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Revision of the genus *Ferkeria* Roewer, 1947, with the description of a new species (Opiliones: Laniatores: Cosmetidae)

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Abstract

A new diagnosis for the cosmetid genus *Ferkeria* Roewer, 1947 is proposed. The type species, *F. vestita* Roewer, 1947 is redescribed and a new species, *Ferkeria flavicoxae* **sp. nov.**, is described from Zongo, La Paz, Bolivia. The new species differs from the only other species of the genus by: yellow-white colored coxa IV (orange-brown in *F. vestita*); armature of scutal areas I–III with rounded tubercles (spiniform in *F. vestita*) and conspicuous tarsal process (reduced in *F. vestita*).

Key words: taxonomy, Bolivian species, Gonyleptoidea, harvestmen

Introduction

Opiliones is a diverse arachnid order, but the diversity of its tropical faunas, such as the Bolivian and Peruvian ones, is highly underestimated (Kury, 2003). Cosmetidae Koch, 1839 is the third most diverse family of the order, with 125 genera and over 700 described species (Kury, 2011). Its species are distributed in the Antilles and from southern United States to southern South America (Kury, 2003; Kury & Pinto-da-Rocha, 2007). Despite the family's high diversity and broad distribution, its systematics has not received much attention when compared to other diverse families, such as Gonyleptidae. Additionally, Cosmetidae, as well as Manaosbiidae and Cranaidae, represents a great challenge in Gonyleptoidea systematics because most of its genera are still classified using the Roewerian system, which is based on a limited set of arbitrarily chosen characters that result in a great number of artificial, monotypic genera. There are also too many artificial genera in the family due to a trend, first proposed by Goodnight & Goodnight (1953), of grouping species using an even smaller set of characters than those of the Roewerian system. As an alternative to this system, many recent authors (Kury et al. 2007, Ferreira & Kury 2010, Pinto-da-Rocha & Hara 2011 and Kury & Barros 2014) have taken into account previously ignored external morphological characters such as dorsal scutal shape and characters from the male coxa IV, ocularium and pedipalps, in an attempt to propose natural groups in Cosmetidae.

Ferkeria Roewer, 1947 is one of the many monotypic Cosmetidae genera. The type species *Ferkeria vestita* Roewer, 1947 was collected near La Paz, Bolivia and has only been cited in catalogues after its description. Roewer (1947) characterized the genus by the following set of characters: a pair of tubercles on each one of the scutal areas; spines on the anal operculum and free tergites I–III; legs III and IV approximately twice as thick as legs I and II; five tarsomeres on basitarsus I and on tarsi III and IV, six on the basitarsus II and three on distitarsi I and II.

The aim of this study is to propose a new diagnosis for the genus, redescribe the type-species and describe a new species from *Ferkeria* Roewer, 1947.

Material and methods

The examined material belongs to the following collections: *Colección Boliviana de Fauna* (CBN, M. Vacaflorez),

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