



The genus *Malthonica* Simon, 1898 in the Iberian Peninsula (Araneae: Agelenidae)

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Abstract

Until recently, *Malthonica lusitanica* Simon, 1898 was the only species of the genus to be known from the Iberian Peninsula. Due to intensive fieldwork made in Portugal, a new undescribed species was found, here described as *Malthonica oceanica* sp. n. This work provides a taxonomic revision of the genus *Malthonica* Simon, 1898 in the Iberian Peninsula (excluding the Balearic Islands) and gives a first account on the potential distribution and phenology of both species.

Key words: Portugal, Spain, Arachnida, systematics, taxonomy, *Tegenaria*

Resumen

Malthonica lusitanica Simon, 1898 era la única especie del género conocida en la Península Ibérica. Una serie de muestreos intensivos llevados a cabo en Portugal han evidenciado la presencia de una nueva especie, que describimos aquí como *Malthonica oceanica* sp. n. Este trabajo realiza una revisión taxonómica del género *Malthonica* Simon, 1898 en la Península Ibérica (excluidas las Islas Baleares) y ofrece una primera aproximación a la distribución potencial y a la fenología de ambas especies.

Palabras clave: Portugal, España, Arachnida, sistemática, taxonomía, *Tegenaria*

Introduction

The genus *Malthonica* Simon, 1898 with its type species *Malthonica lusitanica* Simon, 1898 was described from Portugal by Simon, in his monograph “*Histoire Naturelle des Araignées*”. Simon described the genus supported by four main characteristics that would differentiate it from all other Agelenidae genera: procurved eye rows with the median anterior eyes (MA) having a smaller diameter than the lateral anterior (LA); narrow clypeus, slightly smaller than the diameter of the lateral anterior eyes; posterior margin of the chelicerae with a large tooth followed by a row of minute teeth; clearly two-segmented posterior spinnerets, with the apical segment slightly shorter than the basal segment. This diagnostic list has been repeated on different occasions (Simon 1937; Blauwe 1973). Only Lehtinen (1967), by considering the possible phylogenetic relationships of the amaurobiform spiders, reconsiders the genus description in comparison with other Agelenidae. He positions *Malthonica* inside the Tegenariini, a group that includes the genera *Hadites*, *Histopona*, *Malthonica*,