Zootaxa 3481: 39–46 (2012)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:F333972F-6313-4D6A-9C45-2F22DF2A04C7

An update on tropical Ctenidae from Jamaica (Arachnida: Araneae)

DANIELE POLOTOW[1] & ANTONIO D. BRESCOVIT[2]

[1] *Department of Entomology, California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA, 94118, USA. E-mail: danielepolotow@gmail.com*
[2] *Laboratório Especial de Coleções Zoológicas, Instituto Butantan, Av. Vital Brasil 1500, CEP 05503-900, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. E-mail: adbresc@terra.com.br*

Abstract

The two known species of Ctenidae from Jamaica are redescribed: *Acanthoctenus remotus* Chickering, 1960 and *Ctenus malvernensis* Petrunkevitch, 1910. One new species is described, *Ctenus catherine* **sp. nov.**, based on a single male. All three species are known only from Jamaica.

Key words: Acanthocteninae, Caribbean, Cteninae, Neotropical, spiders, taxonomy

Introduction

The family Ctenidae comprises small to large spiders (4–40 mm total body length) with nocturnal and cursorial habits. To date, the family includes more than 460 species, distributed in 40 genera (Platnick 2012). They can be distinguished from the remaining spider families by the ocular arrangement 2-4-2, with the anterior median eyes in the first row, posterior median eyes and anterior lateral eyes in the second row and the posterior lateral eyes in the third row, resulting in two strongly recurved rows in anterior view (Silva 2003: fig. 26d).

Ctenid spiders from Jamaica have never been revised. Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean, after Cuba and Hispaniola. Only two species of Ctenidae have been described from the island, *Acanthoctenus remotus* Chickering, 1960 and *Ctenus malvernensis* Petrunkevitch, 1910.

The genus *Acanthoctenus* Keyserling, 1877, comprises ten species distributed from Mexico to Paraguay (Platnick 2012). The genus has never been revised and most of the species lack complete description or illustrations and cannot be identified. A divided cribellum, with spigots in clusters, may prove to be a synapomorphy for this genus, although the character shows some degree of homoplasy (Silva 2003). *Acanthoctenus* is the type genus of Acanthocteninae, which can be distinguished from the remaining subfamilies by the presence of a globose palpal patella, a large retrobasal cymbial process, a reversal to an oval calamistrum and a tarsus with a dorso-distal V-shaped indentation (Silva 2003).

Ctenus Walckenaer, 1805 currently contains more than 230 species described worldwide (Platnick 2012). Recent cladistic analyses (Simó & Brescovit 2001; Silva 2003; Polotow & Brescovit 2009) indicate that the genus is polyphyletic as currently delimited. A large number of *Ctenus* species cannot be identified because they lack complete descriptions and illustrations. This prevents the correct placement of these species and the understanding of their phylogenetic relationships. Brescovit & Simó (2007) designated a neotype and attempted to diagnose *Ctenus* by the presence of a short basal tibia, tegulum elongated basally, embolus with a basal projection and median apophysis short and truncated at the apex in the male palp and by the presence of an anterior protruding oval lobes in the median sector of the epigyne and lateral sectors with conspicuous lateral medial to basal spurs in female genitalia. Currently, not all described *Ctenus* species can be recognized by this diagnosis.

Cteninae, which contains the genus *Ctenus*, can be distinguished from the remaining subfamilies of Ctenidae by the presence of a large lobe in the embolus promarginal basal edge in the male palp (see Silva 2003: character 27, fig. 13d or locking lobe, in Griswold 1993: character 6, figs 9, 19, 25) and by the median sector of the epigyne as a sclerotised plate (Silva 2003: character 55).

Accepted by C. Vink: 1 Aug. 2012; published: 13 Sept. 2012