

On some Southern African Harpactirinae, with notes on the eumenophorines *Pelinobius muticus* Karsch, 1885 and *Monocentropella* Strand, 1907 (Araneae, Theraphosidae)

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Summary

The taxonomy of five species of Southern African Harpactirinae and two species of Eumenophorinae from East and West Africa is addressed. Two new species of Harpactirinae are proposed: *Harpactirella overdijki* sp. n. and *Idiothele mira* sp. n. *Idiothele nigrofulva* (Pocock, 1898) is redescribed from its types and fresh topotypic material. The previously unknown male of the harpactirine *Ceratogyrus paulseni* Gallon, 2005 is described. *Ceratogyrus ezendami* Gallon, 2001 is transferred to the genus *Augacephalus* and diagnosed from its two congeners *Augacephalus breyeri* (Hewitt, 1919) and *A. junodi* (Simon, 1904). The eumenophorine genus *Pelinobius* Karsch, 1885 is revalidated and proposed as a senior synonym of *Citharischius* Pocock, 1900. *Phoneyusa gregori* Pocock, 1897, *Phoneyusa bettoni* Pocock, 1898, *Citharischius crawshayi* Pocock, 1900 and *Phoneyusa rufa* Berland, 1914 are treated as junior synonyms of *Pelinobius muticus* Karsch, 1885. The monotypic genus *Monocentropella* Strand, 1907 is treated here as a junior synonym of *Eumenophorus* Pocock, 1897.

Introduction

The two Harpactirinae species *Ceratogyrus ezendami* Gallon, 2001 and *Ceratogyrus paulseni* Gallon, 2005 were described recently from Southern Africa. *Ceratogyrus ezendami* was described from single specimens of both sexes, whereas *C. paulseni* was only known from the female. Additional specimens of both species have been secured subsequently, providing the opportunity to describe the previously unknown male of *C. paulseni* and to further investigate the taxonomy of *C. ezendami*, which is here transferred to the genus *Augacephalus*.

Recent fieldtrips conducted in South Africa, by myself and others, have yielded two new species of Harpactirinae, *Harpactirella overdijki* sp. n. and *Idiothele mira* sp. n., which are described here. These fieldtrips also resulted in the rediscovery of *Idiothele nigrofulva* (Pocock, 1898) at its type locality, Barberton, and fresh topotypic material of this species is described here along with a redescription of Pocock's original types.

Amongst those who keep and breed African theraphosid spiders, it is well known that extreme sexual dimorphism, and mature male size variation is exhibited by the eumenophorine *Citharischius crawshayi* Pocock, 1900 (Baxter, 1993; G. Tansley & J. Clugston pers. comms). Such intraspecific variation is difficult to appreciate without information gleaned from captive specimens and their breeding, and for this reason the taxonomy of this species and closely sympatric species known from males only was investigated; namely *Pelinobius muticus* Karsch, 1885, *Phoneyusa gregori* Pocock, 1897, *Phoneyusa bettoni* Pocock, 1898 and *Phoneyusa rufa* Berland, 1914. These three species of

Phoneyusa and *C. crawshayi* are here treated as junior synonyms of *Pelinobius muticus*. The monotypic genus *Monocentropella* is also treated as a junior synonym of *Eumenophorus*.

Methods

Methods follow Gallon (2002), except that ocular measurements were obtained microscopically using an eyepiece graticule (± 0.01 mm). Somatic measurements of the *Harpactirella* and *Idiothele* species were obtained microscopically, owing to their small size.

Abbreviations: Eyes: AME=anterior median, ALE=anterior lateral, PME=posterior median, PLE=posterior lateral. Leg spines: DPV=distal proventral, DRV=distal retroventral, MPV=medial proventral, MRV=medial retroventral, MRL=medial retrolateral, MRD=medial retrodorsal, MPL=medial prolateral, DMV=distal midventral, DPD=distal prodorsal, DRD=distal retrodorsal, PPV=proximal proventral, *indicates a spine in an atypical position, usually placed more proximally. R=right, L=left, PL=prolateral, RL=retrolateral. Spinnerets: DS=distal segment, MS=medial segment. SSR=supra-sutural region. Collections: BMNH=Natural History Museum, London, UK; ISNB=Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium; MNHN=Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France; MRAC=Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium; OUMNH=Hope Museum, Oxford, UK; PPRI=Plant Protection Research Institute (National Collection of Arachnids), Pretoria, South Africa; SAM=South African Museum, Cape Town, South Africa; TM=Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, South Africa; NMKE=National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya; ZMB=Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany; ZMH=Zoologisches Museum Hamburg, Germany.

Subfamily Harpactirinae

Augacephalus ezendami (Gallon, 2001) **comb. n.** (Plates 1–4, 9, 12, Figs. 1–7)

Ceratogyrus ezendami Gallon, 2001: 6, figs. 10–17 (D♂♀).

Type material: Holotype ♂ and paratype ♀ (BMNH) from Mozambique; examined.

Remarks: Gallon (2002) partly diagnosed the genus *Augacephalus* on the basis that the male lacked or had a reduced DPV tibial apophysis on leg I. Examination of additional new material confirms that whilst males of *A. junodi* lack a tibial apophysis, this feature is present in *A. breyeri*. The only male of *A. breyeri* available for the revision (Gallon, 2002) was missing a palp and one of its front legs, and it is now believed that the reduced tibial apophysis in this specimen is an artefact of leg regrowth (Gallon, 1999).

Batches of wild caught Theraphosidae from Mozambique, imported into Germany (2007–2008), were found to contain specimens conspecific with *Ceratogyrus ezendami* Gallon, 2001. Examination of this