



## The genus *Loxosceles* Heineken & Lowe 1832 (Araneae: Sicariidae) in Colombia, with description of new cave-dwelling species

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The genus *Loxosceles* Heineken & Lowe, 1832, the so-called brown or violin spiders, currently includes 107 species distributed in the subtropical-areas and tropics of Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and America (World Spider Catalog 2015). Species of this genus may live in both natural habitats (under rocks, trunks, inside tree holes and caves) and inside houses (Gertsch 1967; Bertani *et al.* 2010). *Loxosceles* is a group of medical importance in several regions of the world, due to the large number of cases of envenomation registered annually (Swanson & Vetter 2006; Vetter 2008; Vetter *et al.* 2009). Gertsch (1967, 1983) conducted the most comprehensive revisions for *Loxosceles* in America, and proposed several species groups. More recently, the genus has been the focus of several studies including taxonomic revisions, phylogenetic analyses and biogeography (Duncan *et al.* 2010; Bertani *et al.* 2010; Gonçalves-de-Andrade *et al.* 2012; Lotz 2012; Sánchez-Ruiz & Brescovit 2013; Planas & Ribera 2014; Binford *et al.* 2008).

Only two species of *Loxosceles* occur in Colombia: *Loxosceles lutea* Keyserling, 1877 and *Loxosceles rufipes* (Lucas 1834). In this paper, we describe a new Colombian species that we include in the *laeta* species group due to the male's sub-oval palpal bulb, elongated embolus longer than the bulb's diameter, swollen palpal tibia at least two times longer than the tarsus, and by the female's blunt seminal receptacle lacking any globular lobes at the tip (Gertsch 1967). We also provide new records for *L. lutea* and *L. rufipes*.

Specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol. Illustrations of carapace and male palp for each species were done using a Canon EOS 40D digital camera with Fotodiox Canon EOS Macro Extension Tube Set for Extreme Close-Ups. After dissection and digestion in potassium hydroxide (KOH), the female genitalia were illustrated using a Nikon Camera HeadDS-S11 digital camera mounted to a Carl Zeiss 4024913 microscope. General morphological terminology follows Gertsch & Ennik (1983) and Sánchez & Brescovit (2013). The material examined was deposited in the Arachnological Collection of the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogota, Colombia (ICN-Ar Eduardo Flórez). All measurements are in mm.

### Family Sicariidae Keyserling, 1880

### Genus *Loxosceles* Heineken & Lowe, 1832

#### *Loxosceles guajira* sp. nov.

Figs. 1–7

**Type material.** Male holotype (ICN-Ar2677) from Colombia, La Guajira, Riohacha: “Cueva de bañaderos”, Cerro Bañaderos, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, 11°07'33.3"N, 72°47'06.9"W, elev.785 m, 24 August 2014, Coll. M. A. Gutiérrez-Estrada. Paratypes: 1 female (ICN-Ar2677), 4 males, 3 females and 4 immatures (ICN-Ar2678), same data as holotype.

**Etymology.** Noun in apposition referring to La Guajira, the department where the type specimens were collected.

**Diagnosis.** The male of *L. guajira* sp. nov can be distinguished from other species by the palpal tibia 4.5 times longer than the cymbium and the embolus inserted prolaterally, basally thick and not curved, approximately three times