New distribution data for the theraphosid spider *Davus santos* Gabriel, 2016 in Panama (Araneae: Theraphosidae)

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Abstract: A new record of the theraphosid spider *Davus santos* Gabriel, 2016 is presented based on photographs of a specimen from Veraguas Province, Panama. Thus, the known distribution of *D. santos* is extended eastwards and the species is formally recorded from a fourth locality in Panama.
Key words: Araneae, Theraphosidae, tarantula, biogeography, habitus, Veraguas, Panama.

Nuevo datos de distribución de la araña terafósida *Davus santos* Gabriel, 2016 en Panamá (Araneae: Theraphosidae)
Resumen: Se presenta un nuevo registro de la araña terafósida *Davus santos* Gabriel, 2016, basado en fotografías de un especímen inmaduro de la provincia de Veraguas, Panamá. Por lo tanto, la distribución conocida de *D. santos* se extiende hacia el este y esta especie se registra formalmente con una cuarta localidad en Panamá.
Palabras clave: Araneae, Theraphosidae, tarántula, biogeografía, habitus, Veraguas, Panamá.

The genus *Davus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1892 currently contains four species (World Spider Catalog, 2020) distributed in mesoamerica, namely: *Davus fasciatus* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1892, *Davus pentaloris* (Simon, 1888), *Davus ruficeps* (Simon, 1891) and *Davus santos* Gabriel, 2016. Of these, two are known to occur in Panama: *D. fasciatus* and *D. santos*, the latter being endemic. Gabriel (2016) described *D. santos* from an adult male from Coclesito, Coclé Province and also examined an immature female from El Copé, Coclé Province. Furthermore, he noted a live adult female housed at MIUP from Cerro Bojitas, Colón (Gabriel, 2016). Thus, *D. santos* is at present known from only three locations in Panama.

In this work, we report a fourth locality for *D. santos*, based on a specimen observed by the first author in January 2020.

Abbreviations, Institutes: MIUP = Museo de Invertebrados G. B. Fairchild, Universidad de Panama. Others: Imm. = immature, coll. = collector. Photographs of the specimen in situ were made using a Canon EOS M2 camera with a Canon 100mm Macro lens. The map was made using SimpleMappr (Shorthouse, 2010).

***Davus santos* Gabriel, 2016**

Davus santos Gabriel, 2016: 71, f. 26-34, 41, 49-51.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype ♂ *Davus santos* MIUP, Coclesito, Coclé prov., Panama, 26 agosto 2006, coll. David Correa, examined. OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: 1 Imm. ♀ MIUP, Coclé prov., El Copé, área del aserradero, 1–4 November 1980., coll. Dayra Mosley; 1 ♀ MIUP Panama, Colón prov., Cerro Botija 27 junio 2012, coll. David Correa.

On the original data label of the holotype of *D. santos* Coclesito is given as being within Coclé province. However, Coclesito is not in Coclé province. Coclesito is in Colón province, so the original data label contains a small error. It is easy for such confusion as Colón province is divided by the Panamá canal and the access to Coclesito is through Coclé Province, hence the name "Coclesito" (little Coclé). This error was thus also repeated in the work of Gabriel (2016) when describing this species.

REMARKS: On the 3rd of January 2020 the first author observed a theraphosid specimen at the Sendero Eco Turistico Las Tres Marias, Veraguas, Panama (8°34'5.86"N, 81°11'10.26"W, approximately 500m a.s.l.) at 9:45 am Eastern Standard Time, on leaf litter next to a rotting log right by the trail. The leaf litter was very humid, as the general area corresponds to cloud forest vegetation. Photographs of the specimen (Fig. 1-2) were sent to the second and third authors who were able to identify the spider as a specimen of *D. santos* based on the distinctive abdominal patterning. All currently known species of the genus *Davus* have individually distinct abdominal patterns (see Gabriel, 2016) allowing identification to be easily achieved based on clear habitus photographs accompanied by accurate locality data. The specimen reported in this work represents the first record of *D. santos* in Veraguas province and further extends the distribution of this species in the montane Central Valley of Panama (Fig. 3).

DISCUSSION. Overall knowledge of Panamanian theraphosids is increasing but gaps in knowledge do still exist, some of which will be resolved soon. However, further work is still required to fully understand species distributions and diversity within Panama.

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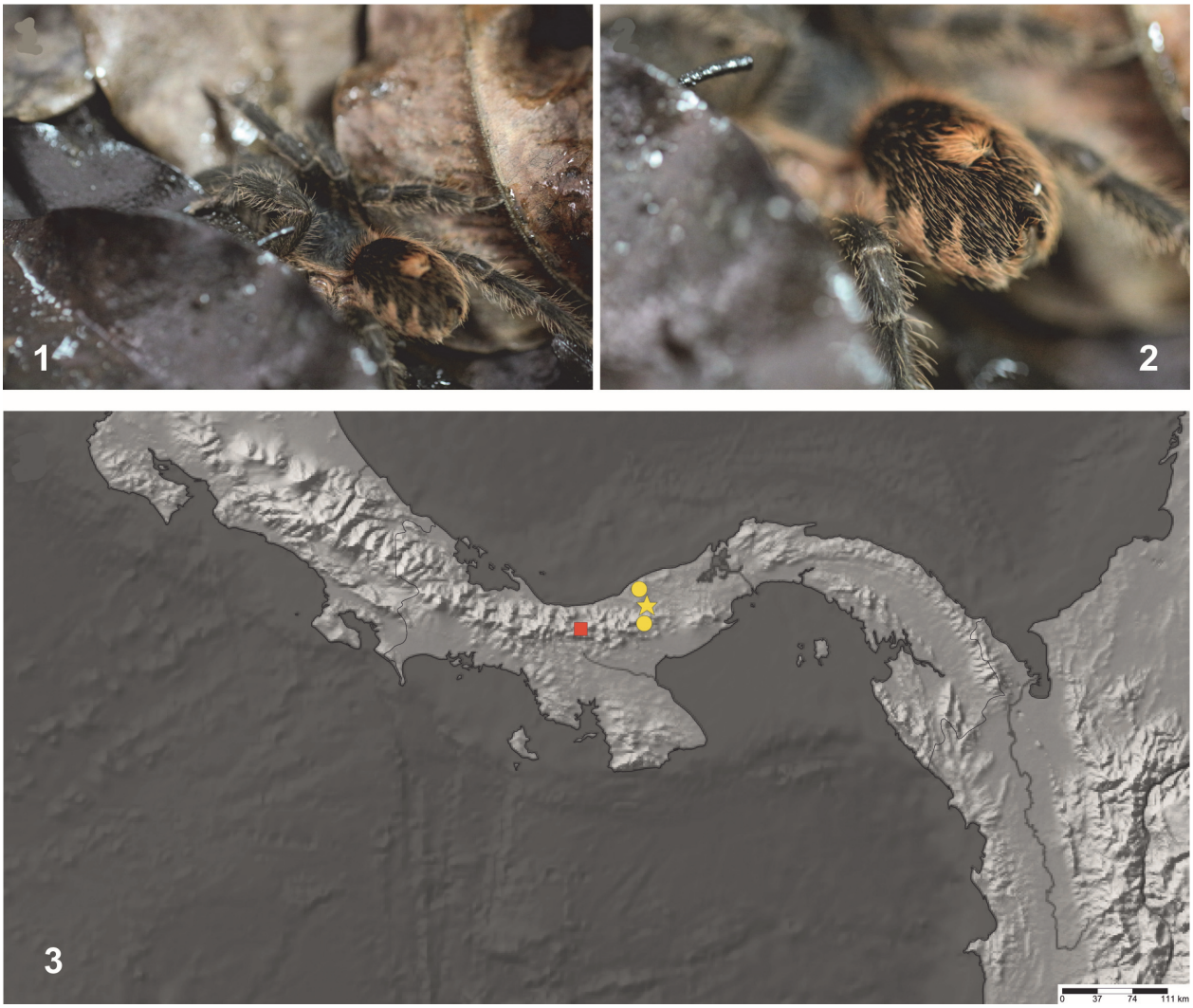


Fig. 1-2: *Davus santos* Gabriel, 2016 live specimen in situ (Veraguas, Panama), **1.** general habitus, **2.** abdomen close up.
Fig. 3: Distribution map showing currently recognised distribution of *Davus santos* Gabriel, 2016, Star = type locality, Circles = other previously published records, Square = novel location reported in this work.