



TAXONOMIC REVISION OF THE TARANTULA GENUS *APHONOPELMA* POCOCK, 1901 (ARANEAE, MYGALOMORPHAE, THERAPHOSIDAE) WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

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Aphonopelma bentzi (Girard, 1854)

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Tarantulas have long been the objects of fascination and fear in popular culture, yet very little is known about these enigmatic spiders. This monograph documents the diversity and distribution of the tarantula genus *Aphonopelma* in the United States. Based on examination of nearly 3,000 specimens from museum and field collections, the authors provide detailed descriptions for the 29 tarantula species known to occur in the United States, including 14 newly recognized species: *A. atomicum* sp. n., *A. catalina* sp. n., *A. chircabua* sp. n., *A. icenoglei* sp. n., *A. johnnycashi* sp. n., *A. madera* sp. n., *A. mareki* sp. n., *A. moellendorfi* sp. n., *A. parvum* sp. n., *A. peloncillo* sp. n., *A. prenticei* sp. n., *A. saguaro* sp. n., *A. superstitionense* sp. n., and *A. xwalxwal* sp. n. This data-rich contribution represents the most comprehensive taxonomic treatment for any group of tarantulas to date and brings a modern understanding of species delimitation to this dynamic and charismatic group of spiders.



For those who want their work rapidly known to the World !

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