



On the poorly known genus *Anuvinda* Lehtinen, 1967 (Araneae: Titanoecidae)

LINA M. ALMEIDA-SILVA^{1,2,3,4}, ANTONIO D. BRESCOVIT² & CHARLES E. GRISWOLD³

¹Pós Graduação em Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. E-mail: linamas@gmail.com

²Laboratório de Artrópodes Peçonhentos, Instituto Butantan, Avenida Vital Brazil, 1500, Butantã, CEP 05503-900, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. E-mails: linamas@gmail.com, adbresc@terra.com.br

³Department of Entomology, California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Drive, San Francisco, CA 94118, USA. E-mails: linamas@gmail.com, cgriswold@calacademy.org

⁴Corresponding author

Abstract

The spider genus *Anuvinda* includes a single species described from India, *Anuvinda escheri* (Reimoser), based on a female. The male remained unknown and no other specimens beyond the type specimen are known. In this paper we present the first description of the male of *A. escheri* and the redescription of the female, based on material recently collected in China, Laos and Thailand. In addition, the distribution range of the species is extended to include these three countries.

Key words: China, Laos, Spider, Taxonomy, Thailand

Introduction

Titanoecidae Lehtinen 1967 are a small spider family including to date 45 species distributed in five genera, *Titanoeca* Thorell 1870, *Nurscia* Simon 1874, *Goeldia* Keyserling 1891, *Pandava* Lehtinen 1967 and *Anuvinda* Lehtinen 1967, with a Holarctic, Oriental and Neotropical distribution (Platnick 2009). Their species can be diagnosed by the presence of a complex dorso-apical fold in the male palpal tibia, a tegular process near the base of the embolus and a median apophysis that is a flexible projection attached to the middle of the tegulum (Lehtinen 1967; Leech 1972; Griswold *et al.* 2005). The complex dorso-apical fold on the male palpal tibia is divided in three different lobes, one of which is an ear-shaped fold at the retrolateral side of the apophysis, labeled retrolateral lobe from tibial apophysis (RLT) and is exclusive to Titanoecidae.

The genus *Anuvinda* was proposed to include only the type species, *Titanoeca escheri* Reimoser 1934, described based on a single female specimen, from the Deccán Plateau, India (Lehtinen 1967). To date, the genus remains monotypic and no citations can be found in literature other than it being part of Titanoecidae.

Recent collecting expeditions to China, Laos and Thailand yielded several male and female titanoecid specimens which, have the characteristic type of female genitalia illustrated by Lehtinen (1967: 214, fig. 441) for *Anuvinda*: the inverted T shape of the median field, with two atria, the sinuous copulatory ducts and the spermathecae oval and vertically elongate. Whereas the type specimen of *A. escheri* illustrated by Lehtinen differs in minor details from ours, particularly in the lateral extent of the copulatory ducts, we do not believe that these differences are sufficient to describe a new species and consider our specimens, conspecific with *A. escheri*. The type of *A. escheri* is deposited in The Natural History Museum of Geneva: it was not possible to borrow the type to study in Brazil. Thus, in this paper we present a new diagnosis for the genus *Anuvinda* and its type species with a complete redescription of the female based on new material and the first description of the male.