



## A revision of the Neotropical genus *Austrohahnia* Mello-Leitão (Araneae, Hahniidae)

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### Abstract

The Neotropical genus *Austrohahnia* Mello-Leitão, 1942 is revised, comprising four species from Argentina. The genus is here transferred to the subfamily Hahniinae Bertkau, 1878 from Cybaeolinae Lehtinen, 1967. *Austrohahnia* is diagnosed by a single synapomorphy, short setae ventrally on the abdomen, in immature as well as adult stages. The type species *A. praestans* Mello-Leitão, 1942 is redescribed. *Austrohahnia catleyi* **new species** is described and illustrated based both sexes from the alder forests of northwestern Argentina. *Austrohahnia melloleitaoi* (Schiapelli & Gerschman, 1942) **new combination** was transferred from *Hahnia* C.L. Koch, 1841, the male is described and illustrated for the first time, and the female is redescribed. *Austrohahnia isophthalma* (Mello-Leitão, 1941) **new combination** is also transferred from *Hahnia* and considered a nomen dubium. New geographic records of studied species are provided.

**Key words:** Argentina, comb-tailed spider, Hahniinae, new species, spider taxonomy

### Introduction

Hahniidae are small to very small spiders that traditionally have been characterised by three pairs of spinnerets oriented in a transverse arrangement, hence their name comb-tailed spiders. Hahniidae have a widespread distribution and comprises 27 genera and about 250 species (World Spider Catalog 2014). Opell & Beatty (1976) produced an important monograph on the Nearctic Hahniidae and since then, recent works have been mainly about the Palaearctic and the Oriental faunas (e.g. Chen *et al.* 2003; Zhang & Zhang 2003; Chen *et al.* 2009; Marusik 2011; Zhang *et al.* 2011; Zhang & Zhang 2013; Zhang *et al.* 2013). Another important work on Hahniidae was published by Forster (1970) for the Australian region.

As currently recognised, Hahniidae includes three subfamilies (*sensu* Lehtinen 1967): Cryphoecinae, Cybaeolinae and Hahniinae. These subfamilies differ conspicuously in the arrangement of their spinnerets; however, similarities in their copulatory structures were motive to unite them within the family Hahniidae (Lehtinen 1967). Cryphoecinae comprises genera distributed mainly in the Nearctic and Palaearctic regions; the median apophysis can be fully reduced or very small and almost hidden below the conductor. Cybaeolinae are endemic to the Neotropical region and share reproductive structures very similar to Hahniinae; genera have a disc-shaped tegulum surrounded by a circular embolus with a similar function to the conductor. Hahniinae are distributed around the world; genera share the same tibial and patellar apophyses of Cybaeolinae males, however, with a different shape and oriented in the opposite direction (Lehtinen 1967).

Hahniidae of the Neotropical region are known from only a few species (Simon 1884, 1897, 1902, 1904, 1905; Mello-Leitão 1941, 1942; Schiapelli & Gerschman 1942, 1958, 1959; Roth 1967). So far there are nine species and five genera of Hahniidae known in Argentina. *Amaloxenops* Schiapelli & Gerschman, 1958 (2 species), live in leaf litter or palm leaves in high humidity environments and are endemic to the Misiones province (Schiapelli &

identifiable to species level; the original description is very ambiguous, and would apply similarly to any of species in the genus *Austrohahnia*. Hence, it is here considered a nomen dubium.

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