



## ***Canga renatae*, a new genus and species of Cyphophthalmi from Brazilian Amazon caves (Opiliones: Neogoveidae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new genus and species of Cyphophthalmi, *Canga renatae* gen. nov., sp. nov., is described in the family Neogoveidae from a system of caves in the Serra de Carajás, Pará State, Brazil. *Canga* can be easily distinguished from other neogoveid genera by the presence of a dentate claw on leg I, a unique character among known cyphophthalmid species, and by the free coxa II, which is fused to coxae III and IV in all the other neogoveid species except for the North American *Metasiro*. The new genus also differs from other Neotropical neogoveids in the lack of a dorsal crest on the chelicerae and in the lack of opisthosomal glands. The finding of a neogoveid in the Pará State greatly increases the known distribution of South American cyphophthalmids into the Eastern Brazilian Amazon forest.

**Key words:** Arachnida, Neotropics, Canga caves, Amazonia

### **Introduction**

Cyphophthalmi is the smallest of the four harvestman suborders, with 168 species and subspecies described worldwide (Pinto-da-Rocha & Giribet, 2007; <http://giribet.oeb.harvard.edu/Cyphophthalmi/>). Only two of the six families have been recorded for South America (Giribet, 2000). Two Pettalidae species are found in the Southern Andes, comprising a Temperate Gondwanan distribution pattern of the family. The remaining species from South America all belong to the family Neogoveidae, which has an Amazonian and Northern Andean distribution (Benavides & Giribet, 2007). Benavides & Giribet (2007) presented a detailed account of the systematics of the South American Neogoveidae, recognizing nine described and 37 undescribed species belonging to three genera. This highlighted the scarcity of studies on this group, especially for the Neotropical region, which is considered to host the largest harvestman biota of the world (Pinto-da-Rocha *et al.*, 2005).

Neogoveidae is certainly a neglected family of Opiliones in general and of Cyphophthalmi in particular. Despite the large numbers of discovered species, no new name has been provided since the description of an African species by Legg (1990), nearly two decades ago, and the last South American species was described in 1980 (Goodnight & Goodnight, 1980), with the last comprehensive studies of the group dating back to the late 1970s (Shear, 1977, 1979). South American neogoveids are currently classified into three genera, *Neogovea* Hinton, 1938 (4 spp.; *Brasilogovea* Martens, 1969 was synonymized by Shear, 1980: 15), *Metagovea* Rosas Costa, 1950 (3 spp.), and *Huitaca* Shear, 1979, the latter being monotypic. Another species named ?Gen. *enigmaticus* Martens, 1969 cannot be assigned to any described genus because no males are known. This adds up to a total of nine nominal neogoveid species (Benavides & Giribet, 2007; Giribet, 2000)—certainly a small number for the otherwise megadiverse Neotropics.

Here we describe a new species of Neogoveidae collected near the southeastern border of the Brazilian Amazonian rainforest (Fig. 1). The new species does not possess a combination of characters previously used to recognize neogoveid genera. Therefore we establish for it the new genus *Canga*. The new species was collected in a series of small ironstone caves located in the Serra de Carajás, a mountain range in the north of