



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:2A4B7AE5-5F19-45B7-9468-D6A7F5BFEEAA

Validation and new synonymies proposed for *Cheiracanthium* species from South and Southeast Asia (Araneae, Clubionidae)

PAKAWIN DANKITTIPAKUL¹ & JANET BECCALONI²

¹*Insect Endocrinology and Molecular Biology Laboratory, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand. E-mail: pakawin@gmail.com*

²*Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK. E-mail: j.beccaloni@nhm.ac.uk*

Abstract

The primary types of *Cheiracanthium* species from South and Southeast Asia were examined. *Cheiracanthium insigne* O. P.–Cambridge, 1874 is considered a senior synonym of *Eutittha gracilipes* Thorell, 1895 (male). *Eutittha truncata* Thorell, 1895 (female) is not a conspecific female of *E. gracilipes*, provisionally threatened as a separate species and proposed here as a valid taxon because it does not resemble the female of *C. insigne*. *Cheiracanthium rupicolum* (Thorell, 1897) is regarded as a senior synonym of *C. gyirongense* Hu & Li, 1987. The Himalaya form of *C. triviale* (Thorell, 1895), which was mentioned and illustrated in Gravely (1931), was misidentified and belongs to *C. rupicolum*. *Cheiracanthium insulanum* (Thorell, 1878) bears strong resemblance to that of *C. melanostomum* (Thorell, 1895); they probably belong to the same species.

Key words: Eutichurinae, spider, validation, new synonymy, misidentification, Burma, Thailand, India, China

Introduction

Despite the fact that species of *Cheiracanthium* C. L. Koch, 1839 are one of the most common spiders known to all arachnologists, its generic content remains obscure and is far from being complete. There are several undescribed species belonging to this genus, a considerable number of species are known only from single sex, and in some cases the designated adults were apparently not conspecific.

Several major taxonomic studies on a regional scale have been conducted e.g., Edward (1958) for the US, Wolf (1991) for Central Europe, Bonaldo & Brescovit (1992) for the Neotropical Region, Lotz (2007a, b) for the Afrotropical Region, Deeleman-Reinhold (2001) for Southeast Asia. Currently, it became evident that some Asian *Cheiracanthium* species are poorly established or inadequately described. In some cases both sexes were separately described. To make those names available, it is necessary to examine primary types. After such revision, freshly collected specimens could be identified without doubt.

The position of *Cheiracanthium* at higher levels of spider classification remains controversial and uncertain. The subdivision of the family Clubionidae into three subfamilies, Clubioninae, Eutichurinae and Systariinae *sensu* Deeleman-Reinhold (2001), affected the higher taxonomic position of these and other spider taxa. According to Deeleman-Reinhold's classification, *Cheiracanthium* was placed to the subfamily Eutichurinae. Although Platnick (2011) listed Systariinae and Eutichurinae under the Miturgidae in his catalog, we follow Deeleman-Reinhold (2001) and Raven (2009) in considering Eutichurinae a member of the Clubionidae. This is because the two published cladograms which include the Miturgidae (s. strict.), Clubionidae and the Eutichurinae show that the Eutichurinae are more closely related to the Clubionidae than to the Miturgidae (Silva 2003, Raven & Stumkat 2003, 2005).