



Hombre del renacimiento: the contributions of Luis F. de Armas to arachnology, herpetology, entomology, carcinology, and myriapodology

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Contributions to arachnology

Luis F. de Armas (b. 1945) is one of Latin America's most esteemed arachnologists. Best known is his work on the scorpions of Latin America, especially those of the Caribbean and Mesoamerica. However, particularly on, but not restricted to, Cuba and the Dominican Republic he has advanced many publications on amblypygids, schizomids, solifugids, thelyphonids, and ricenulids. It is unsurprising given arachnids are Luis' expertise that within these groups he was focused not only on taxonomy but also ecology, teratology, conservation, zoogeography, and several other fields.

Taxonomy

The taxonomy of the order Scorpiones has been one of the longest and most prolific avenues of the research of Luis (Fig. 1). A total of 117 scorpion taxa bear his authorship either as sole author or coauthor. This figure includes 2 genera, 1 subgenus, 109 species, and 5 subspecies, of which all the supraspecific names remain valid [this includes two species which were originally described as subspecies, see Table 1.]. Of the subspecies, one has been elevated to species level (*i.e.*, *Cazerius parvus* Armas, 1984) three synonymised with the nominate species by Luis himself (Armas 1981, 1984a, 1988), and one has been maintained as a valid subspecies (*Centruroides nitidus taino* Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1987, see Esposito *et al.* 2017). Some authors have considered some of these other subspecies as valid subspecies since their initial synonymy but there is disagreement on their true status and their original author thinks them invalid (L. F. de Armas pers. comm.). It is also important to remember that whilst the subspecies concept is not popular in arachnids today, during the 1970s and early 1980s they were still in relatively common use in invertebrate zoology, broadly. One species described by Luis was later also downgraded to a subspecies (see Table 1).

Another order in which Luis is a taxonomic powerhouse is the poorly known order Schizomida. A total of 76 taxa bear his authorship, either alone or, mostly, in collaboration with colleagues. This is particularly evident through his collaborations with his former student the late Rolando Teruel (1974–2023), the latter of which wrote one of his theses on Schizomida under the supervision of Luis. In such a small order, these contributions are massive. Of the aforementioned taxa, 11 are genera (all valid, accounting for 15.5% of all known Schizomida genera), and 65 are species (63 valid, 2 synonyms). In total, Luis has authored or coauthored the descriptions of 16.5% of the total valid extant schizomid taxa. Luis has also described 53 arachnid taxa pertaining to other orders. 31 out of 32 species of Amblypygi – another favourite group – described by Luis are valid, only one being a synonym. In the Solifugae, Luis has named 14 taxa, all valid, being 1 genus and 13 species. In the Opiliones, 2 valid species were described in collaboration with colleagues. Finally, in the Ricinulei and Thelyphonida Luis is an author of 8 valid taxa in both orders (8 species of ricinuleids, and 3 genera and 5 species of thelyphonids, respectively).

When one accounts for *all* names in the Arachnida proposed by Luis (Table 1), whether or not they are valid nor whether they were authored solely or with colleagues the total is 371, spanning 6 out of the 10 extant orders of Arachnida (excluding Acari; Xiphosura not considered here as an arachnid).

TABLE 1. Arachnids described by Luis F. de Armas, current at the time of writing, November, 2024. NB: It is almost certain that by the time of publication this particular list will be out of date, given that Luis continues his amazing stream of papers.

Order	Family	Taxon and authorship	Status
Amblypygi	Charinidae	<i>Charinus centralis</i> Armas & Ávila Calvo, 2001 <i>Charinus diomedesi</i> Armas, Miranda, Santos-Murgas & Castillo, 2023. <i>Charinus dominicanus</i> Armas & Pérez González, 2001 <i>Charinus longitarsus</i> Armas & Palomino-Cárdenas, 2016 <i>Charinus muchmorei</i> Armas & Teruel, 1997 <i>Charinus perezassoi</i> Armas, 2010 <i>Charinus rocamadre</i> Torres-Contreras, Alvarez & Armas, 2015 <i>Charinus toasmicheli</i> Armas, 2007 <i>Charinus victori</i> Armas, 2010	Valid. Junior synonym of <i>C. aguayoi</i> Moyá-Guzmán, 2009
	Phrynidae	<i>Heterophrynus caribensis</i> Armas, Torres-Contreras & Álvarez, 2015 <i>Heterophrynus raveloi</i> Tampoá & Armas, 2024 <i>Heterophrynus yarigui</i> Álvarez, Armas & Díaz, 2015 <i>Heterophrynus guacharo</i> Armas, 2015 <i>Paraphrynus carolynae</i> Armas, 2013 <i>Paraphrynus maya</i> Armas, Trujillo & Agreda, 2017 <i>Paraphrynus olmeca</i> Armas & Trujillo, 2018 <i>Phrynus alejandroi</i> Armas & Teruel, 2010 <i>Phrynus amazonicus</i> Armas, Miranda & Santos-Murgas, 2024 <i>Phrynus cozumel</i> Armas, 1996 <i>Phrynus decoratus</i> Teruel & Armas, 2005 <i>Phrynus eucharis</i> Armas & Pérez González, 2001 <i>Phrynus garridoi</i> Armas, 1994 <i>Phrynus hispaniolae</i> Armas & Pérez González, 2001 <i>Phrynus hoffmannae</i> Armas & Gadar, 2004 <i>Phrynus jalisco</i> Armas, Guzmán & Francke, 2014 <i>Phrynus kennidae</i> Armas & Pérez González, 2001 <i>Phrynus maesi</i> Armas, 1996 <i>Phrynus palenque</i> Armas, 1996 <i>Phrynus panche</i> Armas & Angarita, 2008 <i>Phrynus pseudoparvulus</i> Armas & Viquez, 2001 <i>Phrynus purepechas</i> Armas, Quijano-Ravell & Ponce-Saavedra, 2017 <i>Phrynus similis</i> Armas, Viquez & Trujillo, 2013	Valid.
Opiliones	Kimulidae	<i>Kimula cokendolpheri</i> Pérez González & Armas, 2000	
	Biantidae	<i>Heterolacurbs perezassoi</i> Alegre & Armas, 2012	

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

Order	Family	Taxon and authorship	Status		
Ricinulei	Ricinoididae	<i>Cryptocellus mayari</i> Armas, 1977	Junior synonym of <i>P. silvai</i> (Armas, 1977)		
		<i>Pseudocellus abeli</i> Armas, 2017	Valid.		
		<i>Pseudocellus ignotus</i> Armas, 2017			
		<i>Pseudocellus pachyurus</i> Teruel & Armas, 2008			
		<i>Pseudocellus permagnus</i> Armas, 2017			
		<i>Pseudocellus silvai</i> (Armas, 1977)			
		<i>Pseudocellus undatus</i> Armas, 2017			
		Schizomida	Hubbardiidae	<i>Antillostenochrus</i> Armas & Teruel, 2002	
				<i>Antillostenochrus alejandroi</i> (Armas, 1989)	
				<i>Antillostenochrus cokendolpheri</i> Armas & Teruel, 2002	
<i>Antillostenochrus gibarensis</i> Armas & Teruel, 2002					
<i>Antillostenochrus holguin</i> Armas & Teruel, 2002					
<i>Antillostenochrus subcerdoso</i> (Armas, 1990)					
<i>Belicenochnrus</i> Armas & Viquez, 2010					
<i>Belicenochnrus pentalatus</i> Armas & Viquez, 2010					
<i>Belicenochnrus peckorum</i> Armas & Viquez, 2010					
<i>Caribezomus</i> Armas, 2011					
<i>Caribezomus laurae</i> Armas, 2011					
<i>Cokendolpherius</i> Armas, 2002					
<i>Cokendolpherius ramosi</i> Armas, 2002					
<i>Colombiazomus</i> Armas & Delgado-Santa, 2012					
<i>Colombiazomus truncatus</i> Armas & Delgado-Santa, 2012					
<i>Colombiazomus quindio</i> Delgado-Santa & Armas, 2013					
<i>Guanazomus</i> Teruel & Armas, 2002					
<i>Guanazomus armatus</i> Teruel & Armas, 2002					
<i>Hansenochnrus selva</i> Armas, 2009					
<i>Hansenochnrus humbertoi</i> Armas & Viquez, 2010	Junior synonym of <i>H. mumai</i> (Rowland & Reddell, 1980)				
<i>Heteronochnrus</i> Armas & Viquez, 2010	Valid.				
<i>Heteronochnrus estor</i> Armas & Viquez, 2010					
<i>Kenyazomus</i> Armas, 2014					
<i>Kenyazomus pekkai</i> Armas, 2014					
<i>Lawrencezomus</i> Armas, 2014					
<i>Lawrencezomus atlanticus</i> Armas, 2014					
<i>Lawrencezomus bong</i> Armas, 2014					
<i>Luisarmasius insulaepinorum</i> (Armas, 1977)					
<i>Piaroa bijagua</i> Armas & Viquez, 2009					
<i>Piaroa hoyosi</i> Delgado-Santa & Armas, 2013					
<i>Piaroa pioi</i> Villarreal, Armas & García, 2014					
<i>Piaroa villarreali</i> Armas & Delgado-Santa, 2012					
<i>Piaroa youngi</i> Armas & Viquez, 2010					
<i>Reddelzomus</i> Armas, 2002					

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

Order	Family	Taxon and authorship	Status
		<i>Reddelzomus cubensis</i> Armas, 2002	
		<i>Rowlandius abeli</i> Armas, 2002	
		<i>Rowlandius alayoni</i> (Armas, 1989)	
		<i>Rowlandius arduus</i> Armas, Villarreal & Colmenares, 2009	
		<i>Rowlandius baracoae</i> (Armas, 1989)	
		<i>Rowlandius casabito</i> (Armas & Abud Antun, 1989)	
		<i>Rowlandius cubanacan</i> (Armas, 1989)	
		<i>Rowlandius chinoi</i> Armas, 2010	
		<i>Rowlandius cupeyalensis</i> Armas, 2002	
		<i>Rowlandius ducoudrayi</i> (Armas & Abud Antun, 1990)	
		<i>Rowlandius engombe</i> Armas & Abud Antun, 1989	
		<i>Rowlandius isabel</i> Armas & Abud Antun, 1989	
		<i>Rowlandius jarmillae</i> Armas & Cokendolpher, 2001	
		<i>Rowlandius labarcae</i> (Armas, 1989)	
		<i>Rowlandius lantiguai</i> (Armas, 1990)	
		<i>Rowlandius moa</i> Armas, 2004	
		<i>Rowlandius monticola</i> Armas, 2002	
		<i>Rowlandius naranjo</i> (Armas & Abud Antun, 1990)	
		<i>Rowlandius ramosi</i> Armas, 2002	
		<i>Rowlandius recuerdo</i> (Armas, 1989)	
		<i>Rowlandius rociogarciae</i> Delgado-Santa & Armas, 2013	
		<i>Rowlandius siboney</i> Armas, 2002	
		<i>Rowlandius steineri</i> Armas, 2001	
		<i>Rowlandius terueli</i> Armas, 2002	
		<i>Rowlandius toldo</i> Armas, 2002	
		<i>Rowlandius tomasi</i> Armas, 2007	
		<i>Rowlandius viquezi</i> Armas, 2009	
		<i>Rowlandius virginiae</i> Armas & Abud Antun, 2002	
		<i>Schizomus loreto</i> Armas, 1977	Junior synonym of <i>S. portoricensis</i> Chamberlin, 1922
		<i>Stenochrus leon</i> Armas, 1995	Valid.
		<i>Stenochrus meambar</i> Armas & Viquez, 2010	
		<i>Stenochrus tepezcuintle</i> Armas & Cruz, 2009	
		<i>Surazomus antonioi</i> Armas & Viquez, 2014	
		<i>Surazomus brus</i> Armas, Villarreal & Viquez, 2010	
		<i>Surazomus nara</i> Armas & Viquez, 2011	
		<i>Surazomus selva</i> Armas, Villarreal & Viquez, 2010	
		<i>Surazomus vaughani</i> Armas & Viquez, 2011	
		<i>Surazomus inexpectatus</i> Armas, Villarreal & Viquez, 2010	
		<i>Wayuuzomus</i> Armas & Colmenares, 2006	
		<i>Wayuuzomus gonzalezspongai</i> Armas & Colmenares, 2006	

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

Order	Family	Taxon and authorship	Status
Scorpiones	Buthidae	<i>Alayotityus</i> Armas, 1973	
		<i>Alayotityus delacruzii</i> Armas, 1973	
		<i>Alayotityus granma</i> Armas, 1984	
		<i>Alayotityus juraguaensis</i> Armas, 1973	
		<i>Alayotityus nanus</i> Armas, 1973	
		<i>Alayotityus sierramaestrae</i> Armas, 1973	
		<i>Buthus gonzalezdelavegai</i> González-Moliné & Armas, 2024	
		<i>Centruroides alayoni</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Centruroides anchorellus</i> Armas, 1976	
		<i>Centruroides antiguae</i> Armas, 1976	Junior synonym of <i>C. barbudensis</i> Pocock, 1898.
		<i>Centruroides arctimanus</i> Armas, 1976	Valid.
		<i>Centruroides arctimanus banensis</i> Armas, 1976	Treated here as junior synonym of nominate species.
		<i>Centruroides armadai</i> Armas, 1976	Junior synonym of <i>C. anchorellus</i> Armas, 1976.
		<i>Centruroides bani</i> Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1987	Valid.
		<i>Centruroides baracoae</i> Armas, 1976	
		<i>Centruroides caral</i> Armas & Trujillo, 2013	
		<i>Centruroides cajennensis</i> Armas, 1976	Junior synonym of <i>C. guanensis</i> Franganillo, 1930
		<i>Centruroides fallassisimus</i> Armas & Trujillo, 2010	Valid.
		<i>Centruroides farri</i> Armas, 1976	
		<i>Centruroides griseus borinquensis</i> Armas, 1981	Treated here as junior synonym of nominate species— <i>C. griseus</i> (C. L. Koch, 1845)
		<i>Centruroides guanensis sanfelipensis</i> Armas, 1976	Treated here as junior synonym of nominate species— <i>C. guanensis</i> Franganillo, 1931
		<i>Centruroides hoffmanni</i> Armas, 1996	Valid.
		<i>Centruroides hummelincki</i> Armas, 1976	Junior synonym of <i>C. barbudensis</i> (Pocock, 1893)
		<i>Centruroides jaragua</i> Armas, 1999	Valid.
		<i>Centruroides luceorum</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Centruroides maisiensis</i> Armas, 1976	Junior synonym of <i>C. baracoae</i> Armas, 1976.
<i>Centruroides marcanoi</i> Armas, 1981	Valid.		

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

Order	Family	Taxon and authorship	Status
		<i>Centruroides nitidus taino</i> Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1987	
		<i>Centruroides orizaba</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2003	
		<i>Centruroides platnicki</i> Armas, 1981	
		<i>Centruroides robertoi</i> Armas, 1976	
		<i>Centruroides sanandres</i> Armas, Luna & Flórez, 2012	
		<i>Centruroides sissomi</i> Armas, 1996	
		<i>Centruroides terueli</i> Armas & Cubas-Rodríguez, 2023	
		<i>Centruroides tuxtla</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Centruroides underwoodi</i> Armas, 1976	
		<i>Chaneke aliciae</i> (Armas & Martín-Frías, 1999)	
		<i>Heteroctenus abudi</i> (Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1987)	
		<i>Heteroctenus aridicola</i> (Teruel & Armas, 2012)	
		<i>Heteroctenus bonetti</i> (Armas, 1999)	
		<i>Heteroctenus garridoi</i> (Armas, 1974)	
		<i>Heteroctenus melloleitaoi</i> (Teruel & Armas, 2006)	
		<i>Microtityus barahona</i> Armas & Teruel, 2012	
		<i>Microtityus consuelo</i> Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1987	
		<i>Microtityus difficilis</i> Teruel & Armas, 2006	
		<i>Microtityus eustatia</i> Armas, 2018	
		<i>Microtityus fundorai</i> Armas, 1974	
		<i>Microtityus guantanamo</i> Armas, 1984	
		<i>Microtityus jaumei</i> Armas, 1974	
		<i>Microtityus lantiguai</i> Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1992	
		<i>Microtityus lourencoi</i> Armas & Teruel, 2012	
		<i>Microtityus paucidentatus</i> Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1992	
		<i>Microtityus prendinii</i> Armas & Teruel, 2012	
		<i>Microtityus reini</i> Armas & Teruel, 2012	
		<i>Microtityus solegladi</i> Armas & Teruel, 2012	
		<i>Microtityus trinitensis</i> Armas, 1974	
		<i>Microtityus virginiae</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Microtityus iviei</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Parvabsonus</i> Armas, 1974	Described as, and remains valid, a subgenus of <i>Microtityus</i> Kjellesvig-Waering, 1966.
		<i>Tityopsis</i> Armas, 1974	Originally described as a subgenus of <i>Tityus</i> C. L. Koch, 1836, elevated later to genus.

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

Order	Family	Taxon and authorship	Status
		<i>Tityopsis inaequalis</i> (Armas, 1974)	Originally described as a subspecies, elevated to species. Valid. (included as latter, not in count of subspecies in main text of the present work)
		<i>Tityus abudi</i> Armas, 1999	Valid.
		<i>Tityus altithronus</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Tityus anasilviae</i> Armas & Abud Antun, 2004	
		<i>Tityus bahoruco</i> Teruel & Armas, 2006	
		<i>Tityus ebanoverde</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Tityus elii</i> Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1992	
		<i>Tityus michelii</i> Armas, 1982	
		<i>Tityus neibae</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Tityus ottenwalderi</i> Armas, 1999	
		<i>Tityus portoplatensis</i> Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1992	
		<i>Tityus quisqueyanus</i> Armas, 1982	
		<i>Tityus rondonorum</i> Rojas-Runjaic & Armas, 2007	
		<i>Tityus septentrionalis</i> Armas & Abud Antun, 2004	
		<i>Tityus wayuu</i> Rojas-Runjaic & Armas, 2007	
	Diplocentridae	<i>Cazierius alayoni</i> Armas, 1999	Valid.
		<i>Cazierius chryseus</i> Teruel & Armas, 2006	
		<i>Cazierius garridoi</i> Armas, 2005	
		<i>Cazierius parvus</i> Armas, 1984	
		<i>Didymocentrus jaumei</i> Armas, 1976	Originally described as a subspecies, elevated to species. Valid. (included as latter, not in count of subspecies in main text of the present work)
		<i>Didymocentrus sanfelipensis</i> Armas, 1976	Valid.
		<i>Diplocentrus actun</i> Armas & Palacios-Vargas, 2003	
		<i>Diplocentrus bereai</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2004	
		<i>Diplocentrus chiapanensis</i> Beutelspacher & Armas, 2000	
		<i>Diplocentrus cozumel</i> Beutelspacher & Armas, 2000	
		<i>Diplocentrus formosus</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2003	
		<i>Diplocentrus jaca</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2000	
		<i>Diplocentrus lachua</i> Armas, Trujillo & Agreda, 2011	
		<i>Diplocentrus landelinoi</i> Trujillo & Armas, 2012	
		<i>Diplocentrus malinalco</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2003	
		<i>Diplocentrus melici</i> Armas, Martín-Frías & Berea, 2004	Junior synonym of <i>Diplocentrus coylei</i> Fritts & Sissom, 1996.
		<i>Diplocentrus montecristo</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2000	Valid.

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TABLE 1. (Continued)

Order	Family	Taxon and authorship	Status
		<i>Diplocentrus motagua</i> Armas & Trujillo, 2009	
		<i>Diplocentrus oxlajubaktun</i> Trujillo & Armas, 2012	
		<i>Diplocentrus roo</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2005	
		<i>Diplocentrus silanesi</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2000	
		<i>Diplocentrus sinaan</i> Armas & Martín-Frías, 2000	
		<i>Heteronebo bermudezi morenoi</i> (Armas, 1973)	Described as <i>H. morenoi</i> , downgraded to subspecies of <i>H. bermudezi</i> (Moreno, 1938)
		<i>Heteronebo cicero</i> Arma & Marcano Fondeur, 1987	
		<i>Heteronebo clareae</i> Armas, 2001	Valid.
		<i>Heteronebo dominicus</i> Armas, 1981	
		<i>Heteronebo monticola</i> (Armas, 1999)	
		<i>Heteronebo nibujon</i> Armas, 1984	
		<i>Heteronebo oviedo</i> (Armas, 1999)	
		<i>Heteronebo pumilus</i> Armas, 1981	
	Hormuridae	<i>Opisthacanthus brevicauda</i> Rojas-Runjaic, Borges & Armas, 2008	
	Euscorpiidae	<i>Plesiochactas vasquezi</i> Trujillo & Armas, 2012	
	Vaejovidae	<i>Konetontli acapulco</i> (Armas & Martín-Frías, 2001)	
		<i>Konetontli nayarit</i> (Armas & Martín-Frías, 2001)	
Solifugae	Ammotrechidae	<i>Ammotrecha enriquei</i> Armas & Teruel, 2005	Valid.
		<i>Ammotrechella elieri</i> Armas, 2012	
		<i>Ammotrechella hispaniolana</i> Armas & Alegre, 2002	
		<i>Ammotrechella jutisi</i> Armas & Teruel, 2005	
		<i>Ammotrechesta garcetei</i> Armas, 1993	
		<i>Ammotrechesta maesi</i> Armas, 1993	
		<i>Ammotrechesta tuzi</i> Armas, 2000	
		<i>Antillotrecha</i> Armas, 1994	
		<i>Antillotrecha fraterna</i> Armas, 1994	
		<i>Antillotrecha guama</i> Armas & Teruel, 2005	
		<i>Antillotrecha disjunctodens</i> Armas & Teruel, 2005	
		<i>Antillotrecha iviei</i> Armas, 1994	
		<i>Antillotrecha difficilis</i> Armas, 2012	
		<i>Eutreacha florezi</i> Villarreal-Blanco, Armas & Martínez, 2017	
Thelyphonida	Thelyphonidae	<i>Mastigoproctus ayalai</i> Viquez & Armas, 2007	Valid.
		<i>Mastigoproctus pelegri</i> Armas, 2000	
		<i>Mayacentrum</i> Viquez & Armas, 2006	
		<i>Mayacentrum guatemalae</i> Viquez & Armas, 2006	
		<i>Mayacentrum pijol</i> Viquez & Armas, 2006	
		<i>Ravilops</i> Viquez & Armas, 2005	
		<i>Ravilops wetherbee</i> (Armas, 2002)	
		<i>Valeriophonus</i> Viquez & Armas, 2005	



FIGURE 1. Scorpion species described by Luis F. de Armas *in vivo*. **A** *Alayotityus granma* Armas, 1984, **B** *Alayotityus nanus* Armas, 1973, **C** *Cazierius parvus* Armas, 1984, **D–E** *Centruroides bani* Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1987, **F** *Centruroides marcanoï* Armas, 1981, **G** *Didymocentrus jaumei* Armas 1976, **H** *Tityus elii* Armas & Marcano Fondeur, 1992, **I** *Microtityus solegladi*, Armas & Teruel 2012, **J** *Heteroctenus bonettii* (Armas, 1999), **K** *Tityopsis inaequalis* (Armas, 1974), **L** *Heteronebo monticola* (Armas, 1999). All photographs courtesy of František Kovařík (Czech Republic).

Zoogeography

The vast majority of Luis' contributions to zoogeography in the Arachnida relate to new and interesting distribution records for scorpions throughout the New World (*e.g.*, Armas 1976b, 1982c, 1999, 2001b, 2011b, 2017, 2020a), many of which were coauthored with current and former collaborators (*e.g.*, Armas & Maes 2000; Armas & Teruel 2016). Nonetheless, he has also published broad syntheses on Caribbean scorpion distribution in general (Armas 1982b, 1988). Other areas of strong contributions, particularly to interpreting biogeographical patterns, are his relevant publications on Amblypygi, many of which were coauthored with colleagues (*e.g.*, Armas 1999; Armas & Cuélla-Balleza 2018; Armas & Ramos 2020; Armas & Palomino-Cardenas 2023a). He has also clarified the type locality of a schizomid originally described from a heated biome in Germany (Armas & Moreno-González 2022), published important localities of ticks (see Acari), and collaborated with the present author on the analysis of Cuban citizen science data (Sherwood & Armas 2023c) and the distribution of scorpions within the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (Sherwood *et al.* 2024).

Teratology

Through examining such vast amounts of arachnid material for taxonomic and zoogeographic purposes, Luis frequently came upon specimens which had anomalies and/or were affected by parasites. The first of his papers on teratology was Armas (1977) and he occasionally found further instances which were typically mentioned in respective taxonomic revisions. This was summarized in his most recent coauthored manuscript in this area of study, coauthored with the present author (Sherwood & Armas 2023b).

Parasitology

Parasitology is a field in which Luis has published a handful of papers, mainly on the aforementioned arachnid orders (Armas 2003, 2008; Armas & Alayón García 1986; Armas *et al.* 2021; Viquez & Armas 2009) but also including his two most recent articles on the order Acari (Armas 2022b, 2023a, see below) which were published just recently. The earlier of these two works are technically also herpetological, as the mites are recorded on a bufoid host in Cuba.

Conservation

Luis has contributed towards the conservation of arachnids in Cuba through his involvement in several highly collaborative projects which resulted in books (see below), an article on a schizomid (Armas *et al.* 2017), and through evaluating the rates of endemism in Cuban arachnids (Armas *et al.* 2020).

Ecology

From early on in his career, Luis has conducted extensive fieldwork and has consequently observed much interesting behaviour and ecological interactions in Latin American arachnids. These have included predator-prey interactions (*e.g.*, Armas 1987, 2016, 2023b), trophic ecology of spiders (Armas & Alayón García 1987), the ecology of Cuban amblypygids with colleagues (Teruel *et al.* 2009), amongst other topics. Much of his ecological contributions can be seen in natural history notes (see other categories) which show that Luis is determined to share important observations promptly with the scientific community, a quality that strengthens his position as a multi-disciplinary thinker.

Natural history

Intrinsically linked with his ecological work, Luis has published more than one hundred natural history notes, most as sole author, but equally many (especially with younger collaborators) with coauthors. These include topics as broad as embryology of scorpions (Armas 1982a) and ricinulids (Armas 1976a), the diet of scorpions (*e.g.*, Armas 1975, see also Ecology section), and scorpions as stowaways (Sherwood & Armas 2023a).

Collections management

In relation to his taxonomic work, Luis has also authored several publications that are also relevant to collections management, namely his catalogues of scorpion type material in Cuba (Armas 1973, 1984b, 2006b, 2014) and the Montana State University scorpion collection (Armas 2005), and a curatorial note on type material in the Natural History Museum, London (Armas & Sherwood 2023).

Advances towards broad syntheses of arachnology and invertebrate zoology in Latin America

Luis' expertise in arachnology has also been evident in his output of academic books and book chapters. The first of these was, of course, a book dedicated to scorpions, published in La Habana (Armas 1986). This was followed shortly thereafter by another book, focused specifically on the scorpions of the Antilles Islands (Armas 1988). Thereafter, and as of 2024, a further 20 contributions in the form of book chapters were published. These included chapters covering arachnids broadly, particularly within his beloved Cuba (*e.g.*, Armas 1989, 2011a–b; Armas & Ávila Calvo 2014; Armas *et al.* 2017; Barba Díaz *et al.* 2017), but also reflecting his expeditions and interests in the scorpions of Mexico (Armas 1992, 2000a; Martín Frías & Armas 2001), and the Dominican Republic (Armas 2006a). The remaining chapters covered smaller arachnid orders across Latin America (Armas 2011; Viquez & Armas 2006a, 2006b) and chapters on invertebrates and biodiversity in general, once again demonstrating his broad interests and knowledge-base (Armas 2007a–b; Armas & González Alonso 2007a, 2007b; Chamizo Lara *et al.* 2012a, 2012b; Socarrás Rivero *et al.* 2013). Luis, along with lifetime colleague and friend since youth Giraldo

Alayón García, also authored a classical work on arachnid cave fauna (Armas & Alayón García 1984) and has contributed many articles to cave species (see bibliography of Pérez-González *et al.* 2025).

Acari

Whilst mites and ticks are arachnids, traditionally acarology is a separate discipline to arachnology in the modern sense, the latter only encompassing the other known orders. Nonetheless, Luis has also published on Acari. These range from distributional notes (de la Cruz & Armas 1992; Armas 2022c), to parasitology in both humans (Armas 2023a) and other animals (Armas 2022b, 2023c; Armas & Hernández Peraza 2022; García-Padrón & Armas 2022). Most of this work is focused on Cuba, and thus has significant implications for improving knowledge for local medical and veterinary professionals.

Sociological notes on arachnids in modern and historical societies

A handful of works by Luis have focused on the human interpretation of arachnids, including contemporary Cuba (Armas 2001a, 2011c) and the Dominican Republic (Armas & Abud Antun 2000). Such works have explored topics as diverse as tattoo trends in young Cuban adults (scorpions are very popular!) and the importance of scorpions within traditional knowledge systems.

Contributions to herpetology

Between the years 1987 to 2020, Luis authored and coauthored a total of 22 herpetological articles, almost entirely focused on the Cuban fauna. These included natural history notes on predator-prey interactions, distribution, and behaviour of local snakes, lizards, and assorted amphibians; in later years, his herpetological research has had an increasing focus on the behaviour of anoles near his house in San Antonio de los Baños, Artemisa (Armas, 2020b). The author recalls fondly the photographs of anoles *in situ* that Luis sent to her during the pandemic to keep spirits high during the 2020 national lockdowns. Another steady stream of articles appeared between 2021 and 2022 (*e.g.*, Armas 2021a, 2022d–g; Armas & Iturriaga 2021; Armas & Hernandez-Peraza 2022), mostly focused on providing detailed behavioural and life history data for Cuban anoles. A further example of an overlap of categories is his latest work on predator-prey interactions between arachnids and reptiles, coauthored with the late Rolando Teruel, and Teruel's wife Sheyla Yong (Armas *et al.* 2022), and his interest in ticks and parasitology (see above).

Contributions to entomology

Luis can also lay claim to being an entomologist and insect taxonomist (Table 2). In addition to describing a single species of cricket in the family Gryllidae as sole author, Luis was a coauthor of 7 species of coleopteran from the Caribbean, authored in collaboration with a colleague (Garrido & Armas 2012). Additionally, he has published many works on the distribution, natural history, and predator-prey interactions (usually with arachnids and lizards) of the orders Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Odonata, and Lepidoptera (*e.g.*, Armas 2000b, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2021a–c, 2023d; Ramos & Hernández 2001). Host plant records of the latter order have also been forthcoming (*e.g.*, Armas & Núñez 2005, 2011). More recently, a collaboration with Jorge Menderos López has resulted in several notes on the distribution of Cuban Diptera (*i.e.*, Menderos López & Armas 2022a–b).

Contributions to carcinology

Luis F. de Armas is also a noted taxonomist of isopods. As sole author and with coauthors, he has described 21 taxa. This includes a subfamily, 2 genera, and 18 species, all of which are valid (Table 2). Luis has also published notes on the natural history, distribution, and conservation of isopods, particularly in his native Cuba (Armas 2020c; Armas *et al.* 2009; Rodríguez-Cabrera & Armas 2016).

TABLE 2. Other invertebrates described by Luis F. de Armas, current as of November 2024.

Class	Order	Family	Taxon and authorship	Status		
Insecta	Coleoptera	Tenebrionidae	<i>Strongylium acraeum</i> Garrido & Armas, 2012	Valid.		
			<i>Strongylium elongatum</i> Garrido & Armas, 2012			
			<i>Strongylium haetianum</i> Garrido & Armas, 2012			
			<i>Strongylium pumilum</i> Garrido & Armas, 2012			
			<i>Strongylium quisqueyanum</i> Garrido & Armas, 2012			
			<i>Strongylium verde</i> Garrido & Armas, 2012			
			<i>Strongylium woodruffi</i> Garrido & Armas, 2012			
	Orthoptera	Gryllidae	<i>Cubacophus sheylae</i> Armas, 2014	Valid.		
Crustacea	Isopoda	Armadillidae	<i>Matazonellus</i> Juarrero de Varona & Armas, 1997	Valid		
			<i>Matazonellus eglisi</i> Juarrero de Varona & Armas, 1997			
			<i>Matazonellus turquinensis</i> Juarrero de Varona & Armas, 1997			
		Delatorreidae	Cuzcodinellinae	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999	Described, and valid as, a subgenus of <i>Pseudarmadillo</i> Saussure, 1857.	
			<i>Cuzcodinella</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		
			<i>Cuzcodinella oryx</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		
			<i>Cuzcodinella alejandroi</i>	Armas & Rodríguez-Cabrera, 2017		
			<i>Potreriillo</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		
			<i>Pseudarmadillo agramontinus</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		Valid.
			<i>Pseudarmadillo assoi</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		
			<i>Pseudarmadillo auritus</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		
			<i>Pseudarmadillo bidentatus</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		
			<i>Pseudarmadillo elegans</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		
			<i>Pseudarmadillo holguinensis</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999		
			<i>Pseudarmadillo inornatus</i>	Rodríguez-Cabrera & Armas, 2017		
<i>Pseudarmadillo jaumei</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999					
<i>Pseudarmadillo maiteae</i>	Juarrero de Varona & Armas, 2003					
<i>Pseudarmadillo mitratus</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999					
<i>Pseudarmadillo nanus</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999					
<i>Pseudarmadillo spinosus</i>	Armas & Juarrero de Varona, 1999					
<i>Pseudarmadillo vanxicklei</i>	Juarrero de Varona & Armas, 2003					

Contributions to myriapodology

Recently, Luis has also contributed towards knowledge of myriapods through two natural history articles focusing on predator-prey interactions of Latin American centipedes (Armas 2021a; Armas *et al.* 2022) and one review of depictions of scolopendromorphs in prehistorical Colombia (Armas 2022a). This demonstrates once again that his interests can freely branch into new disciplines of zoology and interact with his other secondary interests such as herpetology.

Discussion

Luis F. de Armas is a world-renowned arachnologist, but also an experienced herpetologist, entomologist, carcinologist, and myriapodologist (*e.g.*, Fig. 2). One may wonder how a colleague can be an indefatigable polymath during the era of academic ‘specialisation’ The answer to this can be found by asking any researcher who



FIGURE 2. Examples of taxonomic figures (A–D), *in situ* photographs (H–I), and book covers (E–G) of works by Luis F. de Armas. **A** three drawings of a scorpion chela (adapted from Armas & Martín-Frías 2001), **B** two photographs of an amblypygid pedipalp (adapted from Armas & Palomino-Cardenas 2023b), **C** photographs of the flagellum (top left) and three aspects of the appendages of a schizomid (adapted from Armas & Palacios Vargas 2006), **D** details of the armature of a woodlouse (adapted from Armas & Rodríguez Cabrera, 2016), **E** photograph of the front cover of Armas (1988), **F** photograph of the front cover of Armas (1986), **G** photograph of the front cover of a recent journal article (Armas & Cubas-Rodríguez 2023), **H** treefrog and anole predator-prey interaction (adapted from Armas & Hernández Peraza 2022), **I** nectivory in a Green Anole (adapted from Armas 2020d).

knows and works with Luis. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the natural world has been an ever-present force in his life and has been coupled with his admirable work ethic and, above all, his love of collaborating with other people. Through his knowledge and collaborative spirit, he has achieved what many of us have not, a career surpassing now half a century which has produced a consistent flow of more than 500 publications (Pérez-González *et al.* 2025). The number continues to rise, as Luis remains active in research into his eighth decade. We can only hope this rings true for many years to come.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the editor Abel Pérez-González (Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Bernardino Rivadavia) for his kind invitation to write this article. Thanks are also extended to Giraldo Alayón García (Fundación Ariguanabo) and the anonymous reviewers for their comments which improved the final manuscript. Last but not least, I thank Luis himself for his years of correspondence and friendship, and for being a steadfast supporter of my own career.

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