



New species of *Sparianthina* Banks, 1929 (Araneae: Sparassidae: Heteropodinae)

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Abstract

Two new species of *Sparianthina* Banks, 1929 are described: *S. parang* **sp. nov.** based on males and females from Tobago, and *S. gaita* **sp. nov.** based on a male and a female from Venezuela. Both species present the heavy dorsal tegular apophysis on the male palps and the multilobed internal duct system in the vulvae, with very long fertilization ducts that are characteristic of the genus.

Key words: *S. parang* **sp. nov.**, *S. gaita* **sp. nov.**, spiders, Tobago, Venezuela, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Sparianthina* was proposed by Banks (1929) to include the type species, *S. selenopoides* Banks, 1929, from Barro Colorado, Panama. The genus remained monotypic and did not appear in any taxonomic study until 80 years later, when it was revised by Jäger *et al.* (2009). In that revision, three species were transferred to *Sparianthina*, *S. pumilla* (Keyserling, 1880) from *Heteropoda* Latreille, *S. rufescens* (Mello-Leitão, 1940) from *Anaptomecus* Simon and *S. milleri* (Caporiacco, 1955) from *Macrinus* Simon; and three species were newly described, *S. adisi* Jäger *et al.*, 2009, *S. deltshevi* Jäger *et al.*, 2009 and *S. saaristoi* Jäger *et al.*, 2009, increasing the number of species to seven and extending the known distribution range of the genus from Costa Rica to northern South America (Colombia, Venezuela and Guyana).

During a recent trip to the United States to examine material deposited in the American Museum of Natural History (New York) and National Museum of Natural History (Washington D.C.), two new species of *Sparianthina* were discovered and are herein described: *S. parang* **sp. nov.**, based on males and females from St. Paul Parish, Tobago and *S. gaita* **sp. nov.**, based on a male and a female from Rancho Grande, Venezuela.

Material and methods

The examined material is deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH, curator: N.I. Platnick) and National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. (USNM, curator: J. Coddington).

Morphological observations and illustrations were made using a Leica MZ12 stereomicroscope with a camera lucida. Measurements were taken with a micrometric ocular and are given in millimeters. Female genitalia were observed in clove oil after dissection. Coloration patterns are described based on specimens preserved in 70% ethanol.

Format of descriptions follows that used in Rheims (2007). Spine notation follows that of Petrunkevitch (1925). Leg measurements are listed as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus); eye diameters as: AME, ALE, PME, PLE; interdistances as: AME–AME, AME–ALE, PME–PME, PME–PLE, AME–PME, ALE–PLE.

Abbreviations used throughout the text: al, anterior lobe; ALE, anterior lateral eyes; AME, anterior median eyes; bp, basal embolic projection; C, conductor; CO, copulatory opening; d, dorsal; dp, dorsal projections of RTA;