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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 specie) (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 specimen. 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



Figure 1 - *Gaucha* sp. female, habitus dorsal aspect. CFA-Ar-284. Scale bar: 5 mm.



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

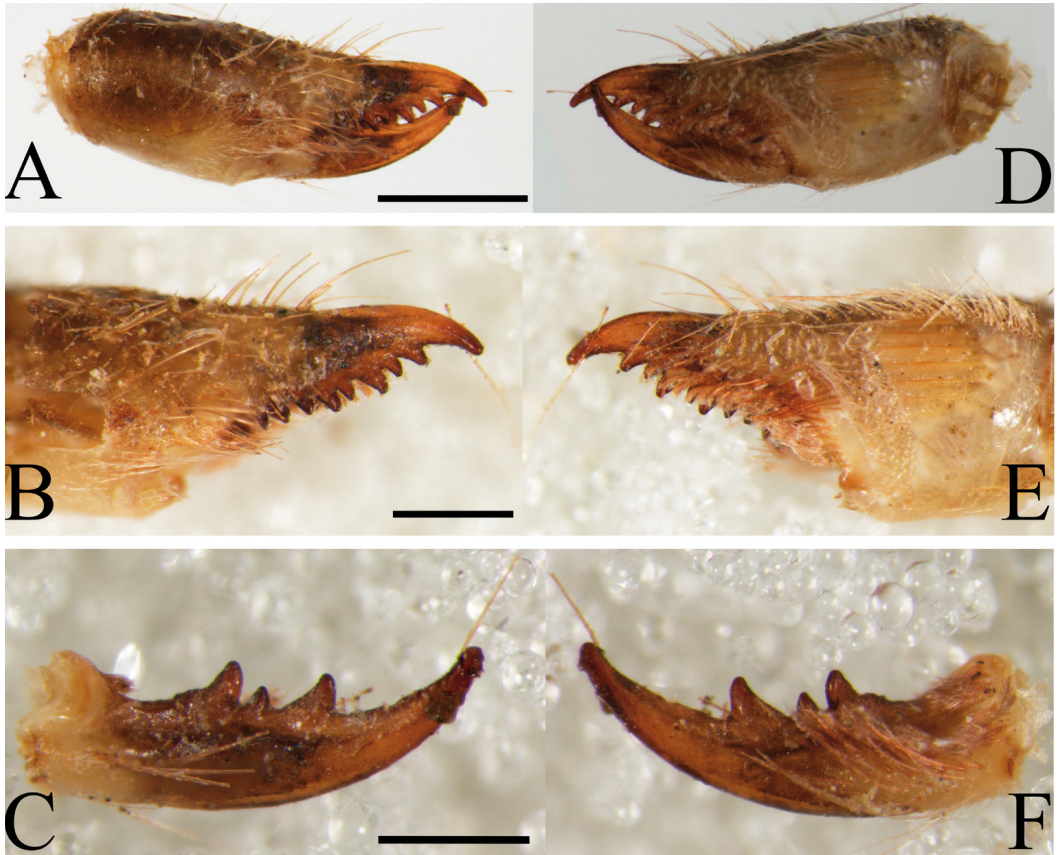


Figure 3 - *Gaucha* sp. female. Right chelicera. **A, B, C**, Retrolateral aspect; **D, E, F**, Prolateral aspect. **A, D**, Chelicera, scale bar: 1mm; **B, E**, Fixed finger, scale bar: 0,5mm; **C, F**, Movable finger, scale bar: 0,5 mm. CFA-Ar-284.

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 solífuges in Argentina.

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