



***Catanduba*, a new Theraphosinae spider genus from Central Brazil (Araneae, Theraphosidae)**

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Abstract

A new genus, *Catanduba*, is proposed and supported on the cladistic analysis with the following synapomorphies: embolus tapering abruptly from half of the length, embolus tooth associated with PIK and a triangular basal nodule on male metatarsus I. *Homoeomma simoni* and *Plesiopelma flavohirtum* are transferred to *Catanduba* and five new species are described: *C. tuskae*, *C. araguaia*, *C. piauiensis*, *C. canabrava* and *C. peruacu*. The species occur mainly in central Brazil, in Cerrado areas, with some species also occurring in Atlantic forest (*C. tuskae* **sp. n.**) and Caatinga (*C. piauiensis* **sp. n.** and *C. peruacu* **sp. n.**).

Key words: Spider, Mygalomorphae, cladistics, Cerrado

Introduction

The subfamily Theraphosinae is restricted to the New World. It contains about 30 genera and 400 species, most of them occurring in the Neotropical region (Raven, 1985). Unfortunately, the taxonomic state of the subfamily is problematic, with most of its genera lacking revisionary studies (Raven 1990).

In the last years, some research has improved the knowledge of the group with the revisions of genera, such as *Hemirrhagus* Simon, 1903 (Pérez-Miles 2003), *Cyriocosmus* Simon, 1903 (Pérez-Miles 1998; Fukushima *et al.* 2005), *Tmesiphantes* Simon, 1892 (Yamamoto *et al.* 2007), *Magulla* Simon, 1892 (Indicatti *et al.* 2007) and with proposition of new genera, like *Ami* Pérez-Miles 2008, *Kochiana* Fukushima, Nagahama & Bertani, 2008 and *Agnostopelma* Pérez-Miles & Weinmann 2010. Even though, most of the genera still need basic taxonomic studies as does *Homoeomma* Ausserer 1871.

In our revision of *Homoeomma* (Yamamoto *et al.* in prep.), we find that *H. simoni* Soares & Camargo 1948 does not resemble the other species of this genus and has unique features when compared to other Theraphosinae genera.

Other undescribed species with the same features were found, leading us to erect a new genus to include *Homoeomma simoni*, *Plesiopelma flavohirtum* (Simon 1889) and five other new species. This hypothesis is based on the cladistic analysis here presented.

Material and methods

The material is deposited in the following institutions (acronym and curator in parentheses): Instituto Butantan, São Paulo (IBSP, D. Battesti); Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo (MZSP, R. Pinto da Rocha); Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN, C. Rollard), Museu de Ciências Naturais, Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (MCN, E.H. Backup), Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (MCTP, A.A. Lise).