Scientific Note

A correction to the origin of *Neoscona crucifera*, Lucas 1839, (Araneae: Araneidae)

Martinez (July 1993) first reported *Neoscona crucifera* Lucas, 1838 in California. However, as stated in the note, Martinez actually discovered the spider ten years earlier on 7 October 1983 at Santiago Oaks Regional Park in the City of Orange, Orange County, California. Martinez sent the specimens to Dr. Herbert Levi at Harvard University who identified them as *Neoscona hentzii* Keyserling 1864, a species found in Eastern North America. On 29 October 1991, Levi indicated that records of Martinez were the first from California (personal communication) and added that since 1984 *N. hentzii* has been found to be an introduced African species with the name of *N. crucifera*. Within the next decade after 1983 *N. crucifera* spread explosively throughout the Los Angeles Basin.

However, in 1992 Levi concluded that *N. crucifera* was introduced from America to Africa, to Madeira, and to the Canary Islands. In addition, *N. crucifera* was also recorded from Hawaii (N. I. Platnick, personal communication). Before the advent of *N. crucifera*, *N. oaxacensis* Keyserling 1864 was the most abundant araneid from mid July through November in Southern California. Although *N. crucifera* has replaced *N. oaxacensis* in many of the latter's former habitats, these two species do coexist in other habitats in Southern California. *N. oaxacensis* may be abundant locally and appears to be making a resurgence in recent years.

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Literature Cited
