



Article

New species of Chilean Hexathelidae (Araneae, Mygalomorphae)

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Abstract

Several new species of Hexathelidae Simon (1892) from Chile are described. In *Scotinoecus* Simon (1892), a new species (*S. ruiles*) is described using females; a new species (*S. major*) is proposed for the male previously misidentified as *S. cinereopilosus* (Simon, 1889), and females are described; the male of *S. cinereopilosus* is described for the first time. In *Mediothele*, the female of *M. australis* is described for the first time, as well as five new species (*M. minima*, *M. lineares*, *M. nahuelbuta*, *M. anae* and *M. lagos*); all are based solely on females from Southern and Central Chile. The known geographic distributions of both genera are increased.

Key words: Hexathelidae, *Mediothele*, *Scotinoecus*, taxonomy, new species, Chile

Resumen

Se describen varias nuevas especies chilenas de la familia Hexathelidae Simon (1892). En *Scotinoecus* Simon (1892), se describe una nueva especie (*S. ruiles*), usando hembras; se propone una nueva especie (*S. major*) para el macho previamente mal identificado como *S. cinereopilosus* (Simon, 1889), y las hembras son descritas; se describe por primera vez el macho de *S. cinereopilosus*. En *Mediothele*, se describe por primera vez la hembra de *M. australis*, así como cinco nuevas especies (*M. minima*, *M. lineares*, *M. nahuelbuta*, *M. anae* y *M. lagos*); todas están basadas únicamente en hembras del Sur y Centro de Chile. Se incrementa la distribución geográfica conocida para ambos géneros.

Introduction

Spiders of the family Hexathelidae (Simon, 1892) have historically been seen as plesiomorphic mygalomorphs (Raven, 1980; Goloboff, 1993). The family is subdivided in three subfamilies: Hexathelinae, Macrothelinae and Plesiothelinae (Raven, 1980). The only subfamily represented in South America is Hexathelinae, with two genera: *Scotinoecus* Simon 1892, and *Mediothele* Raven & Platnick 1978. *Scotinoecus*, with two species, is found in Southern Argentina and Central and Southern Chile, while *Mediothele* is known only from a single male from Southern Chile.

The main problem with the taxonomy of this group in the region is the paucity of specimens available for study. The handful of specimens known from the region were adequately described and illustrated by Schiapelli and Gerschman (1968), Calderón (1973), and Raven and Platnick (1978), making it possible to reliably identify known taxa.

In field trips to Chile by the junior author, carried out in the mid '80s and early '90s, a significant number of specimens of this group were collected in Chile. These specimens (a total of 122 specimens) represent several previously undescribed species. In *Scotinoecus*, two new species (*S. major* and *S. ruiles*) are described, as well as the male of *S. cinereopilosus* (Simon, 1889) (since the male associated with the female type by Calderón 1973, collected at about 800 km from the type locality, represents the male of *S. major*). In *Mediothele*, five new species (*M.*