Zootaxa 3652 (5): 582–586
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

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

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3652.5.7
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:1A5D7C37-A83F-4D8D-A76B-988446739F66

Description of the female of *Aysha yacupoi* Brescovit 1992 (Araneae: Anyphaenidae)

CARINA I. ARGAÑARAZ[1], GONZALO D. RUBIO[2] & ANTONIO D. BRESCOVIT[3]

[1]*Cátedra de Diversidad Animal I. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales. Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. Av. Vélez Sarsfield 299, X5000JJC Córdoba, Argentina. E-mail: c.arg.bio@gmail.com*

[2]*División Aracnología. Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia" (MACN-Ar, CONICET). Av. Ángel Gallardo 470, C1405DJR Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: grubio@conicet.gov.ar*

[3]*Laboratório Especial de Coleções Zoológicas, Instituto Butantan, Av. Vital Brasil, 1500, 05503-900, São Paulo, SP, Brasil. E-mail: anyphaenidae@butantan.gov.br*

Abstract

The female of *Aysha yacupoi* Brescovit, 1992 is described and illustrated for the first time. Males and female specimens were observed together in the same plants. Some data on natural history are presented.

Key words: Argentina, Atlantic rainforest, ghost spider, spider taxonomy

Introduction

The spider genus *Aysha* Keyserling, 1891 comprises 40 endemic species to South America among which 23 species found only in Brazil, and one species is known from Panamá (Platnick 2012). *Aysha* is easy to separate from another anyphaenids by the greatly advanced placement of the tracheal spiracle, located just behind the epigastric furrow (Platnick 1974). There are other diagnostic characters by Brescovit (1992): anterior median eyes smaller than the rest, male palpus whit an annular base of embolus with or without terminal apophysis, tibial apophyses complex, female epigynum with plates on the anterior edge, and spermathecae connected to each side through a long duct with small seminal receptacles.

In the Brescovit's Anyphaeninae revision (Brescovit 1997) the genus *Aysha* was divided into the following species groups: *prospera, robusta* and *diversicolor*, which were divided further into subgroups. *Aysha yacupoi* belongs to *prospera* group and *tertulia* subgroup with three other species: *A. tertulia*, *A. bonaldoi* and *A. chicama*. The males of *tertulia*-group have median apophysis with spatulate apical tip and reduced lamella of the tibia, a short dorsal tibial apophysis, and bifid basal tibial process (Brescovit, 1997: figs 85-87). However only *A. tertulia* is known by females, which have epigynal plates adjacent to guide plates, atrium triangular shaped, and ducts of seminal receptacles with a basal loop (Brescovit 1992: figs 74-75).

As a result of an ecological study in Argentinean Atlantic rainforest, female specimens were collected with *A. yacupoi* males at the same time (tree/site), suggesting those specimens are the hitherto unknown matching female, allowing us to describe the female of *A. yacupoi* for the first time.

Methods

Female specimens were collected using Beating method on vegetation in Urugua-í Wildlife Reserve, Misiones Province, Argentina (S25.974345°, W54.116330°). It belongs to the Paranaense phytogeographic region (Cabrera & Willink 1980), comprising subtropical rainforests. Morphological terms and format of description follow in general Brescovit (1992, 1997). Female genitalia were examined after digestion in a hot 10–20% KOH solution.

 Accepted by T. Szuts: 3 Apr. 2013; published: 21 May 2013