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The assamiids harvestmen (Opiliones: Laniatores: Assamiidae) from Champasak Province, Laos

CHAO ZHANG & FENG ZHANG¹

The Key Laboratory of Zoological Systematics and Application, College of Life Sciences, Hebei University, Baoding, Hebei 071002, China

¹Corresponding author: E-mail: dudu06042001@163.com

Abstract

Three assamiids species are recorded from southern Laos, two of which are new: *Paramaracandus dolabratus* **sp. nov.** (male) and *Simalurius suzukii* **sp. nov.** (male and female). *Mysorea thaiensis* Suzuki, 1985, that was previously known only from the type locality in northern Thailand is redescribed here. The family Assamiidae was first recorded from Laos.

Key words: Arachnida, taxonomy, genitalia, Dampetrinae, Mysoreinae, Polycoryphinae

Introduction

The family Assamiidae Sørensen, 1884, currently including 267 genera and 483 species, is the third largest family in Laniatores after Gonyleptidae Sundevall, 1833, (829 species) and Cosmetidae Koch, 1839 (719 species) (Kury 2013).

Although the subfamilial taxonomy of Assamiidae has not yet been settled because the numerous Roewerian subfamilies are unsupported. Kury (2007) thought that the assamiids are at least composed of five groups: 1) the dampetrines from Australia and Papua New Guinea, 2) the typical Indian/Nepalese Assamiinae, 3) the SriLankan/Indian pseudonychiata genera known as Trionyxellinae, 4) the central African Erecinae, and 5) the small, blind, cave, or soil-dwelling, Irumuinae (Kury 2007: 175).

The harvestmen fauna of Laos is rather poorly known, especially as no systematic study on Laotian assamiids has been completed. In this paper we describe three taxa belonging to three of the Roewerian subfamilies: *Mysorea thaiensis* Suzuki, 1985, of Mysoreinae, *Paramaracandus dolabratus* **sp. nov.** of Polycoryphinae, and *Simalurius suzukii* **sp. nov.** of Dampetrinae.

Materials and methods

Taxonomic methods follow the outline proposed by Acosta *et al.* (2007). The specimens were preserved in 75% ethanol, and examined and drawn under a Leica M205a stereomicroscope equipped with a drawing tube. Further details were studied using a compound microscope (Nikon YS100). The male genitalia were placed firstly in hot lactic acid, followed by distilled water to expand those parts for observation (Schwendinger & Martens 2002). The terminology of genitalic structures follows Macías-Ordóñez *et al.* (2010), Ubick and Briggs (2004) and Martens (1977). The type specimens were deposited in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBUS). All measurements are given in mm.

The following abbreviations are used in the text: CI, capsula interna; CE, capsula externa; DS, distal setae; Fo, follis; G, glans; LS, lateral setae; Pb, pars basalis; Pd, pars distalis; S, stylus; SF, spiny funnel ('Stacheltrichter' in Martens 1977); VS, ventral setae.