



Review of the genus *Odontembia* Davis, 1939 (Embioptera: Embiidae) with description of a new species

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Abstract

The genus *Odontembia* Davis is reviewed. Two species are recognized, *O. spinosa* (Navás) and *O. jacobi* Miller, new species. The genus is known from central and western Africa and is principally characterized by the hind basitarsus with two ventral papillae, MA forked in the meso- and metathoracic wings with the branches of the fork as long as the stem, the medial portion of the right basipodite produced posteriorly, and the presence of several large, distinct denticles on the first segment of the left cercus. A new species is described from Ghana and differs from *O. spinosa* in several characters of the male genitalia. The male head, left wings and genitalia are illustrated.

Key words: Webspinner, taxonomy, Embiidina, Ghana, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Introduction

The genus *Odontembia* Davis was established to include a single species, *O. spinosa* (Navás) (originally placed in *Dihybocercus* Enderlein), from central Africa (Davis, 1939). The genus was not explicitly placed in a family, though it was regarded as closely related to *Dihybocercus* (Davis, 1939), a genus in the family Embiidae. Other than the original description, few additional references to the genus occur in the literature.

Davis (1940a) regarded *Odontembia* as part of an Afrotropical group of genera closely related to *Rhagadochir* Enderlein. These taxa have MA forked in all wings, the first segment of the left cercus lobed and echinulate, the tenth abdominal tergite completely divided, and the process of the left hemitergite bifid or otherwise complex (1940a). He proposed that the Neotropical groups with a similar character combination were convergent with this Afrotropical group. Evidence presented in a cladistic analysis by Szumik (2004), however, suggests that *Odontembia* is not closely related to *Rhagadochir* which is, instead, a member of the primarily Neotropical family Archemiidae. In that analysis, *Odontembia* was resolved in a clade with other members of Afrotropical Embiidae. This analysis, however, included a relatively small sampling of taxa from the large and complex Old World Embiidae. Therefore, it is not yet clear how *Odontembia* is related to other genera in the family.

The goal of this project is to describe a previously unknown species of *Odontembia* and to review the two species now known in the genus.

Methods

Two male specimens and one female specimen of the newly described species were acquired from a culture of specimens from the remote type locality. In order to preserve as much of the specimens as possible, whole