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Nine new species of *Soesilarishius* from Brazil (Araneae: Salticidae: Euophryinae)

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Abstract

Nine new species of *Soesilarishius* Makhan, 2007 are described from Brazil, raising the genus member list up to 20 species. *Soesilarishius chaplini* **sp. nov.**, *S. paxiuba* **sp. nov.** and *S. muiratinga* **sp. nov.** are described from the state of Pará. *Soesilarishius bicrescens* **sp. nov.**, *S. excentricus* **sp. nov.** and *S. flagellator* **sp. nov.** are described from the state of Piauí. *Soesilarishius macrochelis* **sp. nov.** and *S. cearensis* **sp. nov.** are described from the state of Ceará. *Soesilarishius tabernarius* **sp. nov.** is described from the state of Bahia. Both sexes are described for the new species, except for *S. muiratinga*, *S. bicrescens*, *S. excentricus* and *S. tabernarius*, whose females remain unknown.

Key words: Neotropical Region, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

The salticid genus *Soesilarishius* Makhan, 2007, proposed to include solely the type species from Suriname, has been the focus of a recent revision that attempted to build a more comprehensive understanding of the lineage (Ruiz, 2011). That study presented seven additional species from Northeastern Brazil and transferred one species from *Euophrys* C.L. Koch to *Soesilarishius*. More recently, another two species were described, one from Ecuador and the other from the Brazilian Amazon (Zhang & Maddison, 2012), increasing the genus list up to 11 species. These geographical records reveal that this jumping spider lineage has a rather wide distribution across tropical South America.

Spiders of *Soesilarishius* are small ground dwellers. As a shared character for the group, the typical euophryine “spiraled embolus—epigynal window” complex (Maddison & Hedin 2003) is altered. The embolus seems to have become shorter and less spiraled and the epigynal window is reduced. Although similar in body form and color pattern, external reproductive organs (male palp and female epigynum) are quite diverse in morphology within *Soesilarishius* (see Ruiz, 2011; Zhang & Maddison, 2012; the present work). *Soesilarishius* species usually live on the ground in areas covered with some kind of vegetation in South American biomes, where green areas often form mosaics of several vegetation types and are separated by the very large rivers. Hence, we will not be surprised if many more undescribed species of this group are discovered in the near future, which may further add morphological diversity to this lineage.

Recent expeditions of both the Semiarid and the East-Amazonian cores of the Research Program in Biodiversity (PPBio), supported by the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT) and the National Council for Scientific and Technological development (CNPq), have brought to knowledge the new forms that are herein presented. In this paper, nine new species are described from Brazil, three of them from Eastern Amazon (state of Pará) and six from Northeastern areas, in the states of Piauí, Ceará and Bahia.