



A new synanthropic species of *Charinus* Simon, 1892 from Brazilian Amazonia and notes on the genus (Arachnida: Amblypygi: Charinidae)

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Charinus*—*C. vulgaris*— is described from Porto Velho, Rondônia. This is the first record of the family Charinidae from the Brazilian Amazonia and of a synanthropic species in South America. Additionally, two new records of the genus for Brazil are made and a key to the Brazilian species of the genus is given.

Key words: Brazilian Amazonia, Neotropical, taxonomy, whip spider

Introduction

Charinus is the only genus of Amblypygi with a worldwide distribution, being its largest number of species in the Neotropics (Harvey, 2003; Weygoldt, 1999). In the New World, 26 species were described so far and 17 of these are South American.

Among South American *Charinus*, three species have been recorded from the margin of the Amazon region: *C. gertschi* Goodnight & Goodnight (Guyana and Suriname), *C. quintero* Weygoldt (Guyana and Suriname) and *C. platnicki* (Quintero) (Surinam; Weygoldt, 2002). A fourth species, *Charinus guianensis* (Caporiacco) (Guyana), is a *nomen dubium*. In the Brazilian Amazonia, the whip spider fauna encompasses just the family Phryniidae, being registered until now the species *Heterophrynus alces* Pocock, *H. batesi* (Butler), *H. longicornis* (Butler), *H. vesanicus* Mello-Leitão and *Phrynus santaresis* (Pocock) (Giupponi, 2002 and 2004).

The genus *Charinus* in Brazil includes eight species: *C. acaraje* Pinto-da-Rocha, Machado & Weygoldt, *C. asturius* Pinto-da-Rocha, Machado & Weygoldt, *C. brasiliensis* Weygoldt, *C. eleonora* Baptista & Giupponi, *C. montanus* Weygoldt, *C. mysticus* Giupponi & Kury, *C. schirchii* (Mello-Leitão) and *C. troglobius* Baptista & Giupponi. *C. schirchii* is presently a *nomen dubium* (Pinto-da-Rocha *et al.*, 2002) since the type specimen is lost and the species has never been recorded again. The northernmost *Charinus* recorded in Brazil is from Bahia State (*C. mysticus*), and the southernmost is from São Paulo State (*C. asturius*). The Brazilian species can be found both in caves (*C. acaraje*, *C. eleonora*, *C. mysticus* and *C. troglobius*) and in the epigeal milieu in Atlantic Forest (*C. asturius*).

Synanthropic *Charinus* are rarely found. Until now, just two species have been found in synanthropic areas, *C. ioanniticus* (Kritscher), a European species described from the Greek Island of Rhodes, and *C. acosta* (Quintero), recorded from Santiago de Cuba city (Weygoldt, 2005; Teruel *et al.*, 2009).

In this work, a new species of *Charinus* is described, being this the first record of the family Charinidae from the Brazilian Amazon and the first record of a synanthropic species in South America. Two new records of the genus are made from Ceará and Tocantins States (Fig. 13). A key to the Brazilian species of *Charinus* is given.