



Taxonomic notes on the genus *Paratrechalea* Carico, 2005 (Araneae: Trechaleidae: Trechaleinae)

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Abstract

The male of *Paratrechalea longigaster* Carico, 2005 and the female of *P. julyae* Silva & Lise, 2006 are described and illustrated for the first time, and new records provided. Photomicrographs of the female genitalia showing accessory spermathecae for *P. ornata* (Mello-Leitão, 1943) and *P. azul* Carico, 2005 as well as the morphological variation of the epigynum in both species are also presented. A previously unreported feature of the male palpus common to both *P. azul* Carico, 2005 and *P. ornata* (Mello-Leitão, 1943) is also discussed.

Key words: spiders, taxonomy, morphology, Neotropical region

Introduction

The spider genus *Paratrechalea* was proposed by Carico (2005) to include *Trechalea ornata* Mello-Leitão, 1943 and six new species. This genus is characterized by the long and slender tarsi; females have an epigynum with a posterior-median scape and males a median apophysis with a flattened and greatly expanded ventral division (Carico 2005, Fig. 1). This genus seems to be restricted to the southern areas of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, with most species occurring in Brazil.

In this work we describe the male of *Paratrechalea longigaster* Carico, 2005 and the female of *P. julyae* Silva & Lise, 2006 and provide new records of the latter, based on additional specimens from Brazil. Additionally, SEM images illustrating the male palpi of *P. julyae* and *P. ornata* (Mello-Leitão, 1943) as well as the morphological variation of the female genitalia of *P. ornata* and *P. azul* Carico, 2005 from different localities in the Brazilian states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina are provided for the first time.

Material and methods

The material examined is deposited in Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, Brazil (IBSP, I. Knysak), Museu de Ciências Naturais da Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil (MCN, E. H. Buckup), Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia da Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil (MCTP, A. A. Lise) and Museo de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina (MLP, L. A. Pereira). The nomenclature of the male palpus and female epigynum structures follows Carico (1993; 2005) and Silva *et al.* (2006). To study the excised epigyna, the soft tissue was removed by a combination of dissection with a small surgical blade and immersion in the enzyme trypsin for 48 hours at 25°C to remove the soft tissue. For scanning electron microscopy, structures were excised, air-dried and mounted on stubs with double-sided