



Two new species of spiders of the genus *Selenops* Latreille, 1819 (Araneae: Selenopidae) and redescription of *Selenops scitus* Muma, 1953 from Mexico

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Abstract

Two new species of *Selenops* Latreille, 1819 from Mexico are described: *Selenops aztecus* **sp. nov.** from the state of Veracruz, known only from a single male, and *Selenops santibanezi* **sp. nov.** from the state of Oaxaca, known from both sexes. *Selenops scitus* Muma, 1953, originally described only from the female holotype from Guerrero, México is redescribed and the male of this species is described for the first time; new records of its distribution are given.

Key words: *Selenops*, Taxonomy, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Guerrero

Resumen

Dos especies nuevas de *Selenops* Latreille, 1819 de México son descritas: *Selenops aztecus* **sp. nov.** del estado de Veracruz, conocida solamente por el macho; y *Selenops santibanezi* **sp. nov.** del estado de Oaxaca, conocida por el macho y la hembra. *Selenops scitus* Muma, 1953, descrita originalmente solo del holotipo hembra de Guerrero, México es redescrita y el macho de esta especie es descrito por primera vez; nuevos registros de su distribución son proporcionados.

Palabras clave: *Selenops*, Taxonomía, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Guerrero

Introduction

The family Selenopidae Simon, 1897 contains five genera. The type genus *Selenops* Latreille, 1819, is a diverse group of spiders distributed in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions around the world, with 117 species described to date (Platnick 2009). *Selenops* is the only genus of the family found in the New World. The natural distribution of this genus covers all the tropical and subtropical regions of North America such as Florida, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, southern California (including the Peninsula of Baja California) and reaches Northern Argentina and Paraguay in the south (Muma 1953; Crews 2005).

The spiders of *Selenops* can be found in diverse types of vegetation, from dry desert and chaparral to tropical forests (Crews 2005), from sea level to around 2000 meters elevation. These spiders are commonly found under bark, under or on stones, trunks, and debris on the ground, between the bases of the leaves of tropical plants, occasionally inside tree trunks, entrances of caves, and on flat surfaces and in narrow cracks and crevices (Muma 1953; Valdez-Mondragón 2007). They are common inside human buildings: Macleay (1839) reported *Selenops celer* Macleay, 1839 as common on walls of buildings in Cuba; Gertsch (1949) reported *Selenops* (probably *S. mexicanus* Keyserling, 1880) on houses in Panama. *Selenops mexicanus* is common and abundant in Mexican cities, like Oaxaca where it is found inside the houses and buildings, living with other spiders like the pholcid *Physocyclus dugesi* Simon, 1893, and they could be the pray of this one (*pers. observ.*). They are nocturnal and do not build webs (Crew 2005).