



Four new species of the subfamily Psilodercinae (Araneae: Ochyroceratidae) from Southwest China

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Abstract

Four new species of the family Ochyroceratidae are described from Southwest China: *Althepus christae* sp. nov., *Leclercera undulatus* sp. nov., *Psilodermes incomptus* sp. nov. from Yunnan; and *P. exilis* sp. nov. from Guangxi. The four species belong to the subfamily Psilodercinae.

Key words: taxonomy, midget ground weavers, Leptonetoidea, tropical

Introduction

The Ochyroceratidae is a family of six-eyed spiders assigned to the superfamily Leptonetoidea. It has 14 genera and 161 described species (Platnick 2013). Ochyroceratids are assigned to three subfamilies based on the respiratory system, presence of cheliceral teeth, carapace shape and genital organs: Theotiminae, Psilodercinae, and Ochyrocerainae (Deeleman-Reinhold 1995). The Psilodercinae includes 59 species belonging to the genera *Althepus* Thorell, 1898, *Flexicrurum* Tong & Li, 2007, *Leclercera* Deeleman-Reinhold, 1995, *Merizocera* Fage, 1912 and *Psilodermes* Simon, 1892 from the Oriental Region. This subfamily is characterized by the presence of booklungs, the posterior tracheal opening arising close to the spinnerets, the rounded tip of the labium and the presence of laminae on the promargin of the chelicerae (Deeleman-Reinhold 1995). Wunderlich (2004, 2008) elevated the Psilodercinae to the level of family, but Platnick (2013) and Selden & Penney (2010) did not accept this arrangement. Herein, we describe four new species of the subfamily Psilodercinae from Southwest China.

Material and methods

All spiders were collected in forest and caves in Southwest China. All types were deposited in the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IZCAS). Methods were same as those of Wang and Li (2011). Spider terminology followed that of Tong & Li (2007) and Deeleman-Reinhold (1995). All measurements were given in millimeters. Leg measurements were shown as total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). Legs segments were measured from their dorsal side. Abbreviations of morphological structures: CO, conductor; EM, embolus; and SP, spermatheca.

Taxonomy

Family Ochyroceratidae Fage, 1912

Genus *Althepus* Thorell, 1898

Type species. *Althepus pictus* Thorell, 1898