NEW RECORD OF GENUS Gaucha MELLO-LEITÃO, 1924 (SOLIFUGAE: MUMMUCIIDAE) IN ARGENTINA

Nuevo registro de género Gaucha Mello-Leitão, 1924 (Solifugae: Mummuciidae) en Argentina

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INTRODUCTION

The family Mummuciidae Roewer, 1934 comprises twenty-seven known species of solifuge in the southern hemisphere of the New World, divided into eight genera (González Reyes and Carronca, 2013; Botero Trujillo et al., 2017; 2019a, b). Is the only family in the region whose members exhibit diurnal habits (Maury, 1984; Botero-Trujillo et al., 2019a). In Argentina, the family is represented by six genera: Cordobulgida Mello Leitão, 1938; Curanahuel Botero-Trujillo, 2019b; Gaucha Mello Leitão, 1924; Mummucia Simon, 1879; Mummucina Roewer, 1934; and Uspallata Mello Leitão, 1938; with a total of eight species.

Within the genus Gaucha, eleven species are described (Botero-Trujillo et al., 2019a), distributed in Brazil (six species), Bolivia (one species), Uruguay (one species) (Botero-Trujillo et al., 2017, 2019a). In Argentina, only two species are known: Gaucha casuhati Botero Trujillo et al., 2017, from the province of Buenos Aires, and Gaucha ramirezi Botero-Trujillo et al., 2019a, from the provinces of Córdoba and Santiago del Estero.

With the new locality record for the genus Gaucha presented here, they would add a total of three species present in the country.

RESULTS

Family Mummuciidae Roewer, 1934
Gaucha sp. new record
(Figures 1 to 3 and 4)

Examined speciemen. ARGENTINA: 1♀ Entre Ríos, Federación, Zubarán G. leg 19-XII-2001, CFA-Ar-284 [CFA-Ar; Collection of arthropods from the Fundación de Historia Natural Félix de Azara, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina].

Notes. The specimen was found running during the day, on a rural sandy road. The area consists of hills with sandy soil, anthropically affected with fields of crops, mainly citrus, and tree plantations (Pinus, Eucalyptus) (Zubarán, pers.obs.).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The new record for the country of the genus Gaucha expands the range of distribution of
NEW RECORD OF GAUCHA IN ARGENTINA

Figure 2 - Gaucha sp. female, propeltidium and chelicerae, A. dorsal aspect, scale bar: 1,75 mm; B. dorsolateral aspect. CFA-Ar-284.

Figure 3 - Gaucha sp. female. Right chelicera. A, B, C. Retrolateral aspect; D, E, F. Prolateral aspect. A, D. Chelicera, scale bar: 1mm; B, E. Fixed finger, scale bar: 0,5mm; C, F. Movable finger, scale bar: 0,5 mm. CFA-Ar-284.

solifuges in the region. In Argentina, the distribution based on data from Maury (1984; 1998), Harvey (2003), Botero-Trujillo et al. (2017; 2019a, b) is determined within the
biogeographic provinces Patagonica, Monte, Chaco Dry, part of Espinal and Pampeana (Morello et al., 2012).

In the province of Buenos Aires, with predominantly Pampeana biogeography, they are found in the mountain areas of the southeast and southwest. Although the province of Entre Ríos is dominated by the Espinal, the area where the specimen was found is made up of sandy hills, surrounded by flood zones and rivers (GeoINTA, 2020). With G. curupi and G. santana from Brazil, the three species share the same biome: tropical and subtropical meadows, savannas and thickets (Olson et al., 2001; Botero-Trujillo et al., 2017).

Maury (1998) mentioned the possibility of the “existence” of solifugues in the province of Entre Ríos, after having studied specimens from Uruguay, close to the border with this

Figure 4 - Distribution in Argentina of Gaucha: triangle, Gaucha sp. (here reported); circle, Gaucha casuhati; square, Gaucha ramirezi.
province. The specimens from Uruguay were considered as *G. fasciata*, although they were not subsequently confirmed (Botero-Trujillo et al., 2017). There is a possibility that it may be co-specific with the specimens found in nearby towns in Uruguay.

The specimen here reported for Entre Ríos was compared with the female specimens of *G. curupi* and *G. santana*, documented and described by Botero-Trujillo et al. (2017; 2019a), they are considered the two geographically closest species, it is concluded that: it differs from *G. fasciata* by the morphology of the chelicera and movable finger; on the contrary, it is similar to *G. curupi* in that aspect and description. However, due to not having a male, the specific identity of the female specimen cannot be determined with accuracy at the present moment. The search and obtaining of new specimens in the area will provide new data for the study of solifuges in Argentina.

**REFERENCES**


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