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On the males of the orb-weaving spiders *Alpaida nigrofrenata* (Simon, 1895), *A. machala* Levi, 1988, and *A. cisneros* Levi, 1988 (Araneae, Araneidae) and a new synonymy

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The araneid spider genus *Alpaida* O.P.-Cambridge, 1889 has, until now, 148 described species (WSC 2015). The males of *A. nigrofrenata* (Simon, 1895), *A. machala* Levi, 1988, and *A. cisneros* Levi, 1988 are described here for the first time. *A. moka* Levi, 1988, based on female specimens, is synonymized with *A. xavantina* Levi, 1988, based on the study of specimens of both sexes. I.L.F. de Magalhães (MACN) is thanked for reviewing an early revision of this manuscript. We also thank to M. Machado (PUCRS) for the pictures of *A. moka*, and M. Kolmann (University of Toronto) and A. Londoño Burbano (PUCRS) for review the English. We are grateful to G. Hormiga for helping to improve this manuscript. M.R.M. Poeta was financially supported by CAPES at PPG-Zoo, PUCRS.

***Alpaida nigrofrenata* (Simon, 1895)**

(Figs. 1, 2)

Araneus nigrofrenatus Simon, 1895: 816. Female holotype from Caraça, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Deposited in Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN, not examined).

Alpaida nigrofrenata; Levi, 1988: 421, figures 223–225; Buckup *et al.* 2010:487; WSC 2015.

Material examined. BRAZIL, Rio Grande do Sul: *Viamão*, 30°05'S, 51°01'W, ♀, 08.XII.1992, A.A. Lise (MCTP 2806). *Novo Hamburgo*, 29°41'S, 51°07'W, ♀, 04.XI.1985, C.J. Becker (MCN 14357).

Note. Male and female were considered conspecific for having the same color pattern.

Diagnosis. The palp of *Alpaida nigrofrenata* (Fig. 1) is similar to that of *A. citrina* (Keyserling, 1892) (see Rodrigues & Mendonça 2011, figures 1–4) in having a square-shaped terminal apophysis. *A. nigrofrenata* differs from the latter species in having a smooth median apophysis, not denticulate as in *A. citrina*. Also, *A. nigrofrenata* features a unique black band from the posterior median eyes to the anterior lateral eyes (Fig. 2) (see Levi 1988, figure 225).

Description. *Male* (MCN 14357, Novo Hamburgo, RS, Brazil). Total length 3.65. Carapace length 1.50, width 1.30, height 0.60. Clypeus height 0.10. Sternum width 0.60. Abdomen length 2.0, width 1.30, height 1.00. Leg formula 1243. Leg lengths (I/II/III/IV): femur 1.40/1.20/0.80/1.10; patella+tibia 1.56/1.30/0.88/1.20; metatarsus 0.90/0.76/0.50/0.80; tarsus 0.50/0.46/0.40/0.40. Total leg 4.36/3.72/2.58/3.50. Eye diameters and interdistances: AME 0.06, ALE 0.06, PME 0.08, PLE 0.06; AME-ALE 0.14, PME-PL 0.20, AME-AME 0.10, PME-PME 0.12. Eyes with black borders. Carapace pale orange, with black longitudinal band between the PME and ALE (Fig. 2), as the female (see Levi 1988, figure 225). Sternum, labium, endites, and chelicerae pale yellow. Legs pale yellow, distal half of tibiae dark-brown; basal half of metatarsus and distal half of tarsus dark-brown. Abdomen longer than wide and seems decolorized.

Female: see Levi (1988: 421).

Distribution. Brazil: Minas Gerais (Simon 1985) and Rio Grande do Sul (Levi 1988).

***Alpaida machala* Levi, 1988**

(Figs. 3, 4)

Alpaida machala Levi, 1988: 470, figures 559–563. Female holotype from Buenavista (20 km of Machala), El Oro, Ecuador, 20.XI.1942, R. Walls. Deposited in California Academy of Sciences (CAS, not examined). WSC 2015.