



## On the Australian linyphiid spider *Alaxchelicera ordinaria* Butler, 1932 (Araneae)

NIKOLAJ SCHARFF<sup>1</sup> & GUSTAVO HORMIGA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Natural History Museum of Denmark, Zoological Museum and Center for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate, Universitetsparken 15, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark. E-mail: nscharff@snm.ku.dk

<sup>2</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20052, USA. E-mail: hormiga@gwu.edu

Very few studies have addressed the linyphiid fauna of Australia. Most of the existing taxonomic work on Australian linyphiids consists of isolated species descriptions (e.g., Rainbow 1912) or at most are based on small number of species also described outside a revisionary context (e.g., Wunderlich 1976) (but see van Helsdingen 1972 for a revision of the Australian species of the genera *Laperousea* Dalmis, 1917 and *Laetesia* Simon, 1908).

*Microctenonyx subitaneus* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875) is a Holarctic erigonine (Linyphiidae) which has been introduced in many parts of the world, including Australia (Brennan 2004). In this paper we report a new junior synonym of *Microctenonyx subitaneus* described by Butler (1932) under the name *Alaxchelicera ordinaria* Butler, 1932.

In 1932 L.S.G. Butler, a Melbourne-based arachnologist, published a paper in which he described six new spider genera from Victoria and New South Wales, all of them monotypic. Three of these new genera (*Microlinypheus*, *Plectochetos* and *Alaxchelicera*) he placed in the family Linyphiidae, the remaining three (*Platycephala*, *Eterosonycha* and *Perissopmeros*) were placed in Zodariidae. Subsequent taxonomic work demonstrated that most of his original familial placements were erroneous (references in Platnick 2013). *Alaxchelicera* is indeed a linyphiid, but the genus is a junior synonym of *Microctenonyx* Dahl, 1866. *Platycephala* may be a zodariid, but the name is a junior homonym of *Platycephala* Fallén, 1820 (Chloropidae, Diptera) and it is currently listed as a *nomen dubium* under the replacement name *Macedoniola* Strand, 1932 (Platnick 2013). The type species of *Microlinypheus* and *Plectochetos* are members of the anapid genus *Micropholcomma* Crosby & Bishop, 1927. *Eterosonycha* is also a micropholcommatine anapid, not a zodariid. *Perissopmeros* is not a zodariid either, but a malkarid, and also a junior synonym of a genus (*Sternodes* Butler, 1929) that Butler himself had described in the family Palpimanidae (Moran 1986). And in yet in another nomenclatorial twist, the name *Sternodes* turned out to be preoccupied in the Coleoptera and in the Hymenoptera, so the valid genus name for this malkarid group is *Perissopmeros*.

We have had the opportunity to study the holotype of *Alaxchelicera ordinaria* and we report here its new taxonomic status.

### Materials and methods

The study specimen was examined and photographed using a Leica M205A stereoscopic microscope equipped with a Leica DFC425 camera and LAS software. Further details were studied using a Leica DMRM compound microscope; a camera lucida was used with the latter microscope to illustrate the pedipalp. Additional photographs were taken with a BK+ Imaging System from Visionary Digital (<http://www.visionarydigital.com>) equipped with a Canon EOS 7D camera. Single images were combined with Helicon Focus (version 5.3; [www.heliconsoft.com](http://www.heliconsoft.com)) software from Helicon Soft Ltd., to increase depth of field. Setae and macrosetae are not depicted in the palp drawing. All morphological measurements are in millimetres. The synonymy sections are taken in abbreviated form from Platnick (2013).

### Taxonomy

#### *Microctenonyx* Dahl, 1886

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