

**A NEW SPECIES OF *DRYMUSA*
(ARANEAE: SCYTODOIDEA) FROM ARGENTINA**

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Abstract. — *Drymusa serrana*, a new species from Buenos Aires Province (Argentina), is described and figured. It represents the first species of *Drymusa* described for South America.

The genus *Drymusa* includes eight described species, three from Africa and five from Central America and the West Indies, and it is included in the superfamily Scytodoidea based on the characters that traditionally defined this group: anterior median eyes absent, indirect eyes forming diads, chelicerae fused in the base with a carinated promargin, and elongated, triangular, convergent maxillary lobes. A ninth species from Argentina is here described for first time; it represents the first species of the genus described for South America.

Some authors (Gertsch, 1967; Valerio, 1971, 1974) include *Drymusa* in the family Scytodidae (*Scytodes*, *Loxosceles* and *Drymusa*). Alayón (1981, 1987) joins *Loxosceles* and *Drymusa* in a family Loxoscelidae that excludes *Scytodes*. Alternatively, Lehtinen (1986) includes *Drymusa* in its own family, Drymusidae.

The interrelationships of the Scytodoidea are presently very poorly known. Most previous workers have concentrated primarily on the question of ranking the constituent groups, rather than focusing on their composition. Of course, elevating each genus to the rank of family while ignoring their relationships would not resolve anything. Lehtinen (1986) and Alayón (1981) have recently evaluated this issue, but their conclusions are not convincing. Lehtinen's cladogram shows very clearly his idea of the interrelationships of the Scytodoidea, but it does not show with the same clarity the characters that support such a hypothesis (it only says "genitalic characters," "claw characters," etc.). Alayón (1981) is more explicit about the characters; he suggests that greater affinities exist between the genera *Drymusa* and *Loxosceles* than between these and *Scytodes*. However, his conclusion is based on the fact that *Drymusa* and *Loxosceles* share the absence of the diagnostic characters of *Scytodes* (female palpal tarsus with two or three modified unguiform setae, very convex cephalothorax, and sclerotized areas behind genital opening in the female). Therefore, Alayón (1987) does not show in his discussion that *Loxosceles* and *Drymusa* are more closely related among themselves, but only that they should not be included within *Scytodes*.

So far, the genus *Drymusa* has not been characterized by any apomorphy. Valerio (1971) says in his diagnosis of the genus that the genital lips are very sclerotized in both sexes (in other related spiders the male genital lips are not sclerotized). If present in all the species previously described, that sclerotization would indicate that they

form a monophyletic group excluding *D. serrana*; however, only females are known for some species. No apomorphies are known for *D. serrana* and the other *Drymusa*. Therefore, until new evidence bearing on this is found, the hypothesis of monophyly of *Drymusa* (either excluding or including *D. serrana*) cannot be defended or rejected on any basis.

Measurements are given in millimeters; all the specimens are deposited in the collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia," Buenos Aires (MACN).

***Drymusa serrana*, new species**
(Figs. 1–7)

Type. Holotype male, MACN 8752, from Sierra de La Ventana, Buenos Aires Prov., Argentina, P. Goloboff, A. Zanetic Col., Oct. 1980.

Etymology. The specific name refers to the habitat where the specimens were collected.

Diagnosis. It is distinguished from *D. simoni* Bryant and *D. dinora* Valerio by the genital opening located in the anterior part of the abdomen and the much longer male embolus. It is also distinguished from *D. simoni* by the absence of recurved hairs in tibiae and metatarsi I and the lack of a sclerotized lobe in front of the tracheal spiracle, and from *D. dinora* also by lacking the dorsal wrinkles in the abdominal apex. From *D. armasi* Alayón it is distinguished by its color and the greater number of tarsal claw teeth, and from *D. spectata* Alayón by lacking the dense tuft of hairs in the male palpal tarsus and thoracic fovea.

Description (male holotype). Total length, 8.06. Cephalothorax (Fig. 1), 2.80 long, 2.33 wide, low and flattened, without fovea. Anterior median eyes absent, the other six forming diads. Chelicerae with 2 teeth and carina in promargin, a small tooth in retromargin, fused in their base (Figs. 2, 3); fang short, stout and curved. Maxillary lobes elongated, converging in front of the labium, with membranous apical edge. Labium 0.83 long, 0.67 wide, separated from sternum by a suture. Sternum 1.50 long, 1.40 wide, rounded posteriorly.

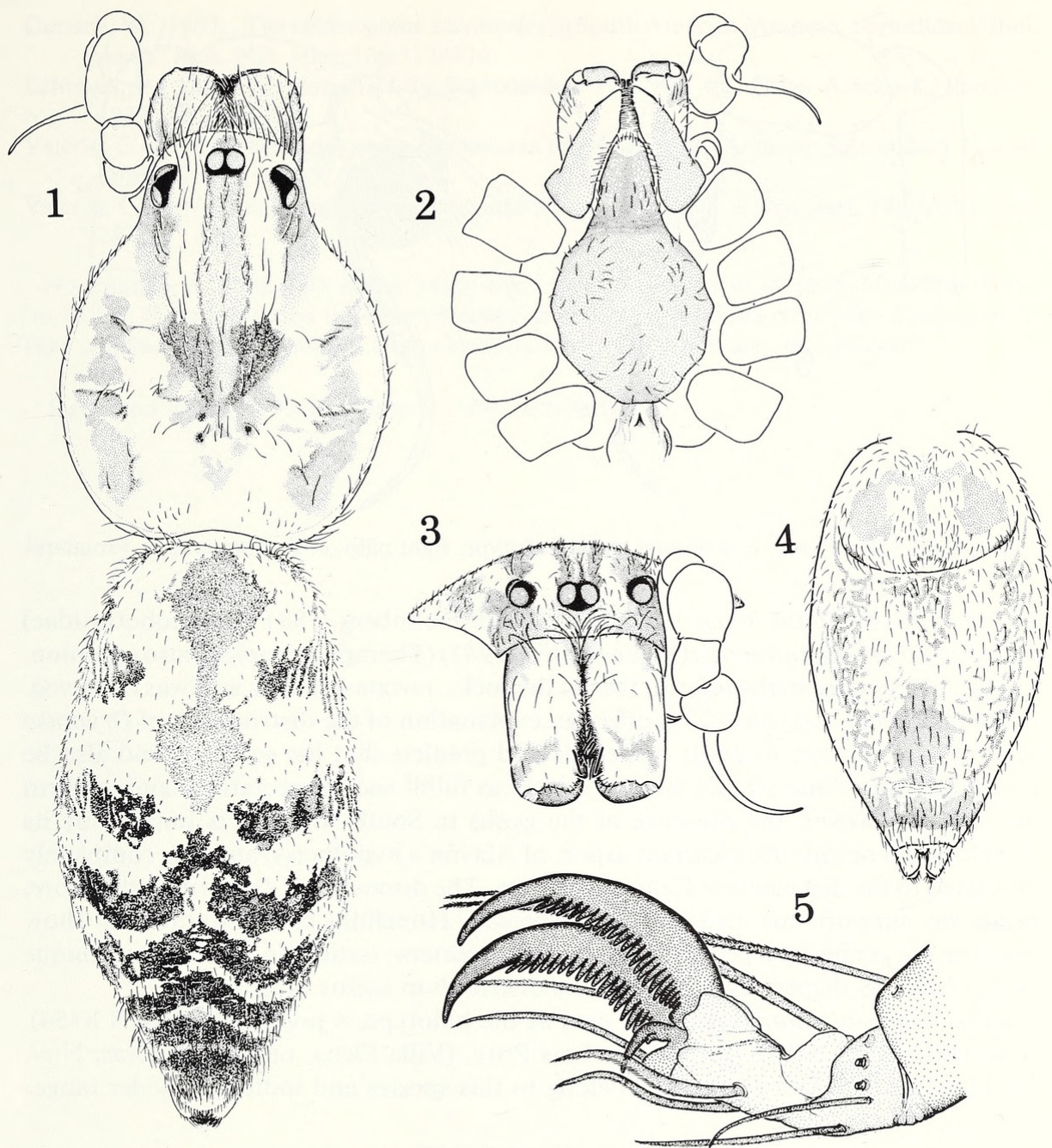
Leg measurements:

	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
I	9.51	0.93	10.77	10.77	1.76	33.74
II	9.04	0.97	8.91	9.18	1.63	29.73
III	6.92	0.90	6.78	6.91	1.50	23.01
IV	8.65	1.00	8.51	8.31	1.96	28.43
Palp	1.00	0.30	0.83	—	0.43	2.56

Tibiae and metatarsi without recurved setae, with filiform and spiniform setae. Tarsi long and thin, ventral face with abundant setae, with spurious claws (serrated bristles) beneath third claw (Fig. 5), with very developed onychium. Paired claws of tarsi I with 15 teeth, of tarsi IV with 22.

Palp: Bulb (Figs. 6, 7) inserted in the cymbial apex, with very long embolus; tarsus with few very long setae; tibia globose.

Abdomen elongated, depressed, posteriorly acute; without wrinkles. Genital open-



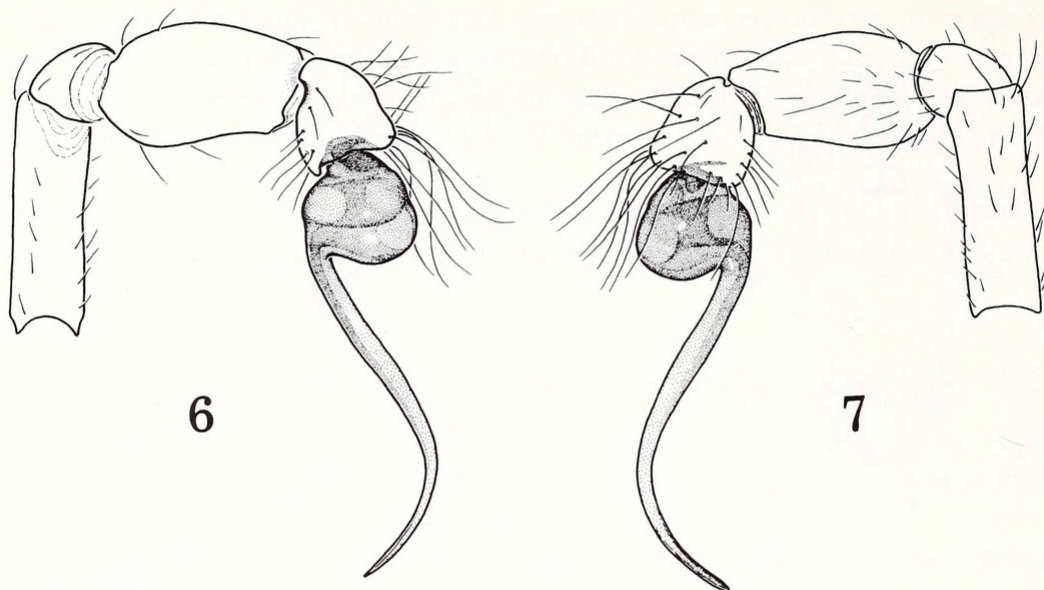
FIGS. 1–5. *D. serrana*, new species, male holotype. 1. Dorsal view. 2. Cephalothorax, ventral. 3. Cephalothorax, anterior view. 4. Abdomen, ventral. 5. Claws from tarsus IV.

ing in the anterior third of the abdomen, with little sclerotized lips. Without lobe or sclerotized plate in front of tracheal spiracle. Colulus small but well evident (Fig. 4).

Color: Cephalothorax yellowish, with darker spots; abdomen yellowish, with reddish chevron (Fig. 1).

Female. Unknown.

Natural history. The specimens were collected near the Cerro La Ventana, under big rocks in stream creeks, where the soil is wetter than in the more exposed foothills.



FIGS. 6, 7. *D. serrana*, new species, male holotype, right palp. 6. Retrolateral. 7. Prolateral.

In this type of habitat *Mecicobothrium thorelli* Holmberg, 1881 (Mecicobothriidae) and *Oligoxistre argentinensis* (Mello-Leitão, 1941) (Theraphosidae) are also common.

The spiders were in the inferior face of the rocks; no conspicuous web was observed.

Biogeography. Alayón (1981) offers an explanation of the distribution of *Drymusa* in which he invokes multiple dispersals and predicts that the genus should also be found in South America. *D. serrana* seems to fulfill such expectations and confirm his ideas. However, the presence of the genus in South America is implied by its Gondwanian origin (the vicariant aspect of Alayón's hypothesis) and it is completely unrelated to the dispersals in Central America. The discovery of *D. serrana*, therefore, in no way supports the idea of those dispersals. Hopefully, future studies will show whether the genus fits a general biogeographic pattern; until then, postulating unique causes (such as dispersals) to explain its distribution seems unnecessary.

Other material examined. Same data as the holotype, 4 juveniles (MACN 8754). A juvenile (MACN 8789) from San Luis Prov. (Villa Elena, near Cortaderas, Nov. 10–11, 1982, E. Maury col.) may belong to this species and indicate a wider range.

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Note added in proof: While this paper was in press, Platnick et al. (Am. Mus. Novitates, No. 3016, 73 pp.) analyzed the interrelationships of the Scytodoidea (and other Haplogynae). They conclude that *Drymusa* is more closely related to *Scytodes* than to *Loxosceles*.

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