



Anapidae (Arachnida: Araneae), a spider family newly recorded from Laos

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Abstract

The spider family Anapidae is reported from Laos for the first time. One new species is described: *Pseudanapis namkhan* n. sp. from Nam Khan Valley, Luang Prabang Province. Another species is recorded for the first time from Champasak Province, Laos and the following new synonymy is proposed: *Sinanapis thaleri* Ono 2009 = *Sinanapis crassitarsus* Wunderlich & Song 1995 n. syn. Morphological descriptions, diagnoses and comparative illustrations are provided for the two species.

Key words: taxonomy, *Pseudanapis*, *Sinanapis*, new species, new record, Araneoidea, Orbicularia

Introduction

The spider fauna of Laos was poorly studied in the last century and therefore little is known about the spider species that occur in this landlocked Southeast Asian country. However, this situation has begun to change with a recent series of publications dealing with new species and new records of spiders from Laos (e.g. Jäger 2007; Jäger & Praxaysombath 2009, 2011). These studies have mainly concentrated on large spiders or groups, several of which have been recently revised (e.g., Tetragnathidae by Zhu et al. 2003, Theridiidae by Zhu 1998). Many small spiders, found in hidden habitats, exhibiting a cryptic life style, a tiny body size collectable only with sophisticated methods, have not been available for research. The family Anapidae is a typical and poorly known spider group reported to occur in neighbouring Southeast Asian countries (e.g. Brignoli 1981; Wunderlich & Song 1994; Lin & Li 2012; Lin 2012, Ono 2009b), but which was previously unrecorded from Laos.

The current paper deals with specimens of Anapidae recently collected in the the Luang Prabang and Champasak Provinces of Laos. From this material two species were recognized: one is described as a new species, *Pseudanapis namkhan* n. sp. and another one is identified as a first record for Laos, *Sinanapis crassitarsus* Wunderlich & Song 1995.

Material and methods

Specimens were examined and measured with an Olympus SZX7 stereomicroscope. Further details were studied with an Olympus BX43 compound microscope. All drawings were made using a drawing tube attached to the Olympus BX43 compound microscope, and then inked on ink jet plotter paper. Male copulatory organs were examined and illustrated after they were dissected and detached from the spiders' bodies. To reveal the course of the spermophor, emboli were also treated in lactic acid and mounted in Hoyer's Solution. The left male pedipalps were illustrated. Type specimens are preserved in 85% ethanol solution. Digital images were taken with a Canon EOS 60D wide zoom digital camera (8.5 megapixels) mounted on an Olympus BX43 compound microscope. The images were montaged using Helicon image stacking software. All measurements are in millimetres. Leg measurements are given in the following sequence: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus).