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Presumed species synonymy in the genus *Allogynaspis* Krantz, 2018 (Acari: Macrochelidae)

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Macrocheles bolivari Iavorschi, 1987, in a volume of invited papers on hypogean invertebrate fauna collected primarily in Venezuela in 1982 during the first Romanian/Venezuelan Biospeleological Expedition. The volume, “*Hypogean and hemiedaphic fauna from Venezuela and other countries of South America. I*” was recently brought to my attention by Bruce Halliday, who recognised the similarity between Iavorschi’s *M. bolivari* and *Allogynaspis flechtmanni* Krantz, 2018, recently described from Brazil. Although some important opisthosomatic and gnathosomatic details were omitted from Iavorschi’s description, the nature of the epigynal and dorsal shields (Iavorschi 1987, Figs 1A, B), along with the unusual fixed cheliceral digit dentition (Iavorschi 1987, Fig. 1C), leave little doubt that *Macrocheles bolivari* is a species of *Allogynaspis*. However, there are discrepancies between the descriptions of *M. bolivari* and *A. flechtmanni*, such that final verification of species synonymy may only be possible if type specimens of these two entities can be compared. Of special significance here are differences in sternal shield morphology and ornamentation (Krantz 2018, Fig. 2; Iavorschi 1987, Fig. 1A), and omission of any mention in Iavorschi’s description of greatly enlarged setae on tarsus IV as described for *A. flechtmanni* (Krantz 2018, Fig. 6).

I have been unable to locate the type specimens of *M. bolivari*, nor have I succeeded in contacting either Iavorschi or the Emile Racovitza Institute of Speleology in Bucharest, where Iavorschi’s types may have been deposited. Pending a comparative study, *A. flechtmanni* Krantz, 2018 is here presumed to be a junior subjective synonym of *M. bolivari* Iavorschi 1987.

Allogynaspis Krantz, 2018

Allogynaspis Krantz, 2018: 151.

Type species *Allogynaspis flechtmanni* Krantz, 2018, by original designation (= *Macrocheles bolivari* Iavorschi, 1987)

References

- Iavorschi, V. (1987) Deux nouvelles espèces du genre *Macrocheles* présentes dans la faune du Venezuela (*Acarina, Anactinotrichida, Gamasida*). In: V. Decu, T. Orghidan et al., eds, *Hypogean and Hemiedaphic Fauna from Venezuela and other Countries of South America*. Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, Bucharest, 1 (13), pp. 147–150.
- Krantz, G.W. (2018) *Allogynaspis flechtmanni*, a new genus and species of the subfamily Macrochelinae (Acari: Mesostigmata: Macrochelidae) from southeastern Brazil, with comments on cheliceral dentition, reproductive strategies, and postepigynal platelets. *Zootaxa*, 4455 (1), 150–160.
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