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RICHNESS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ARANEIDAE (ARANEAE) FROM IBERÁ MARSHLANDS, CORRIENTES, ARGENTINA

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Abstract: Iberá is among the most important wetland systems in the Neotropics. It covers three phytogeographic provinces, according to Carnevali: Chaco, Espinal and Paranaense. Araneidae is one of the most diverse spider families in the world. Here we analyse the abundance and richness of Araneidae of the Iberá wetland using ten different locations, considering different environments such as savanna, woodlands, pirizal and *Eucaliptus* and *Pinus* plantations, covering the three phytogeographic provinces. We found 1296 individuals, belonging to 22 genera and 82 species. The most abundant spider was *Metazygia gregalis*, with 143 individuals, and *Eustala* showed the highest richness, with 13 species. Paranaense province had the highest species richness. 12 new records are given for Argentina and 15 for Corrientes. Being such a rich area, we suggest conservation management in the reserve should aim at promoting natural spatial heterogeneity.
Key words: Araneae, orb weaver spider, species inventory, new records, wetland, Argentina, Corrientes.

Richness and distribution of Araneidae (Araneae) in the Iberá Marshlands, Corrientes, Argentina
Resumen: El Iberá está entre los sistemas de humedales más importantes del Neotrópico. Abarca tres provincias fitogeográficas, según Carnevali: Chaco, Espinal y Paranaense. Araneidae está entre las familias de arañas más diversas del mundo. Aquí analizamos la abundancia y riqueza de Araneidae de los Esteros del Iberá usando diez localidades diferentes, considerando las diferencias de ambientes como sabana, bosque, pirizal, y plantaciones de *Eucaliptus* y *Pinus*, cubriendo las tres provincias fitogeográficas. Se recolectaron 1296 individuos distribuidos en 22 géneros y 82 especies. La más abundante fue *Metazygia gregalis*, con 143 individuos; *Eustala* mostró la mayor riqueza, con 13 especies. La provincia Paranaense mostró la riqueza mayor. Se aportan 12 nuevos registros para Argentina y 15 para la Corrientes. Siendo un área tan rica, sugerimos que la gestión tienda a la conservación de los Esteros del Iberá y realzando la promoción de la heterogeneidad espacial natural.
Palabras clave: Araneae, araña orbicular, inventario de especies, nuevos registros, humedal, Argentina, Corrientes.

Introduction

Iberá is one of the largest and most important wetland systems in the Neotropic region (Neiff & Poi de Neiff, 2006). It was declare a State reserve in 1983 and Ramsar site in January 2002. The Iberá marshlands is preserve almost unaltered comparing to other wetlands in the Neotropic areas, because of the low human intervention and its wide extension (Poi and Galassi, 2013).

Araneidae Clerck, 1757 is one of the most diverse families of spiders, with 175 genera and 3101 species around the world (World Spider Catalog, 2019). In Argentina, there are 35 genera with 207 species of Araneidae known to date (Catálogo de Arañas de Argentina, 2019), making it the third most diverse family after Salticidae Blackwall, 1841 and Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859 (World Spider Catalog, 2019).

While there is some background about ecological investigation in Latin American tropical forests, such as central and Peruvian Amazonia and different forests in Colombia (Höfer *et al.,* 1990; Silva & Coddington, 1996; Flórez, 2000), contributions in recent years to knowledge of spider communities in the Neotropic (Avalos *et al*., 2006, 2007, 2009, 2013; Rubio *et al.,* 2008; Rubio & Moreno, 2010; Escobar *et al.,* 2012), and despite being considered one of the most abundant entomophagous group in nature (Nyffeler *et al.,* 1994), the information we currently have is not enough and further specific investigation is necessary to know, at least initially, the abundance, richness and distribution of the species.

Araneidae includes orb weaver spiders, being the web the most distinctive feature of the family (Simon, 1890). As all spiders, this family acts in the regulation of insect populations and has a great acceptance in ecological studies as environmental quality indicators (Clausen, 1986; Maelfait *et al.,* 1990). Further specific investigation is necessary to obtain the definite abundance, diversity and distribution of species, such as that of the present work.

Material and methods

Study Site

The Iberá marshlands are located north – center of Corrientes province, with approximately 13.000 km^2. They constitute a contact point between three large phytogeographical provinces: Chaco, Paranaense and Espinal (Carnevali, 1994). They characterize by having a humid subtropical climate, with low frost frequency and 1.700 – 1.800 mm of annual pluvial volume (Neiff & Poi de Neiff, 2006).

Different environmental units where selected to take samples: woodland, savannas, "pirizales" (grasses of Cyperaceae), *Eucalyptus grandis* W. Hill ex Maiden and *Pinus elliottii*. plantation located around the wetlands. These units exhibit some kind of differentiation according to the phytogeographical region they are located. According to Cabrera 1971, the Paranaense province (Par), particularly Campos district, the one located within the boundaries of the wetlands, is characterized by *Aristida jubata* (Arechav.) Herter and *Andropogon lateralis* Nees savannas. Concerning the woodlands, the vegetation is polymorphous, although with predominance of plants like *Prosopis* sp. and *Acasia* sp., among others. In the oriental or humid Chaco, inside the great Chaco

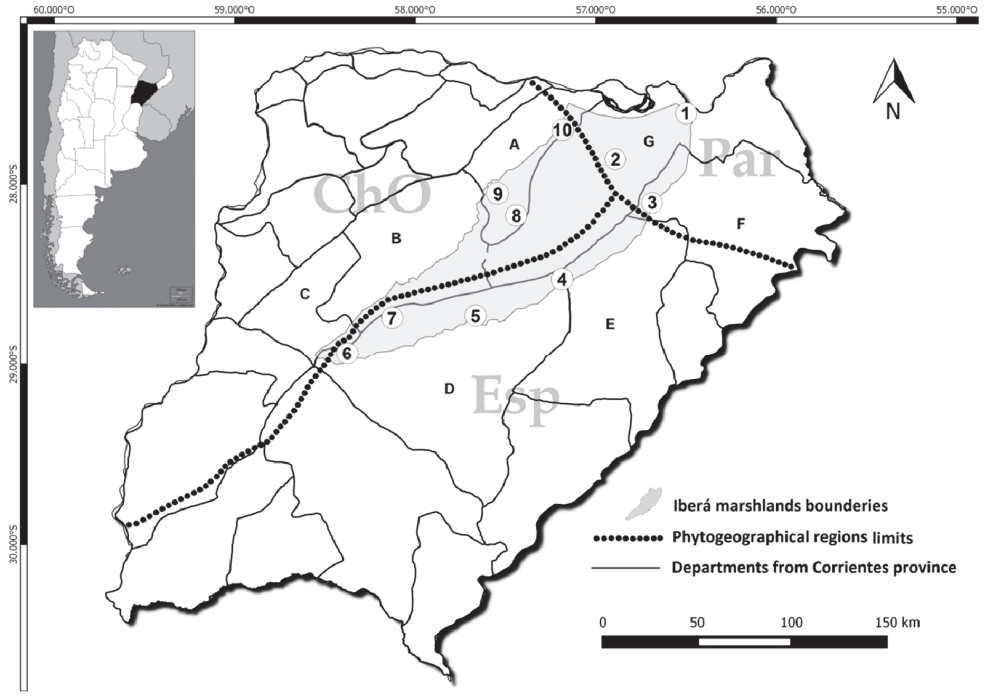


Fig .1: Map of phytogeographical regions covering Corrientes province, Argentina: **ChO.** Humid Chaco district, Chaco province. **Par.** Los Campos district, Paranaense province. **Esp.** Ñandubay district, Espinal province. Departments of the Corrientes province that includes the Iberá marshlands: **A.** San Miguel. **B.** Concepción. **C.** San Roque. **D.** Mercedes. **E.** San Martín. **F.** Santo Tomé. **G.** Ituzaingó. Representation of analyzed sampling points: **1.** Establecimiento Puerto Valle, Ituzaingó department. **2.** Reserva Cambyretá, Ituzaingó department. **3.** Reserva Paraje Galarza, Santo Tomé department. **4.** Centro de interpretación de Colonia Carlos Pellegrini, San Martín department. **5.** Estancia El Rincón, Mercedes department. **6.** Estancia Capitá Mini, Mercedes department. **7.** Reserva Itatí, Mercedes department. **8.** Reserva San Nicolás, San Miguel department. **9.** Colonia Montaña, San Miguel department. **10.** Estancia San Juan Poriajú, Loreto, San Miguel department.

province (ChH), the native community of the woodland is composed of red quebracho (*Schinopsis balansae* Engl.) and white quebracho trees (*Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco* Schltdl.). Another important arboreal species are the guayacan (*Caesalpinia paraguariensis* (D.Parodi) Burkart) and the urunday (*Myracrodruon balansae (Engl.) Santin*). The herbaceous stratum stands out by numerous thorny leaves of Bromeliaceae such as *Bromelia serra* Griseb. and grasses like *Leptochloe virgata* (L.) P.Beauv., *Melica argyrea* Hack., *Paspalum inaequivalve* Raddi, *Paspalum unispicatum* (Scribn. & Merr.). In the Espinal province (Esp), the dominant vegetation is a xerophilous forest, resembling the Chaco provinces woodland, with less altitude. The studied district was Ñandubay with a native community composed of ñandubay (*Prosopis affinis* Spreng.) and algarrobo trees (*Prosopis nigra* (Griseb.) Hieron.); another abundant tree is the espinillo (*Vachellia caven* (Molina) Seigler & Ebinger). The herbaceous stratum is rich in grasses like *Stipa* sp. and *Paspalum* sp. There are also communities of yatay palm tree (*Butia yatay* (Mart.) Becc.) and, on the dunes, paja colorada (*Andropogon lateralis* Nees). Chavez 2005 describes the higher parts of the marshlands where a specific Ciperaceae species (*Cyperus giganteus* Vahl) composes the pirizal.

This study took place in ten different localities around Iberá marshlands: 1) Establecimiento Puerto Valle (27º36´ South, 56º26´West) and 2) Reserva Cambyretá (27º52´South, 56º52´West) in Ituzaingó department; 3) Reserva Paraje Galarza (28º6´South, 56º41´West), in Santo Tomé department; 4) Centro de Interpretación de Colonia Carlos Pellegrini (28º32´South, 57º11´West), in San Martín department; 5) Estancia El Rincón (28º44´South, 57º40´ West), 6) Capitá Mini (28º56´South, 58º22´West) and 7) Reserva Itatí (28º44´ South, 58º7´West) located in Mercedes department; 8) Reserva San Nicolás (28º10´South, 57º26´ West), 9) Colonia Montaña (28º3´South, 57º32´West) and 10) Estancia San Juan Poriajú (27º41´South, 57º11´West), in Loreto, San Miguel department (Figure 1).

Data collection

Three techniques were used to collect spiders by simple random sampling: foliage beating, direct capture (at day and night), and garden vacuum (G-Vac).

Foliage beating was performed in bushes and in the low portion of trees; the samples were collected on a 2.50 m^2 white cloth. Three collectors performed the detection of nocturnal spiders located in the foliage and vegetation of different environments using headlamps for one hour. Aspirates were performed at established sites in grassland and pirizal, using a modified garden vacuum (Mod. 220 V-AR). All samples were labeled according to the technique and date. All spiders were preserved in ethanol 70%.

The samples were taken in different campaigns during the years 2012 to 2015. In addition, a review of existing specimens in the CARTROUNNE spider collection, present in the Arthropod Biology laboratory, was made as well.

Data analysis

The samples were processed in the Arthropods laboratory (FaCENA-UNNE). Araneidae spiders were separated and identified to genus and/or species with the following available keys: Glueck (1994), Traw (1995) and Levi (1977, 1980, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1991a, b, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997,

1999, 2001, 2004). All data were classified by environment and date of capture, and introduced in electronic spreadsheets for further analysis. To get a correct determination of the spiders, the juveniles were excluded, because of the doubtful determination without the presence of reproductive structures.

The total number of specimens collected according to genus, species, development status and sex was recorded. All material was incorporated into the CARTROUNNE: collection of Cátedra de Biología de los Artrópodos.

Results and DISCUSSION

1296 specimens were collected, 22 genera and 82species, with n = 1031 females (79.6% of total sampled) and males n = 265 (20.4%). (Annex). 13% of the genera and 3% of species registered worldwide for the family, respectively (World Spider Catalog 2019). It also represents 63% of the genera and 40% species mentioned for Argentina (Catálogo de Arañas de Argentina, 2019), and here 15 new records are added for Corrientes province and 13 for Argentina. This is consistent with the concept of high diversity of spiders and probable endemism that has been documented for this province regarding to the country (Rubio *et al*., 2018).

According to sampled units in Paranaense phytogeographic area, establecimiento Puerto Valle obtained n = 132 (10.2% of the total spiders), Cambyretá n = 273 (21.1%) and Reserva Paraje Galarza n = 155 (12%). In the humid Chaco, San Juan Poriajú got n = 131 (10.1%), Reserva San Nicolás n = 209 (16.1%) and Colonia Montaña n = 84 (6.5%). Concerning the Espinal province, the centro de interpretación Colonia Carlos Pellegrini reached n = 196 (15.1%), estancia El Rincón n = 26 (2%), Reserva Itatí n = 40 (3.1%) and Capitá Miní n = 50 (3.9% of collected spiders).

The most frequent specie was *Metazygia gregalis* (n = 143), followed by *Larinia minor* (n = 119) and *Metazygia corumba* (n = 113), which is new for the region.

The genera with the highest species number were *Eustala* sp. (13 spp) and *Alpaida* sp. (11 spp).The genera with just one species were: *Acacesia,* with *A. tenella*, which is new record for Argentina, being found only in Capitá Miní; *Actinosoma pentacanthum* was collected on aquatic vegetation in Reserva Paraje Galarza and Colonia Carlos Pellegrini; *Gasteracantha* presented only one species in different woodlands pointing out the specificity to that environment. Genus *Kaira* only presented *K. gibberosa* in a woodland in Reserva Paraje Galarza; a male of *Mastophora reimoseri* was collected in a grassland in Colonia Carlos Pellegrini; the only species of *Neoscona* found, *N. moreli*, it is among the most widespread, observed in six localities, always in grasslands. *Pronous tuberculifer* has a unique characteristic, being found in the low portion of the woodland, not higher than a meter. Only one species of *Wagneriana, W. transitoria*, was found in establecimiento Puerto Valle, with the particularity that it was only seen in a *Pinus* plantation.

Spiders from *Aculepeira* genus were found in four of the ten sites. Although *A. vittata* was seen in a pirizal, the other two mentioned species were found in different woodlands, so it would be correct to say that is a nonspecific environment genus.

Alpaida was one of the most widespread and rich genus, with eleven species found in all kind of environments, although some had some preferences, such as *A. venilliae* for grasslands.

Araneus genus is characterized by having a high preference for wooded areas according to our observation. This statement is supported by results in this study; even though there are *Araneus* specimens from *Eucaliptus* plantation and grasslands, the vast majority were collected in woodland.

Argiope genus had a high occupancy. It has been found in the majority of analyzed places with the exception of estancia El Rincón and Reserva Itatí. Species of this genus were found in diverse environments, such as grasslands, woodland, *Pinus* and *Eucaliptus* plantation. Two species are mentioned: *A. argentata*, in five different places, and *A. trifasciata* in seven and is considered one of the most widespread species.

Of the four *Cyclosa* species found, none was seen in grasslands, this could mean that are species typical to higher strata. The genus was found in two localities.

Eustala is the richest genus (13 species), and *E. guttata* is among the most widespread. The new records of the genus are mostly for Argentina.

According to our results, genus *Larinia* is characterized by preferring grasslands (the four species were found in such habitat). In addition, it was a very well represented genus in the Iberá.

All *Mangora* were collected in woodlands and *Pinus* plantation, suggesting is a genus found in middle-high strata. All species were found in just three places: establecimiento Puerto Valle and Colonia Carlos Pellegrini.

Metazygia is a very well represented genus around the Iberá marshland. It was found in almost all localities, containing two of the most widely distributed species: *M. voluptifica* and *M. gregalis*, collected the last one in seven sampled points, and being the most abundant (n = 143). All species were found in different environments, suggesting absence of preference for one in particular. Four of the seven species found are new records for Argentina.

Metepeira, appeared in woodlands and eucalyptus plantation, being easy to observe the preference of the genus for higher strata.

The five species of *Micrathena* collected were found in five of ten sites. Except *M. furcata* in San Nicolas, all species were found in woodlands, demonstrating a high preference for woodlands, particularly the mid – high stratum.

Ocrepeira is a well-represented genus among the Iberá marshland, since it was found in eight of ten sampled places. There was no environment preference, according to results.

Parawixia is a genus with a mid to high stratum preference, being found in forests, *Eucaliptus* and *Pinus* plantation, although there have been specimens found in grasslands. It is a widely distributed genus, which appeared in most localities. It is worth mentioning that the conclusions mentioned above are related to findings made in the Iberá marshland and not at all specific to each species, which could vary in other areas or environment.

The richness verified in the woodland, related to grasslands, coincides with previous studies, showing there is a correlation between the structural complexity of the habitat and the diversity of species (Uetz, 1991).

In the Iberá macrosystem, Avalos *et al.* (2009) and Rubio and Moreno (2010) described the ecological diversity of spider in general and orb weaver spiders respectively. Thus, the present work constitutes the first study of richness and abundance of Araneidae family in the Iberá wetlands, on which the different sampling sites represents the three phytogeographic provinces mentioned by Cabrera and Willink

(1980), making this study much more representative and complementary, and may help in future conservation measures in the region.

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ANNEX. Species found around Iberá marshland and mention of new records for Argentina (*) according to the last actualization from the World Spider Catalog and all papers mentioning the region, and Corrientes Province (**) according to records. PV: Establecimiento Puerto Valle. RC: Reserva Cambyretá. RPG: Reserva Paraje Galarza. CIP: Centro de Interpretación de Colonia Carlos Pellegrini. EER: Estancia El Rincón. ECM: Estancia Capitá Mini. RI: Reserva Itatí. RSN: Reserva San Nicolás. CM: Colonia Montaña. ESP: Estancia San Juan Poriajú.

Acacesia

1. ***A. tenella* (L. Koch, 1871). ECM.** Grassland. 06.III.2014. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 6682).

Actinosoma

2. ***A. pentacanthum* (Walckenaer, 1841). CIP.** Aquatic vegetation. 03.IV.2008. 1♀. (Nº 6686). 1♀. 21.XII.2014. 1♂.2♀. (Nº 6688). **RPG.** Aquatic vegetation. 06.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº 6687).

Aculepeira

3. ****A. albovittata* (Mello-Leitão, 1941). RI.** Forest. 14.XII.2013. 2♀. (Nº 6780).
4. ***A. travassosi* (Soares and Camargo, 1948). RI.** Forest. 14.XII. 2013. 3♀. (Nº 6779). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7147). 1♀. (Nº 7157). 1♀. (Nº 7185).
5. ****A. vittata* (Gerschman and Schiapelli, 1948). RPG.** Pirizal. 23. XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 6687).

Alpaida

6. ****A. amambay* Levi, 1988. PV.** Forest. 24.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº 7039). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7171).
7. ***A. bicornuta* (Taczanowski, 1878). RPG.** Forest. 23.XI.2012. 1♂. (Nº 7073). **ECM.** Forest. 06.III.2014. 1♂. (Nº 7055). **RC.** Forest. 07.XI. 2013. 1♀. (Nº 7068).
8. ****A. carminea* (Taczanowski, 1878). ESP.** Grassland. 16.III. 2003. 1♂. (Nº 7070).
9. ***A. gallardoi* Levi, 1988. CIP.** Forest. 20.XII.2004. 1♀. (Nº 7058). 10.XII.2004. 1♀. (Nº 7069). Grassland. 06.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº 7043). 20.XII.2004. 2♀. (Nº 7076). **RPG.** Forest. 04.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº 7048). **PV.** *P. elliottii* plantation. 21.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº 7065). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7146).
10. ****A. itauba* Levi, 1988. RC.** Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº 7064).
11. ***A. leucogramma* (White, 1841). PV.** Grassland. 24.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº 7079). *E.grandis* plantation. 21.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº 7077). **RC.** Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7036).
12. ***A. nonoai* Levi, 1988. CM.** *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♀. (Nº 7045).
13. ***A. quadrilorata* (Simon, 1897). ESP.** Grassland. 16.VI.2005. 1♀. (Nº 7049). 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7135).
14. ****A. rubellula* (Keyserling, 1892). CIP.** Forest. 30.VIII.2006. 1♂. (Nº 7056).
15. ***A. truncata* (Keyserling, 1865). RPG.** Forest. 28.IV.2005. 1♀. (Nº 7033). 23.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 7075). **PV.** *P. elliottii* plantation. 21.III.2005. 1♀. (Nº 7060). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7183).
16. ***A. veniliae* (Keyserling, 1865). CIP.** Grassland. 20.XII.2004. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 7041). 2♂ 9♀. (Nº 7071). 28.IV.2005. 2♀. (Nº 7050). 21.IX. 2004. 4♂ 8♀. (Nº 7052). **RPG.** Grassland. 03.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº 7066). **ECM.** Forest. 06.III.2014. 5♀. (Nº 7061). Grassland. 2♂ 14♀. (Nº 70 74). **ESP.** Grassland. 28.XII.2013. 2♀. (Nº 7121). 1♀. (Nº 7167). **RC.** Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 7031). 4♂ 8♀. (Nº 7053). 2♀. (Nº 7063). 3♂ 6♀. (Nº 7072). **CM.** Grassland. 06.XI.2014. 1♂ 5♀. (Nº 7054).

Araneus

17. ***A. aurantiifemuris* (Mello-Leitão, 1942). ECM.** Forest. 06.III. 2014. 1♂. (Nº 7003).
18. ****A. cuiaba* Levi, 1991. ESP.** Grassland. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 8556).
19. ***A. guttatus* (Keyserling, 1865). CM.** *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI. 2014. 5♂ 1♀. (Nº 7015). **ECM.** Forest. 06.III.2014. 1♀. (Nº 7027). **RPG.** Forest. 23.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 7030). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº 7140).
20. ***A. omnicolor* (Keyserling, 1893). PV.** Forest. 23.III.2015. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 7010). 24.III.2015. 2♂ 1♀. (Nº 7128). 24.III.2015. 5♂ 4♀. (Nº 7137). **CIP.** Forest. 06.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº 7011). 8♀. (Nº 7014).
21. ****A. unanimus* (Keyserling, 1879). CIP.** Forest. 06.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº 7006). **ECM.** Forest. 06.III.2014. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 7028).
22. ***A. uniformis* (Keyserling, 1879). RI.** Forest. 11.XII.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7017). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7188).
23. ***A. venatrix* (C. L. Koch, 1838). CM.** Forest. 05.III.2001. 2♂. (Nº 7008). *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 7016). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7148). 1♂. (Nº 7150). 1♂. (Nº 7186).

Argiope

24. ***A. argentata* (Fabricius, 1775). CIP.** Grassland. 04.IX.2004. 1♀. (Nº 7086). 06.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº 7092). **CM.** *P. elliottii* plantation. 06.IX.2014. 7♀. (Nº 7088). 1♀. (Nº 7094). **PV.** *E. grandis* plantation. 21.III.2015. 1♂. (Nº 7096). **CM.** *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♀. (Nº 7127).
25. ***A. trifasciata* (Forsskål, 1775). ECM.** Grassland. 06.VII.2014. 1♂1♀. (Nº 7091). **RSN.** Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 7080). 1♀. (Nº 7081). **CIP.** Grassland. 02.IX.2004. 4♀. (Nº 7087). **CM.** Grassland. 06.XI. 2014. 1♀. (Nº 7093). 06.III.2014. 2♀. (Nº 7099). *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♂. (Nº 7097). Forest. 20.XII.2004. 1♂. (Nº 7116). **RPG.** Grassland. 08.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº 7098). 6♀. (Nº 7100). **ESP.** Grassland. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7149). **RC.** Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº 7082). 1♀. (Nº 7084). 1♀. (Nº 7085).

Cyclosa

26. ***C. caroli* (Hentz, 1850). CM.** *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♂. (Nº 6861).
27. ****C. inca* Levi, 1999. RSN.** Forest. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 6858).
28. ***C. tapetifaciens* Hingston, 1932. CM.** *P. elliottii* plantation. 06.XI. 2014. 1♀. (Nº 6860). **RSN.** Forest. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 6865).
29. ***C. turvo* Levi, 1999. CM.** *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♀. (Nº 6866).

Eustala

30. ****E. devia* (Gertsch and Mulaik, 1936). PV.** Grassland. 21.III.2015. 2♀. (Nº 6946).
31. ****E. eldorado* Poeta, 2014. ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7162). **RPG.** Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 6930).
32. ***E. guianensis* (Taczanowski, 1873). PV.** *E. grandis* plantation. 21.III.2015. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 6895). 1♀. (Nº 6968). **RC.** Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº 6889). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 6910). 1♀. (Nº 6915). 2♂. (Nº 6920). Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 2♀. (Nº 6896).
33. ***E. guttata* F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1904. RPG.** Forest. 23.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº 6948). **PV.** Forest. 21.III.2015. 2♀. (Nº 6929). 1♂. (Nº 7152). Grassland. 1♀. (Nº 7163). **CIP.** Forest. 06.IV.2006. 2♀. (Nº 6929). 20.XII.2004. 1♂. (Nº 6918). Grassland. 20.XII.2004. 3♀. (Nº 6951). **RSN.** Forest. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 6945). 1♀. (Nº 6950). Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 1♂. (Nº 6962). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7169). **RC.** Forest. 07.XI.2015. 1♂. (Nº 6918). **EER.** Forest. 01.IX.2004. 1♀. (Nº 6921).
34. ****E. mourei* Mello-Leitão, 1947. RSN.** Forest. 20.XI.2012. 2♂. (Nº 6954). **CIP.** Forest. 20.XII.2004. 2♂. (Nº 6888). 2♀. (Nº 6904). 1♂. (Nº 6928). 4♀. (Nº 6934). 1♀. (Nº 6936). 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 6890). **RPG.** Grassland. 23.XI.2012. 1♂. (Nº 6960). **ESP.** Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº 7134). 1♂. (Nº 7170). 1♂ 4♀. (Nº 8557). **RC.** Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 6897). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 6898). 1♂. (Nº 6903). 1♀. (Nº 6911). 1♂ 4♀. (Nº 6924). 4♂ 1♀. (Nº 6925). 1♂. (Nº 6932). 1♀. (Nº 6937). 2♀. (Nº 6955). 3♀. (Nº 6963). 1♂ 2♀. (Nº 6964). 1♂ 2♀. (Nº 6965).
35. ****E. nasuta* Mello-Leitão, 1939. RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº8508).
36. ****E. novemmamillata* Mello-Leitão, 1941. ESP**. Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7180). 1♀. (Nº 7132). **RI**. Forest. 11.XII.2015. 1♂ 4♀. (Nº 6941). **RPG**. Forest. 23.XI.2012. 1♂ 2♀. (Nº 6887). **ECM.** Forest. 06.III.2014. 1♀. (Nº 6905).
37. ****E. pallida* Mello-Leitão, 1940. RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 2♀. (Nº 6908).
38. ***E. palmares* Poeta, Marques and Buckup, 2010. RPG**. Forest. 03.IV.2006. 1♂. (Nº 6912). **RSN**. Forest. 20.XI.2012. 2♂. (Nº 6913). 1♀. (Nº 6922). 1♀. (Nº 6959). 1♂. (Nº 6971). Grassland. 2♂ 1♀. (Nº 6893). **PV**. *P. elliottii* plantation. 21.III.2015. 1♂. (Nº 6919). 1♂. (Nº 6966). Forest. 24.III.2015. 3♀. (Nº 7117). **RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº 6914). **RI**. Forest. 14.XII.2013. 1♀. (Nº 6900). **ECM.** Forest. 06.III.2014. 2♂ 1♀. (Nº 6923).
39. ****E. photographica* Mello-Leitão, 1944. ESP**. Forest. 28.XI.2013. 3♀. (Nº 8560).
40. ***E. scutigera* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1898). CIP**. Forest. 06.IV.2006. 4♀. (Nº 6935). **PV**. Forest. 24.III.2015. 3♀. (Nº 7118). 5♀. (Nº 7131). *E. grandis* plantation. 21.III.2015. 2♀. (Nº 6952). **ESP**. Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 7125). 1♀. (Nº 7178). 1♀. (Nº 8562). **RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº 6885). 1♂. (Nº 6927). 3♀. (Nº 6933). 2♀. (Nº 6940). 1♂ 4♀. (Nº 6943). 3♀. (Nº 6947). 2♀. (Nº 6956).
41. ***E. taquara* (Keyserling, 1892). RSN**. Forest. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 6938). **RPG**. Forest. 21.III.2015. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 6916). **PV**. Forest. 21.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº 6967). 24.III.2015. 3♀. (Nº 7133). *E. grandis* plantation. 21.III.2015. 1♂. (Nº 6917). *P. elliottii* plantation. 21.III.2015. 1♂. (Nº 6906).
42. ***E. vellardi* Mello-Leitão, 1924. RSN**. Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº 8543). **RPG**. Grassland. 23.XI.2012. 1♂ 6♀. (Nº 8538). 4♂ 9♀. (Nº 8539). 3♂ 6♀. (Nº 8542). **PV**. Grassland. 24.III.2015. 1♂ 16♀. (Nº

8547). **ESP**. Grassland. 28.XI.2013. 2♀. (Nº 8548). **CM**. Grassland. 06.XI.2014. 3♀. (Nº 8540). **RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 3♀. (Nº 8541).

Gasteracantha

43. ***G. cancriformis*** **(Linnaeus, 1758). RI**. Forest. 13.XII.2013. 1♀. (Nº 6775). **PV**. Forest. 24.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº 7130). Forest. 24.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº 7173).

Kaira

44. ***K. gibberosa*** **O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1890. RPG**. Forest. 04.IV.2006. 1♂. 1♀. (Nº 6868).

Larinia

45. *****L. directa*** **(Hentz, 1847). RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 9♀. (Nº 6979). 2♀. (Nº 6984). 2♀. (Nº 6997).

46. ***L. minor*** **(Bryant, 1945). CIP**. Grassland. 20.XII.2004. 2♂ 3♀. (Nº 6980). **RSN**. Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 6♀. (Nº 6975). 3♂ 4♀. (Nº 6976). 1♂ 3♀. (Nº 6989). Pirizal. 20.XI.2012. 9♂ 59♀. (Nº 6986). 4♂ 13♀. (Nº 6998). **RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº 6977). 1♂ 3♀. (Nº 6985). 5♀. (Nº 6990). 2♂ 5♀. (Nº 6991). 1♀. (Nº 6999). **RPG**. Grassland. 06.IV.2006. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº 6987).

47. ***L. t-notata*** **(Tullgren, 1905). CIP**. Grassland. 20.XII.2004. 2♂ 9♀. (Nº 6978). **RPG**. Grassland. 28.IV.2005. 2♀. (Nº 6972). 04.IV.2006. 2♀. (Nº 6983). **RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 3♀. (Nº 6973). 3♀. (Nº 6974). 5♀. (Nº 6993). 1♀. (Nº 6994). 1♂ 5♀. (Nº 6995). 1♀. (Nº 6996). 3♂ 18♀. (Nº 7000). **RSN**. Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 3♀. (Nº 6982). 4♂ 7♀. (Nº 6988). 1♂ (Nº 6992). **CM**. Grassland. 06.XI.2014. 1♂. (Nº 7168).

48. ***L. tucuman*** **Harrod, Levi and Leibensperger, 1991. RPG**. Grassland. 29.IV.2005. 1♀. (Nº6981).

Mangora

49. ***M. apobama*** **Levi, 2007. PV**. Forest. 21.III.2015. 10♀. (Nº7155). 1♀. (Nº8563). *P. elliottii* plantation. 21.III.2015. 11♀. (Nº6795).

50. ***M. caxias*** **Levi, 2007. PV**. Forest. 24.III.2015. 2♂ 12♀. (Nº7175).

51. ***M. láctea*** **Mello-Leitão, 1944. PV**. *P. elliottii* plantation. 21.III. 2015. 2♀. (Nº6797).

52. ***M. melanocephala*** **(Taczanowski, 1874). CIP**. Forest. 20.XII.2004. 1♂. (Nº6793). **PV**. *P. elliottii* plantation. 24.III.2015. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6796).

Mastophora

53. ***M. reimoseri Levi, 2003***. Grassland. 20.XII.2004. 1♂ (Nº6867).

Mecynogea

54. *****M. erytromela*** **(Holmberg, 1876). RI**. Forest. 14.XII.2013. 2♀. (Nº6805).

55. ***M. lemniscata*** **(Walckenaer, 1841). CIP**. Forest. 21.XII.2004. 3♀. (Nº6801). 1♀. (Nº6802). 1♀. (Nº6803). 18.XII.2004. 1♀. (Nº6804).

Metazygia

56. ****M. atalaya*** **Levi, 1995. RSN**. Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº6734). 1♀. (Nº6717). 2♀. (Nº6718). 1♀. (Nº6721). **RPG**. Forest. 04.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº6745).

57. ****M. bolivia*** **Levi, 1995. RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 2♀. (Nº6766). 2♀. (Nº6773).

58. ***M. chenevo*** **Levi, 1995. CIP**. Grassland. 20.XI.2004. 1♂. (Nº6767). **RPG**. Forest. 04.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº6768). **RC**. Grassland. 07. XI.2013. 3♀. (Nº6716). 1♀. (Nº6719). 1♂ 4♀. (Nº6722). 1♂. (Nº6723). 2♀. (Nº6729). 1♀. (Nº6749). 1♀. (Nº6753). 4♀. (Nº6762). 3♀. (Nº 6764). 1♂ 2♀. (Nº6769). **RSN**. Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº6752). 4♀. (Nº6763).

59. ****M. corima*** **Levi, 1995. RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº6754). **ESP**. Grassland. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº7119). 15♀. (Nº7138).

60. ****M. corumba*** **Levi, 1995. RSN**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 9♂ 32♀. (Nº6760). 2♂. (Nº7102). 1♀. (Nº7102). 20.XI.2012. 1♂. (Nº7105). 2♂ 2♀. (Nº7106). 2♂. (Nº7108). 1♀. (Nº7113). 1♂. (Nº7114). **ESP**. Forest. 28.XI.2013. 2♀. (Nº7107). **RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº7101). 3♀. (Nº7104). 1♂. (Nº7109). 1♂ 4♀. (Nº7111). 3♀. (Nº7112). 9♂ 32♀. (Nº6760). **EER**. Forest. 31.XIII.2004. 1♂ 3♀. (Nº7110).

61. ***M. gregalis*** **(O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1889). CIP**. Forest. 20.XII.2004. 1♀. (Nº6711). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6720). 5♂ 9♀. (Nº6738). 1♀. (Nº6743). 1♀. (Nº6744). 2♀. (Nº6758). Grassland. 20.XII.2004. 12♀. (Nº6724). 1♂. (Nº6747). 24♀. (Nº6748). **RPG**. Forest. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº6710). Grassland. 04.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº6715). 1♀. (Nº6742). 1♂. (Nº6759). 28.IV.2005. 1♂. (Nº6765). **CM**. *P. elliottii* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♀. (Nº6731). 5♂ 9♀. (Nº6739). 7♀. *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 7♀ (Nº6770). Palmar. 05.VI.1995. 1♀. (Nº6736). **RSN**. Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº6732). 2♀. (Nº6733). **PV**. Grassland. 24.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº7129). **ESP**. Grassland. 28.XI.2013. 4♀. (Nº7120). 1♂ 2♀. (Nº7136). 4♂ 31♀. (Nº7139). 1♀. (Nº7145). **RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº6709). 1♀. (Nº6713). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6757).

62. ***M. voluptifica*** **(Keyserling, 1892). CIP**. Forest. 20.XII.2004. 2♂ 3♀. (Nº6712). 2♀. (Nº6725). 2♀. (Nº6726). 2♀. (Nº6735). 2♂. (Nº6740). 1♂. (Nº6750). 1♂. (Nº6755). 1♂. (Nº6761). 2♂ 5♀. (Nº6771). 2♂. (Nº6772). **CM**. *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 5♀. (Nº6707). 2♂ 5♀. (Nº6756). **ECM**. Forest. 06.III.2014. 1♀. (Nº6714). **RI** Forest.. 14.XII.2013. 1♀. (Nº6708). **RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº6727). 2♀. (Nº6737). 1♀. (Nº6741). 5♀. (Nº6746). 1♀. (Nº6751). **ESP**. Forest. 28.XI.2013. 4♀. (Nº7154). 2♀. (Nº7181).

Metepeira

63. *****M. calamuchita*** **Piel, 2001**. **RC**. Forest. 07.X.2013. 1♂. (Nº6694).

64. ***M. compsa*** **(Chamberlin, 1916). RPG**. Forest. 06.IV.2006. 1♂. (Nº6706). **RI**. Forest. 14.XII.2013. 1♂ 7♀. (Nº6699). **EER**. Forest. 01.IX.2004. 3♀. (Nº6705). **RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº6691). 1♀. (Nº6696). 1♀. (Nº6703). 1♂. (Nº6700).

65. ***M. glomerabilis*** **(Keyserling, 1892). PV**. *E. grandis* plantation. 21.III.2015. 2♀. (Nº6698).

66. ***M. gressa*** **(Keyserling, 1892). RSN**. Forest. 19.VII.2003. 1♂. (Nº6604). **CIP**. Forest. 20.XII.2004. 1♂. (Nº6692). **PV**. *E. grandis* plantation. 24.III.2015. 3♂ 6♀. (Nº7174). **RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 3♂ 1♀. (Nº6689). 1♂. (Nº6690).

67. ***M. vigilax*** **(Keyserling, 1893). PV**. *E. grandis* plantation. 21.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº6697).

Micrathena

68. ***M. furcata*** **(Hahn, 1822). CIP**. Forest. 17.XII.2004. 1♀. (Nº6874). **RSN**. Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº6870). 1♂. (Nº6875). 1♂. (Nº6879). 1♀. (Nº6877). Pirizal. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº6876). 2♀. (Nº6882).

69. *****M. nigrichelis*** **Strand, 1908. RPG**. Forest. 23.XI.2012. 1♂. (Nº6884).

70. ***M. peregrinatorum*** **(Holmberg, 1883). RPG**. Forest. 05.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº6869).

71. *****M. plana*** **(C. L. Koch, 1836). PV**. Forest. 24.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº7156).

72. ***M. swainsoni*** **(Perty, 1833). CIP**. Forest. 18.XII.2004. 1♂. (Nº6881). **RI**. Forest. 14.XII.2013. 2♀. (Nº6873).

Neoscona

73. ***N. moreli*** **(Vinson, 1863). RPG**. Grassland. 04.IV.2006. 1♂ 10♀. (Nº6781). 28.IV.2005. 5♀. (Nº6782). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6787). 03.IV.2004. 1♂. (Nº6788). **CIP**. Grassland. 04.IV.2004. 1♂ 2♀. (Nº6785). 20.XII.2004. 5♀. (Nº6789). **ECM**. Grassland. 06.III.2014. 1♀. (Nº6786). **RI**. Grassland. 14.XII.2013. 1♂ 2♀. (Nº6783). **ESP**. Grassland. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº7161). 1♀. (Nº7177). 1♀. (Nº8558). **RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº6784).

Ocrepeira

74. ***O. fiebrigi*** **(Dahl, 1906). RI**. Forest. 14.XII.2013. 2♂ 6♀. (Nº6813).

75. ***O. hirsuta*** **(Mello-Leitão, 1942). RPG**. Grassland. 20.IV.2005. 1♂. (Nº6807). 04.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº6808). 28.IV.2005. 3♀. (Nº6810). **EER**. Grassland. 30.XIII.2004. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6823). **ECM**. Grassland. 06.III.2014. 2♀. (Nº6824). **PV**. Grassland. 24.III.2015. 1♂ 2♀. (Nº 7182). **ESP**. Grassland. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº7122). 1♀. (Nº7124). 1♀. (Nº7151). 1♀. (Nº7159). 1♂. (Nº7160). 1♀. (Nº7166). **RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº6811).

76. ****O. lapeza*** **Levi, 1993. RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº8597).

77. ***O. venustula*** **(Keyserling, 1879). RPG**. Grassland. 04.IV.2006. 4♀. (Nº6814). 4♀. (Nº6821). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6822). 28.IV.2005. 1♂ 2♀. (Nº6815). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6818). 2♂ 23♀. (Nº6825). 23.XI.2012. 2♂ 4♀. (Nº6817). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6819). 2♀. (Nº6827). **RSN**. Grassland. 20.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº6820). **RI**. Forest. 14.XII.2013. 1♂ 1♀. (Nº6826). **PV**. Grassland. 24.III.2015. 1♀. (Nº7165). **ESP**. Grassland. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº7126). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº7187). 1♂ 1♀. (Nº8561). **RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 3♀. (Nº6809).

Parawixia

78. ***P. audax*** **(Blackwall, 1863). CM**. *P. elliottii* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♀. (Nº6828). 2♀. (Nº6829). *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♀. (Nº6830). **ECM**. Forest. 08.III.2014. 3♀. (Nº6831). *E. grandis* plantation. 06.XI.2014. 1♀. (Nº6832).

79. ***P. undulata*** **(Keyserling, 1892). CIP**. Forest. 20.12.2004. 1♀. (Nº6844). **RI**. Forest. 14.XII.2013. 1♀. (Nº6841). **RC**. Grassland. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº6840). 1♀. (Nº6845).

80. ***P. velutina*** **(Taczanowski, 1878). CIP**. Forest. 07.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº6842). **ECM**. Forest. 06.III.2014. 1♀. (Nº6836). **PV**. Forest. 24.III.2015. 1♂. (Nº7141). 1♀. (Nº7172). **ESP**. Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº7123).

Pronous

81. ***P. tuberculifer*** **Keyserling, 1881. RPG**. Forest. 23.XI.2012. 1♀. (Nº6848). 1♀. (Nº6855). 04.IV.2006. 1♀. (Nº6849). 29.IV.2003. 1♀. (Nº6850). **ESP**. Forest. 28.XI.2013. 1♂. (Nº7142). 2♀. (Nº7143). **RC**. Forest. 07.XI.2013. 1♀. (Nº6851). **ECM**. Forest. 06.03.2014. 1♂ 3♀. (Nº6852). 4♀. (Nº6856).

Wagneriana

82. ***W. transitoria*** **(C. L. Koch, 1839). PV**. *P. elliottii* plantation. 21/03/2015. 3♀. (Nº 6680).

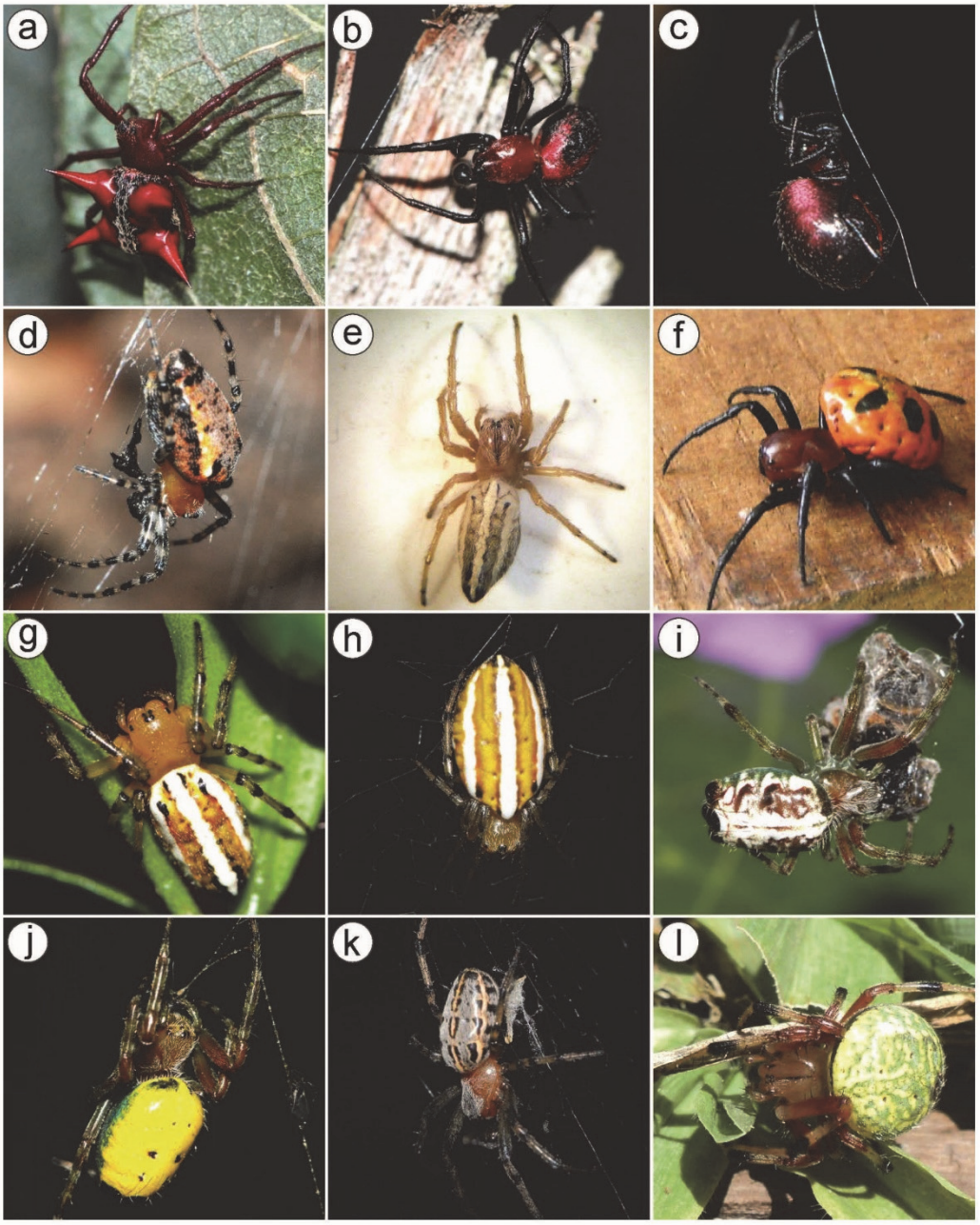


Plate 1. Habitus of araneids inhabiting Iberá, Corrientes. a) *Actinosoma pentacanthum* ♀; b) *Alpaida carminea* ♂, c) same, ♀; d) *Alpaida gallardoi* ♀; e) *Alpaida nonoai* ♀; f) *Alpaida quadrilorata* ♀; g) *Alpaida rubellula* ♀, h) same, in its web; i) *Alpaida truncata* ♀, j) same, variation; k) *Alpaida veniliae* ♀; l) *Araneus guttatus* ♀.

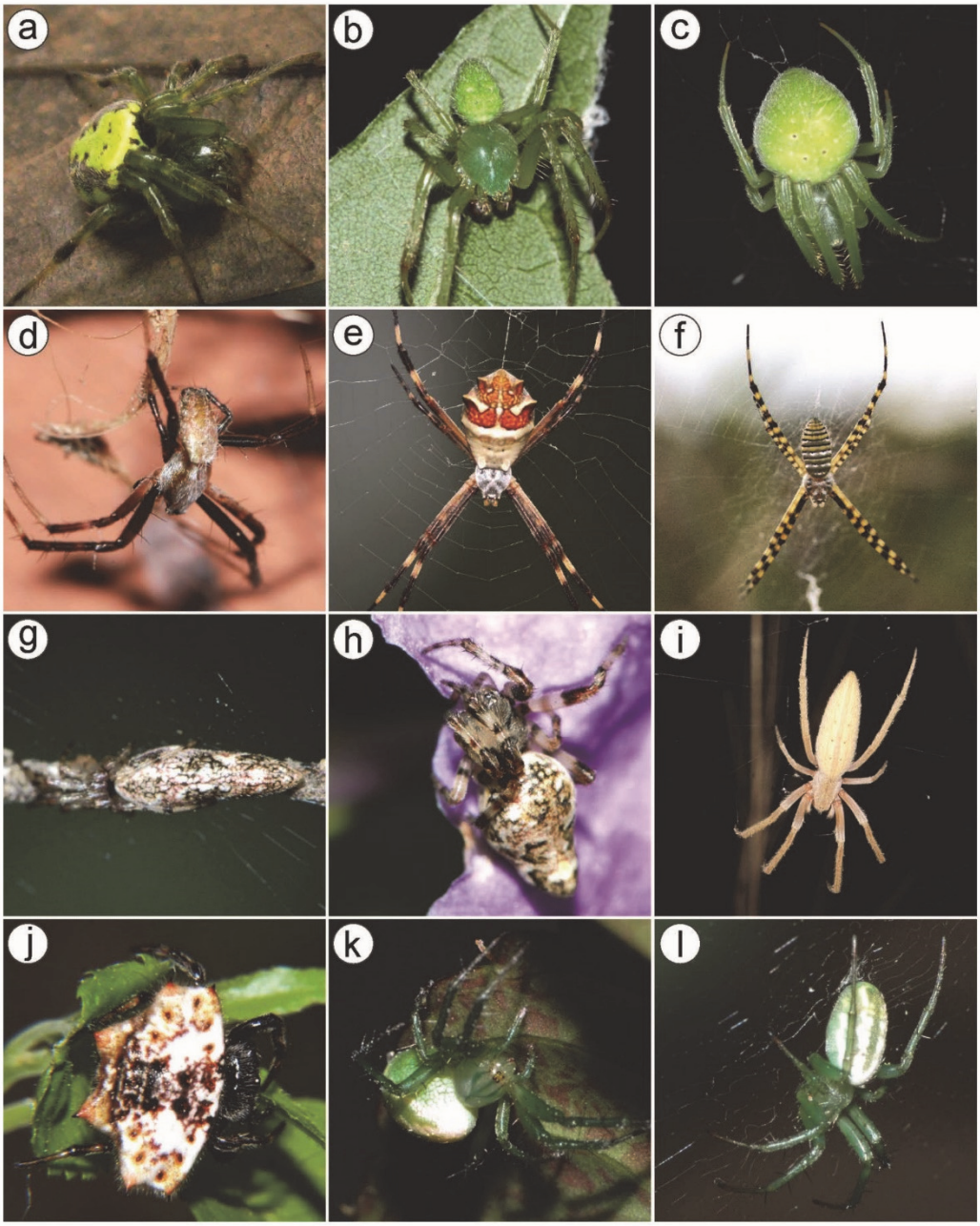


Plate 2. Habitus of araneids inhabiting Iberá, Corrientes. a) *Araneus unanimus* ♀; b) *Araneus uniformis* ♂, c) same, ♀; d) *Argiope argentata* ♂, e) same, ♀; f) *Argiope trifasciata* ♀; g) *Cyclosa caroli* ♀; h) *Cyclosa tapetifaciens* ♀; i) *Eustala vellardi* ♀; j) *Gasteracantha cancriformis* ♀; k) *Mangora lactea* ♀, l) same, in its web.

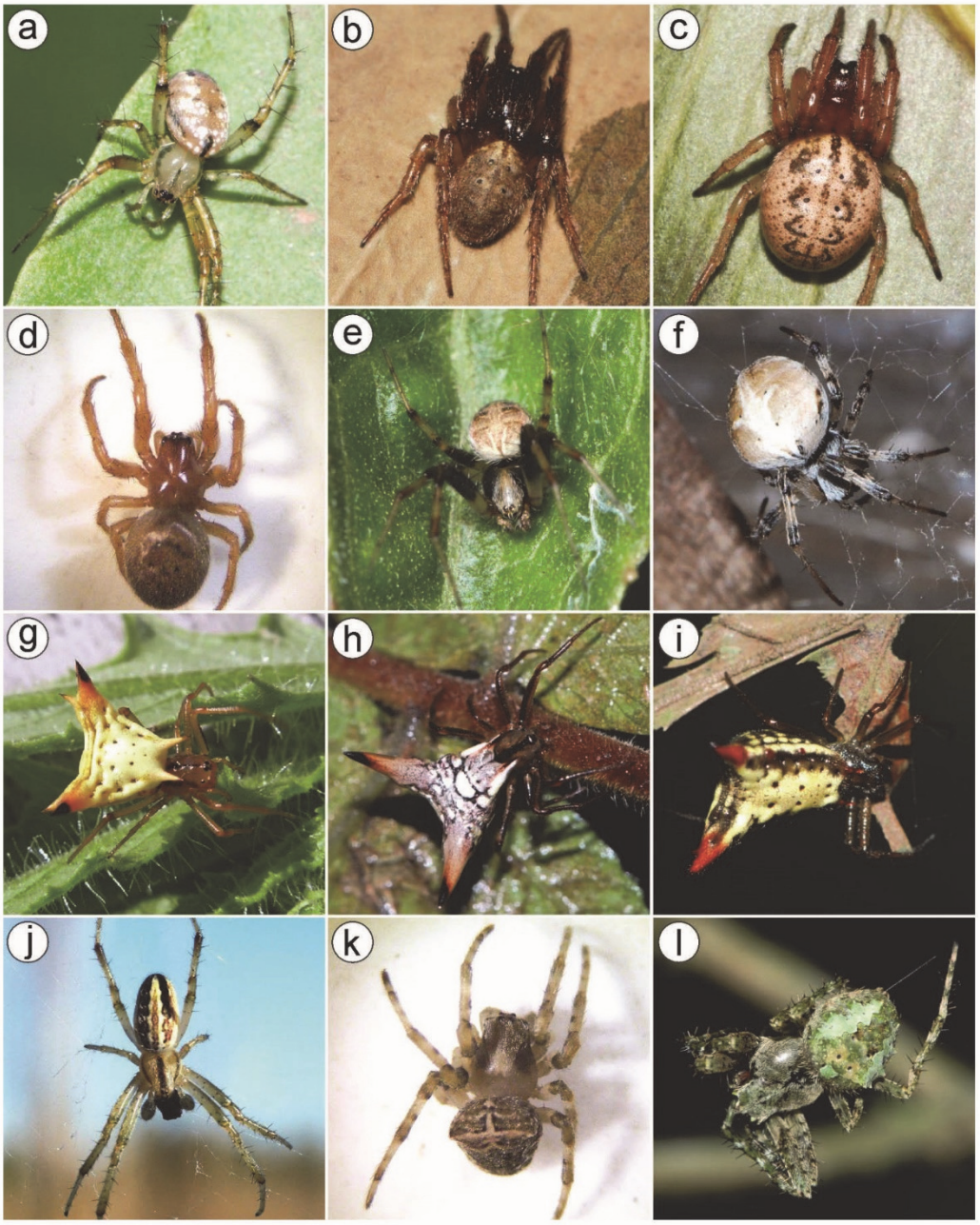


Plate 3. Habitus of araneids inhabiting Iberá, Corrientes. a) *Mangora melanocephala* ♀; b) *Metazygia gregalis* ♂, c) same, ♀; d) *Metazygia voluptifica* ♀; e) *Metepeira compsa* ♂, f) same, ♀; g) *Micrathena furcata* ♀; h) *Micrathena peregrinatorum* ♀; i) *Micrathena plana* ♀; j) *Neoscona moreli* ♂; k) *Ocrepeira hirsuta* ♀; l) *Parawixia audax* ♂.

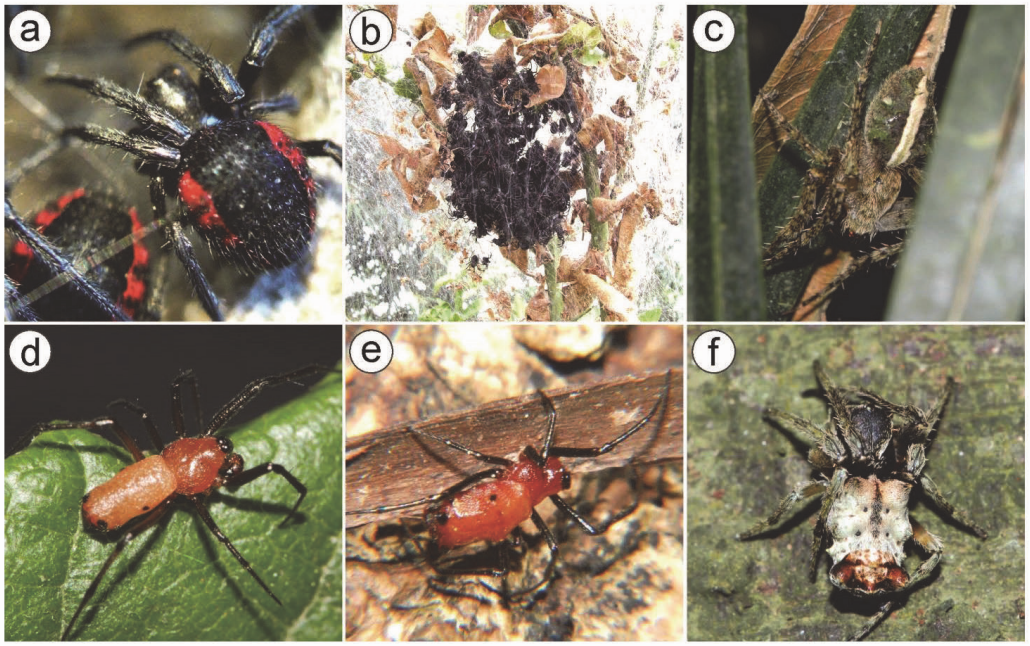


Plate 4. Habitus of araneids inhabiting Iberá, Corrientes. a) *Parawixia bistriata* immature, b) same, specimens in its web; c) *Parawixia undulata* ♂; d) *Pronous tuberculifer* ♂, e) same, ♀; f) *Wagneriana transitoria* ♀.