



Description of the female of *Eilica pomposa* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) with new records and notes on species distribution

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The genus *Eilica* Keyserling, 1891 is worldwide distributed including 28 species (Platnick, 2011). South American *Eilica* are represented by 10 species of which seven are known by more meridional distribution: *E. amambay* Platnick, 1985; *E. maculipes* (Vellard, 1925); *E. modesta* Keyserling, 1891 *E. myrmecophila* (Simon, 1903); *E. pomposa* Medan, 2001; *E. trilineata* (Mello-Leitão, 1941) and *E. uniformis* (Schiapelli & Gerschman, 1942). *Eilica pomposa* was described from Argentina based on only two known males collected around 1000 km apart from each other in a considered suspect wide distribution by Medan (2001:404). In this paper we describe and illustrate for the first time the female of *E. pomposa* and present notes on its natural history and distribution.

The taxonomic descriptions and terminology follow Platnick (1975) with modifications. The material examined is deposited at Museu de Ciências Naturais da Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (MCN, curator: Erica H. Buckup). All measurements are in millimeters. The study of the reproductive structures of the female was performed by immersing the epigynum in clove oil for approximately 30 minutes until the internal structures could be visualized. For illustrations, specimens were examined under a Leica® MZ9.5 equipped with a camera lucida.

Gnaphosidae Pocock, 1898

Eilica Keyserling, 1891

Eilica pomposa Medan, 2001

(Figs. 1–9)

Eilica pomposa Medan, 2001: 423, figs. 5–7 (male holotype from Reserva Natural Otamendi, Buenos Aires province, Argentina, 18 March 1998, Belén Fuentes and Osvaldo Di Iorio leg., deposited in MACN 2780, not examined).

Diagnosis. *Eilica pomposa* females (Figs. 5–9) are close to *E. modesta* and *E. trilineata* by genital shape (Platnick, 1975: 7–8, fig. 11, 15), however it differs from the first by the larger and more conspicuous anterior spermathecae and from the later by the absence of a large coil in the posterior portion of the copulatory duct (Figs 7, 9). Males (Fig. 1) are close to *E. modesta* and *E. rufithorax* in the palp structure (see Medan, 2001: 425, figs. 6, 7) but they differ from the first by the larger median apophysis and from the latest by the larger tibial apophysis (Fig. 1).

Description. Male. Described by Medan (2001: 424).

Female (MCN 40230). Total length 4.70. Carapace orange-brown 2.50 long, 1.80 wide, fovea 1.63 apart from anterior carapace border. Chelicera orange-brown with a mesal row of anteriorly directed dark thornlike setae. Endites orange-brown 0.76 long, distally bearing a mesial directed brush of pale setae, anterior border with dark thornlike setae (Fig. 4). Labium 0.55 long; spear shaped. Sternum 1.51 long, 1.08 wide, elliptic, projecting posteriorly between coxae IV (Fig. 3). Abdomen 2.79 long, 1.90 wide, mainly brown appearance defined by a pale background and surrounding wrinkled brown stripes; two main chevron-like pale transversal discontinuous bands, an anterior small one and a half abdominal length broad one; four pairs of dorsal sclerotized depressions (Fig. 2). Epigynum ventral view with anterior hood strongly curved, large spermathecae and posterior “V” shaped border; dorsal view with large spermathecae,