



## Taxonomic notes on the crab spider genus *Tobias* Simon, 1895 (Araneae, Thomisidae, Stephanopinae)

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### Abstract

The males of *Tobias caudatus* Mello-Leitão, 1929 and *Tobias pustulosus* Simon, 1929 are described for the first time, females are redescribed and both sexes are illustrated. New distribution records are presented for both species. *Tobias monstrosus* Mello-Leitão, 1929 is considered a junior synonym of *T. pustulosus*. The types of *Tobias albovittatus* Caporiacco, 1954, and *Tobias gradiens* Mello-Leitão, 1929 are lost, and *Tobias albicans* Mello-Leitão, 1929 and *Tobias corticatus* Mello-Leitão, 1917 are known only from poorly preserved specimens, thus they all are considered *nomina dubia*.

**Key words:** taxonomy, arachnology, Neotropical region, new records

### Introduction

The Neotropical crab spider genus *Tobias* was proposed by Simon (1895) to include *Stephanopsis camelina* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1869 (designated as type-species), *Thomisus cornutus* Taczanowski, 1872, *T. quinquetuberculatus* Taczanowski, 1872 and *T. rugosus* Taczanowski, 1872. Currently there are 16 valid species of *Tobias* listed in the World Spider Catalogue (2015), of which *T. gradiens* Mello-Leitão, 1929 is described only from a male, *T. albovittatus* Caporiacco, 1954 from an immature, four species are described for both sexes (*T. monstrosus* Simon in Mello-leitão, 1929, *T. paraguayensis* Mello-Leitão, 1929, *T. taczanowskii* Roewer, 1951 and *T. trituberculatus* (Taczanowski, 1872)), and the remaining 10 species were described only from females.

*Tobias* was considered by Simon (1895) as closely related to *Onocolus* Simon, 1895 based on the recurved anterior eye row, median eyes smaller than lateral eyes and by the proximity between these latter ones. However, *Tobias* can be distinguished from *Onocolus* by the prosoma shape, which is slightly longer and higher in the thoracic region, by the higher clypeus (about five times the diameter of AME) and by the opisthosoma with lateral and median projections (Simon 1895; Mello-Leitão 1929). Despite these characteristics, the taxonomic status of *Tobias* remained uncertain due its resemblance with other Stephanopinae genera, such as *Epicadinus* Simon, 1895, *Epicadus* Simon, 1895 and *Stephanopsis* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1869.

In this paper, we describe the males of *T. caudatus* Mello-Leitão, 1929 and *T. pustulosus* Simon, 1929 for the first time, and the females of both species are redescribed. *Tobias monstrosus* Mello-Leitão, 1929 is proposed as a junior synonym of *T. pustulosus*. New distribution records are presented for both species. Based on morphological data, we also provide a brief discussion on the taxonomic status of the genus.

### Material and methods

The examined material belongs to the Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (MCTP, A.A. Lise), Museu de Ciências Naturais da Fundação Zoo Botânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (MCN, R. Ott), Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard, Cambridge (MCZ, G.