

**WHICH IS THE REAL *Plesiopelma longisternale*? (ARANEAE: THERAPHOSIDAE)
REVISION OF TYPES, MOLECULAR PHYLOGENY AND MORPHOLOGY**

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Plesiopelma longisternale (Schiapelli & Gerschman, 1942) is a medium-sized tarantula widely distributed in Argentina and Uruguay. This species is very common in northern and central Argentina inhabiting mountainous systems and open areas where it constructs shelters covered with dense silk. There is some degree of morphological variation among populations from different areas, mainly in the body size and male palpal bulb and such variation may even be found in a single locality. Moreover, the holotype male and allotype female are described from different localities. The aim of this work is to examine and re-describe the types of *P. longisternale* and construct a dataset of cytochrome *c* oxidase subunit I (COI) sequence to assess species limits within *P. longisternale*. We obtained sequences from most populations of northern and central Argentina and present the results of a species delimitation analysis using ABGD, mPTP and GYMC. The resulting molecular species delimitation and morphology unveils a new species of *Plesiopelma* and corroborate the identity of *Plesiopelma longisternale*. In addition, from the examination of types, we noticed that the genitalic features drawn in the original publication of the holotype male are not congruent with the specimens deposited.