**Paratypes:** 1 male, 1 female (SMF), same data as for holotype (tissue sample for molecular analysis available—SD 696: male, two legs; SD 680: female, 1 leg).

**Further material examined:** 1 juvenile (SMF), same data as for holotype.

**Etymology.** The species is named in honour of family Mühlmann from Germany for supporting the systematic research, description of biodiversity and nature conservation in Laos; noun in genitive case plural.

**Diagnosis.** Males can be recognised by having 1. a massive RTA making palpal tibia distinctly wider than long, 2. median apophysis with two apices, the distal one hook-shaped, the retrolateral one tapering, and 3. embolus broad and blunt (Figs 1–4). Female epigyne similar to that of *S. ollarius* Zhu, Sha and Chen, 1990 (see Zhu *et al.* 1990), but 1.