

## Three new species of Telemidae (Araneae) from Western Africa

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### Abstract

Three new species of the family Telemidae from Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon are diagnosed, described, and illustrated: i.e., *Cangoderces christae* sp. nov. and *Seychellia jeremyi* sp. nov. from Côte d'Ivoire; *Cangoderces milani* sp. nov. from Cameroon. All types of the new species are deposited in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, the Netherlands (RMNH).

**Key words:** Taxonomy, *Cangoderce*, *Seychellia*, forest, diagnosis

### Introduction

The family Telemidae is small, web-building spiders, with seven genera and 57 species (Platnick 2011) from tropical Africa, East and South East Asia, North and Central America (Brignoli 1977). They are usually found in moist conditions, such as leaf litter, under rocks and caves (Song *et al.* 1999). In Africa, three genera and seven species are recorded: *Apneumonella oculata* Fage, 1921 from Tanzania; *Cangoderces cameroonensis* Baert, 1985 and *C. koupeensis* Baert, 1985 from Cameroon; *C. lewisi* Harington, 1951 from South Africa, *Seychellia cameroonensis* Baert, 1985 from Cameroon, and *S. lodoiceae* Brignoli, 1980 and *S. wiljoi* Saaristo, 1978 from Seychelles.

The genus *Cangoderces* was erected by Harington in 1951 based on a cave spider: *C. lewisi* Harington, 1951, known only from the female, Brignoli described the male in 1978. The other two *Cangoderces* species were described by Baert (1985) from the rain forest of Cameroon. The genus *Seychellia* contains four species, one from China (Lin & Li 2008), one from Cameroon, and two from Seychelles.

In this paper, three new telemid species from Western Africa are described and illustrated.

### Material and methods

Specimens were examined and measured using a Leica M205 C stereomicroscope. Further details were studied under an Olympus BX41 compound microscope. All drawings were made using a drawing apparatus attached to an Olympus BX41 compound microscope, and then inked on ink jet plotter paper. Male palpi and female genitalia were examined and illustrated after they were dissected from the spiders' bodies. Vulvae of female were removed and treated in lactic acid before illustration. The left palpi of male spiders were illustrated, except where otherwise indicated. All type specimens were preserved in 80% ethanol solution. Photos were taken with an Olympus C7070 wide zoom digital camera (7.1 megapixels) mounted on an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope. The images were montaged using Helicon image stacking software. All measurements are given in millimeters. Leg measurements are shown as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). Legs segments were measured from their dorsal side.

Abbreviations used in text include: AME, ALE for anterior median, anterior lateral eyes; Em, Sp for embolus and spermatheca; RMNH for the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, the Netherlands.