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ARTÍCULO:

***Thelyphonellus venezolanus* n. sp., a new species of vinegaroons (Arachnida: Uropygi: Thelyphonida)**

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Thelyphonellus venezolanus n. sp., a new species of vinegaroons (Arachnida: Uropygi: Thelyphonida)

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Abstract:

A new species of the genus *Thelyphonellus* is described. So far, two species of *Thelyphonellus* are known: *Th. amazonicus* (Butler, 1872) and *Th. ruschii* (Weygoldt, 1979). A third species, *Th. wetherbeei* (Armas), 2002 was transferred to another genus (*Ravilops*) (Víquez & Armas, 2005). The new species perfectly fits the description of the genus given by Weygoldt (1979). It has more prominent teeth at the coxae of the pedipalps and lacks 'ommatidia' and whip organs entirely. The pedipalpal tibiae are inflated in the male. The male genital atrium is shorter and wider than in the other species. The female remains known.

Key words: Arachnida, Uropygi, Venezuela, new species.
Taxonomy: *Thelyphonellus venezolanus* n. sp.

Thelyphonellus venezolanus n. sp., nueva especie de vinagrillo (Arachnida: Uropygi: Thelyphonida)

Resumen:

Se describe una nueva especie del género *Thelyphonellus*. Durante largo tiempo, tan sólo se conocían dos especies de *Thelyphonellus*: *Th. amazonicus* (Butler, 1872) y *Th. ruschii* Weygoldt, 1979. Una tercera especie, *Th. Wetherbeei* (Armas) fue transferida a otro género (*Ravilops*) (Víquez & Armas, 2005). La nueva especie encaja perfectamente en la descripción del género dada por Weygoldt (1979). Posee dientes más prominentes en las coxas de los pedipalpos y faltan completamente 'ommatidia' y órganos 'whip'. Las tibias de los pedipalpos están hinchados en el macho. El atrium genital del macho es más corto y más ancho que en otras especies. La hembra se desconoce.

Palabras clave: Arachnida, Uropygi, Venezuela, nueva especie.
Taxonomía: *Thelyphonellus venezolanus* n. sp.

Introduction

Three species of the genus *Thelyphonellus* are known: *Thelyphonellus amazonicus* (Butler, 1872), *Thelyphonellus ruschii* Weygoldt, 1979 and *Thelyphonellus vanegasae* Giupponi & Vasconcelos, 2007, (Butler, 1872; Weygoldt, 1979; Giupponi & Vasconcelos, 2007). An additional species was transfered in another genus: *Ravilops wetherbeei* (Armas, 2002) (Víquez & Armas, 2005). A new species of this genus is described from Venezuela.

Material and Methods

The holotype and the paratype are deposited in the Zoological Museum of Humboldt University Berlin (ZMB). In order to study the genitalia, the first two sternites (II-III) were removed and transferred into 10% KOH-solution for about 60'.

Results

Taxonomy

Family Thelyphonidae
Type species: *Thelyphonellus amazonicus* (Butler, 1872)

***Thelyphonellus venezolanus* n. sp.**

TYPE MATERIAL. Venezuela, San Isidro, province Bolivar, km 88 road to Guiana Upland (southern periphery of San Isidoro). 1 ♂ (holotype), 1 subadult ♂ (paratype), leg. V. Šejna III. 2008.

DIAGNOSIS. Larger *Thelyphonellus*-species with acute epistom and enlarged pedipalps. Coxa of the pedipalps with acute spines.

DESCRIPTION. Margin of the peltidium forms an acute peristom (Fig. 1).
Peltidium with pronounced transversal grooves (Fig. 2) and two longitudinal indentations at the proximal side of the prosoma, region of the lateral eyes equally deepened. Three light lateral eyes enclose two smaller, dark eyes (Fig. 3). As the former apparently lack a tapetum, they are interpreted as diurnal eyes.

HOLOTYPE: coxa of pedipalps at median side supplied with three short spines, followed by large one (right side damaged) and a short one (Fig. 2, 4). Ventrad a large spine (Fig. 1). Pedipalpal patellar apophysis anterior with three small teeth, on posterior side none (Fig. 4), fewsensory hairs. Male pedipalpus, particularly tibia, inflated (Fig. 4).
Tibia shorter than patella. At tibial apophysis mediad many and at tibia proximad a series of sensory hairs (Fig. 4). Tergites of the opisthosoma II, III entirely divided, IV divided initially, the following tergites undivided (Fig. 1).
No 'ommatidia' and no whip organs. Genital attachment of ♂ broader and shorter than in both other species (Fig. 5).

PARATYPE: at left coxa of pedipalp same as holotype, but at right coxa with one small spine and a big one. Tergites II and III divided entirely, but tergites IV and V divided initially.

MEASUREMENTS: Length of peltidium 11 mm (4.5 wide). Pedipalp: trochanter (on dorsal side) 3.12 mm, femur 6.33 mm, patella 4.66 mm, tibia 4.24 mm. 1st leg (tactile leg): femur 5.80 mm, patella 9.50 mm, tibia 9.00 mm. 2nd leg: femur 4.62 mm, patella 3.36 mm, tibia 2.62 mm. 3rd leg: 5.00 mm, patella 2.00 mm, tibia 2.50 mm. 4th leg: femur 6.25 mm, patella 2.66 mm, tibia 5.00 mm (always largest distance measured). Total length of holotype: 28 mm.
Colour in ethanol: Dark brown, legs lighter, juvenile paratype has apparently moulted recently, yellowish.

DIFFERENCES TO OTHER SPECIES. *Thelyphonellus amazonius* and *Th. ruschii* are smaller. *Th. vanegasae* is also a male, but differs in following characters: spines on pedipalpal coxa are equally long, the pedipalpal patellar apophysis is different, the genital attachment is broader and the species has ommatoids and whip organs.

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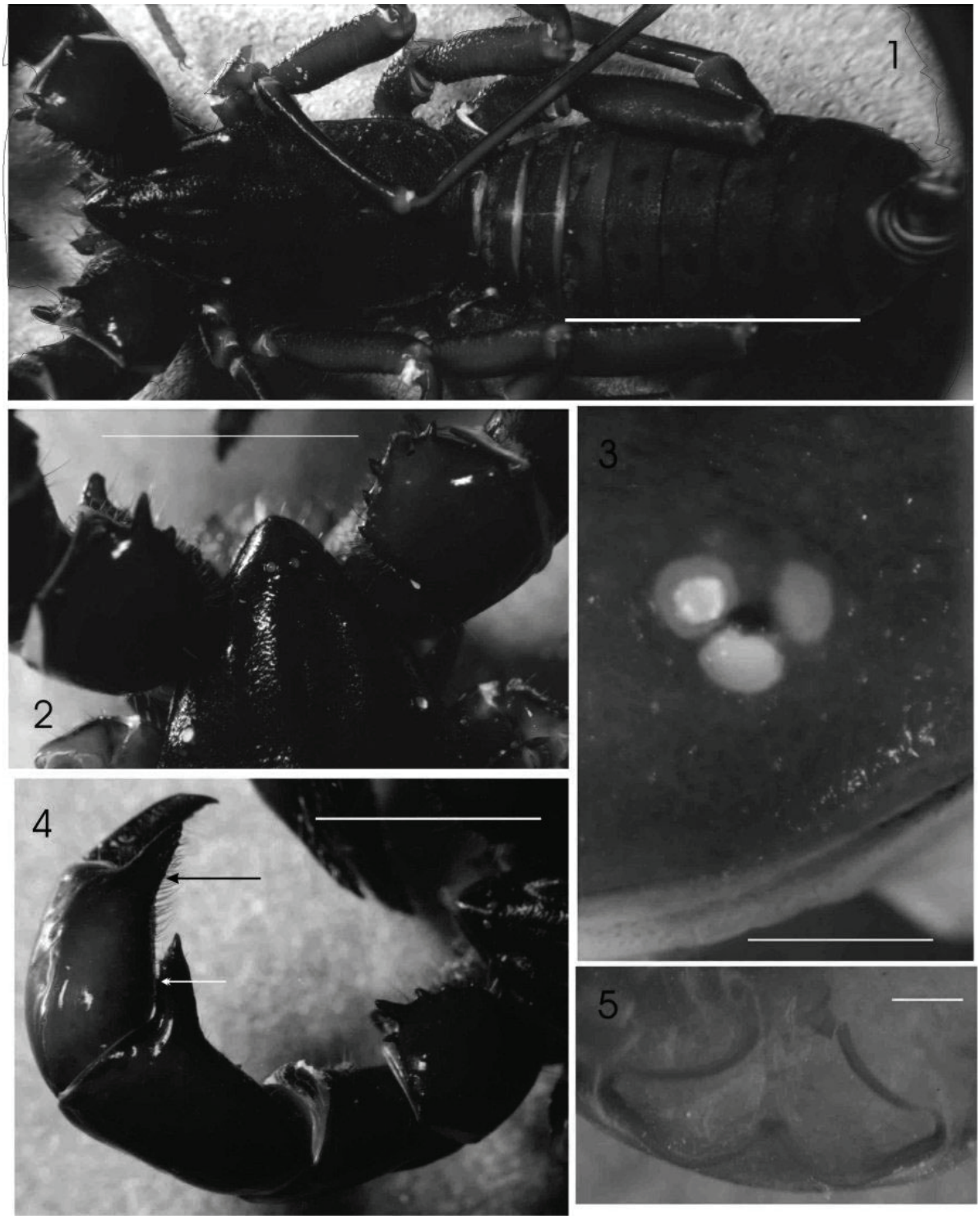
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Figures 1-5. 1. Total view of *Thelyphonellus venezolanus*. Scale: 10 mm. **2.** Anterior prosoma with main and lateral eyes, sculptures on the peltidium. Scale: 4,5 mm. **3.** Lateral eyes: Three nocturnal eyes surround three smaller diurnal eyes. (According to better visibility because of lighter cuticle, the paratype was selected). Scale: 1 mm. **4.** Left pedipalp. Arrow: sensory hairs at tibial apophysis and tibia. Double arrow: three teeth distally at patellar apophysis. Scale: 5 mm. **5.** Dorsal view of genital atrium. Scale: 0,5 mm.