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Notes on the systematics of the Triaenonychinae from Madagascar with description of a new species of *Acumontia* Loman (Opiliones: Laniatores)

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Abstract

Acumontia succinea sp. nov. is described from the Parc national de la Montagne d'Ambre, in the former Antsiranana Province, Madagascar. Detailed illustrations from all views of the male genitalia of a species of *Acumontia* are provided for the first time. Complementary illustrations are provided of the types of the five valid species of *Acumontia* described by Pocock in the beginning of the 20th century, two of which had never been illustrated before.

Key words: Afrotropical, Arachnida, Insidiatores, Taxonomy

Introduction

Triaenonychidae Sørensen, 1886 includes small to medium-sized Laniatores, which legs III–IV bear single claws with at least one pair of lateral prongs. It is the third most diverse family of Laniatores, with approximately 480 species described so far (Kury 2007).

In Madagascar, the triaenonychids constitute the dominant opilionofauna (Lawrence 1959, Staręga 1992). Ten genera of Triaenonychidae, distributed between two tribes of Triaenonychinae, are recognized in the island: the Triaenobunini *Ankaratrix* Lawrence, 1959, and the Triaenonychini *Acumontia* Loman, 1898, *Antongila* Roewer, 1931, *Decarynella* Fage, 1945, *Flavonuncia* Lawrence, 1959, *Hovanuncia* Lawrence, 1959, *Ivohibeia* Lawrence, 1959, *Millomontia* Lawrence, 1959, *Millotonyx* Lawrence, 1959 and *Paulianyx* Lawrence, 1959. These genera are currently defined by a combination of a few characters of external morphology such as tarsal formulae, and armatures of mesotergal areas and ocularium, without the inclusion of any character from male genitalia. Almost all genera are monotypic or have only two species, except for *Acumontia* which possesses 21 of the 32 valid species of Malagasy triaenonychids. *Acumontia* had been the only triaenonychid genus reported also from outside the island, but their South African species were later transferred to *Lizamontia* Kury, 2004, which is endemic of South Africa (Kury 2004). We had the opportunity to study material collected by an expedition of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. (USNM) to the north of Madagascar. In this material we detected a new species of Triaenonychini which we describe under *Acumontia* and discuss its generic allocation. We examined type material of the five valid species of *Acumontia* described by Pocock in the beginning of the 20th century and deposited in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH). Illustrations of these types are provided.

Systematic History of Malagasy Triaenonychini

Loman (1898) described *Acumontia* as a monotypic genus, and its only species, *A. armata* Loman. The genus was then diagnosed based on the shape of the dorsal scutum, presence of marginal teeth on the carapace, armatures of mesotergal areas and ocularium, shape of sternum, armature of pedipalp. Pocock (1902) provided a key for the genera of Triaenonychidae (= Triaenonychinae = Triaenonychini), where *Acumontia* was separated from other triaenonychid genera by the high ocularium. He also described two other species of *Acumontia*, *A. rostrata* Pocock