



## Correspondence

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### On the nursery-web spider genus *Hypsithylla* Simon, 1903 (Araneae: Pisauridae) and its synonymy with *Hygropoda* Thorell, 1894

ESTEVAM L. CRUZ DA SILVA

Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia (MCTP), Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), Laboratório de Aracnologia, Prédio 40, Sala 125, Av. Ipiranga 6681, 90619-900, Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil, E-mail: [estevamsilva@gmail.com](mailto:estevamsilva@gmail.com)

The spider genus *Hypsithylla* was proposed by Simon (1903) and comprises only two species (Platnick, 2012). The type-species, *Hypsithylla linearis* Simon, 1903, is based on an immature female and *Hypsithylla celebesiana* Strand, 1913, is known from a single female from Sulawesi.

In this work, the genus *Hypsithylla* Simon, 1903 is synonymised under *Hygropoda* Thorell, 1894 and the female of *Hypsithylla celebesiana* Strand, 1913 is redescribed and illustrated.

*Hygropoda* is widespread genus, including a number of species, from Africa through south-east Asia, New Guinea to China (Platnick, 2012). The spiders build a small web on leaves (Murphy & Murphy 2000).

The material examined was deposited in the Senckenberg Research Institute, Frankfurt, Germany (SMF, P. Jäger). The nomenclature of the female epigynum structures follows Sierwald (1989). To study the excised epigyna, the soft tissue was removed by a combination of dissection with a small surgical blade and immersion in the enzyme trypsin for 48 hours at 25°C. All measurements are in millimeters. Colour information is from alcohol preserved material.

*Abbreviations related to eye measurements* (OQA = width of ocular quadrangle anteriorly or width of anterior median eyes, OQP = width of ocular quadrangle posteriorly or width of posterior median eyes, OQH = height of ocular quadrangle or height of anterior median eye and posterior median eye, PLE = diameter of posterior lateral eye, PME = diameter of posterior median eye, ALE = diameter of anterior lateral eye, AME = diameter of anterior median eye, PLE-PME = distance between posterior lateral eye and posterior median eye, PME-PME = distance between posterior median eyes, ALE-AME = distance between anterior lateral eye and anterior median eye, AME-AME = distances between anterior median eyes).

## Taxonomy

### Pisauridae Simon 1890

Pisauridae Simon, 1890: 80. Simon, 1898: 278. Petrunkevitch, 1928: 40. Dippenaar-Schoeman & Jocqué, 1997: 250. Zhang *et al.*, 2004: 364. Dippenaar-Schoeman & Jocqué, 2007: 212. Vink & Dupérré, 2010: 9.

**Type species.** *Pisaura* Simon 1885.

**Diagnosis.** The carriage of the egg sac in the female's chelicerae and the subsequent construction of a nursery web to protect the egg sac are two characters that distinguish Pisauridae from both Trechaleidae and Lycosidae (Carico, 1993: 228). Pisauridae also differ from Trechaleidae as the median apophysis of the male palpus is neither large nor distally situated and lacks a dorsal embolic groove that extends distally into an apical groove. Unlike Trechaleidae, pisaurid eggsacs do not have a "skirt" on the seam of the discoid egg sac (Carico 1993: fig. 6). Pisauridae can also be distinguished from Lycosidae by the lesser degree of recurvature in the posterior eye row and the male palp usually bears a tibial apophysis. The presence of the distal tegular projection (DTP) and the presence of pseudosegmented tarsi could represent possible synapomorphies of Pisauridae (Santos 2007), although this latter character can also be found in Trechaleidae.