

Three new species, new records and notes on the nursery-web spider genus *Architis* in Brazil (Araneae: Pisauridae)

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Abstract

Three new species of the nursery-web spider genus *Architis* Simon, 1898 are described and illustrated; all collected during spider biodiversity inventories in the Brazilian Amazonia. *Architis gracilis* Santos sp. nov. is based on a male and *A. catuaba* Santos sp. nov. on a female specimen, both from the state of Acre, western Brazilian Amazonia. *Architis neblina* Santos & Nogueira sp. nov. is described from eight females from the Pico da Neblina National Park, state of Amazonas. New records from Brazil are listed for *Architis brasiliensis* (Mello-Leitão, 1940), *A. helveola* (Simon, 1898), *A. maturaca* Santos, 2007 and *A. tenuipes* (Simon, 1898). The presence of cuspule-like spines on male coxae I, once known only for *Architis tenuis* Simon, 1898 and *A. cymatilis* Simon, 1898, are reported for *A. maturaca*. A remarkable dimorphism in the epigynum of *Architis capricorna* Carico, 1981 is described based on specimens from southern Brazil. An updated identification key for species of *Architis* is provided.

Key words: Taxonomy, Neotropical region, Lycosoidea

Introduction

The spider genus *Architis* Simon, 1898 currently comprises 17 species distributed from Panama to southern Brazil (Santos 2007a, b). This genus was originally described for a few specimens from northern South America by Simon (1898) and then remained relatively unstudied until the last decades of the 20th century. Lately several species, both newly described or transferred from other genera, were included in *Architis* by Carico (1981, 1989, 1993). The most recent studies on the genus were an extensive revision (Santos 2007a) and a cladistic analysis (Santos 2007b). The latter study described the phylogenetic relationships within the genus and established it as monophyletic group with the inclusion of the genus *Staberius* Simon, 1898 as a junior synonym.

Some species of *Architis* are among the most common and widely distributed spiders in South America. Two species in particular, *Architis tenuis* Simon, 1898 and *A. spinipes* (Taczanowski, 1873), occur in almost every South American country and can be extremely abundant in field samples (Santos 2007a, b). Other species, like *A. brasiliensis* (Mello-Leitão, 1940), although more restricted geographically, may occur in great densities and, in addition, are easy to collect. However, several species in this genus remain relatively poorly known, being represented by few specimens (frequently of only one sex) from a few localities (Santos 2007a). This situation clearly suggests that more field collecting is necessary to fully apprehend the geographic distri-