



Eleven new species of the genus *Belisana* Thorell (Araneae: Pholcidae) from South China

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Abstract

Eleven new species of the spider genus *Belisana* are reported from South China: *Belisana galeiformis* sp. nov., *B. bawangensis* sp. nov., *B. chaoanensis* sp. nov., *B. diaoluensis* sp. nov., *B. longinqua* sp. nov., *B. parallelica* sp. nov., *B. erromena* sp. nov., *B. lata* sp. nov., *B. colubrina* sp. nov., *B. tianlinensis* sp. nov., and *B. yangi* sp. nov. Somatic and genitalic features are described and illustrated.

Key words: taxonomy, pholcine, *Belisana*, new species, China

Introduction

The genus *Belisana* was established by Thorell in 1898, with *B. tauricornis* Thorell from Myanmar as the type and only species. The genus was soon synonymized with *Uthina* Simon 1893 (Simon 1903), but Deeleman-Reinhold (1986) later resurrected it from the synonymy. A second species, *B. australis*, was described by Huber in 2001. Huber later revised the genus, bringing the total number of species to 64 (Huber 2005). Zhang *et al.* (2006, 2008) reported three new *Belisana* species from Tibet and Guangxi Province, China. Tong and Li reported eight new species from Hainan Island and Guangxi (Tong & Li 2007; 2008; 2009), and Chen *et al.* (2009) described another four new species from Guizhou Province, China. At present, *Belisana* contains 79 species; 22 of these occur in China (Platnick, 2011).

Belisana is a genus of small-sized, six-eyed pholcid spiders. The genus is quite similar to *Spermophora* Hentz, but can be distinguished by the male palpal femur with a dorsal apophysis, the female opisthosoma without posterior pockets, the procurus without sclerotized ventral flap, and the bulb without serrated apophysis (Huber 2005).

While examining material from southern China (Hainan, Guangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangdong provinces), we found 11 new species of *Belisana*. These species are here described and illustrated.

Material and methods

All specimens were preserved in 75% alcohol and examined, illustrated and measured under a Nikon SMZ1500 stereomicroscope equipped with an Abbe drawing device. The descriptions follow the style in Huber (2001, 2005). All measurements are given in millimeters. The type specimens of the new species were deposited in the Museum of Hebei University (MHBU), Baoding, China.

Abbreviations used in the text and figures: ALE = anterior lateral eyes; PME = posterior median eyes; B = bulb; Ba = bulbal apophysis; Ca = Clypeal apophysis; Da = distal apophysis of male chelicerae; Ds = dorsal spine of procurus; E = embolus; Ep = epigynal pocket; F = membranous flap on procurus; H = hump of palpal femur; Prp = proximal round projection of male chelicerae; Pp = pore plates; Pr = procurus.