



New species of the spider genus *Olios* Walckenaer, 1837 (Araneae: Sparassidae: Sparassinae) from Laos

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Abstract

Three new species of the spider genus *Olios* Walckenaer, 1837 are described from Laos: *Olios diao* **spec. nov.** (male) from Bolikhamsay Province, Nam Kading National Protected Area, *Olios jaenicke* **spec. nov.** (male) from Champasak Province, Pakse, and *Olios suung* **spec. nov.** (male) from Luang Prabang Province, Phou Khoun.

Key words: *Olios diao* **spec. nov.**, *Olios jaenicke* **spec. nov.**, *Olios suung* **spec. nov.**, taxonomy, biodiversity, Indo-Burmese hotspot, Greater Mekong region.

Introduction

The huntsman spider genus *Olios* Walckenaer, 1837 has been used as ‘dumping ground’ for a long time. Worldwide, 246 species and 5 subspecies are listed (Platnick 2011). It is assumed that not all nominal species described within the genus are congeneric with the type species, *Olios argelasius* (Walckenaer, 1805). Rheims (2010), for instance, suggested that no *Olios* spp. occur in the Nearctic. Australian *Olios* species have been transferred to the genus *Neosparassus* Hogg, 1903 by Hirst (1989). According to Moradmand & Jäger (unpublished data) three species from Iran, Pakistan and India have to be transferred to the genus *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903.

East and Southeast Asian representatives of the genus *Olios* were treated recently by Jäger and Ono (2000), Jäger and Ono (2001), Jäger and Yin (2001), Jäger *et al.* (2002) and Jäger and Praxaysombath (2009). The present paper contributes towards the knowledge of the spider fauna of Laos, a country neglected for a long time in this respect. Currently more than 200 species are recorded from Laos, among them seventeen Sparassidae from the genera *Heteropoda* (7 species), *Olios* (1 species), *Pseudopoda* (5 species), *Rhitymna* (2 species) and *Thelcticopis* (2 species) (compiled in Jäger 2007; Jäger & Praxaysombath 2009, 2011; unpublished data). In the years 2003 to 2011 eight expeditions have been conducted in Laos and the material collected from the genus *Olios* is herein described as three new species. All specimens have been collected from foliage of vegetation in natural to semi-natural habitats (Figs. 28–29).

Material and Methods

Material is preserved in 70% denatured ethanol. Arising points of embolus, median apophysis and conductor in male palps are given as clock-positions of the unexpanded left palp in a ventral view. All material is deposited in the Senckenberg Research Institute (SMF). Spination pattern is given following Davies (1994): sums of all spines are listed (prolateral, dorsal, retrolateral, ventral), when ventral spines are absent only three digits are listed. Leg formula is given as order of legs according to their length (femur to tarsus) in arabic numbers. Size classes are used according to Jäger (2001: 14): small (<10 mm), medium (>10 and <20 mm), large (>20 and <30 mm), very large (>30 mm).

Abbreviations. ALE — anterior lateral eyes, AME — anterior median eyes, AW — anterior width of dorsal shield of prosoma, OL — opisthosoma length, OW — opisthosoma width, PJ — serial number of Sparassidae