

Revised generic placement of *Brachypelma embrithes* (Chamberlin & Ivie, 1936) and *Brachypelma angustum* Valerio, 1980, with definition of the taxonomic features for identification of female *Sericopelma* Ausserer, 1875 (Araneae, Theraphosidae)

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Abstract

The tarantula genus *Sericopelma* was originally defined based on male specimens, most notably lacking tibial spurs on leg I. Early female specimens were unrecognised as *Sericopelma*, and typically placed in *Eurypelma* – a dumping ground for problem specimens. The first females were only later recognised, but authors failed to adequately define female *Sericopelma*. Here, the holotypes of the Southern-most alleged *Brachypelma* species, *B. embrithes* (Chamberlin & Ivie, 1936) and *B. angustum* Valerio, 1980 were examined, and finding both to possess defining characteristics of *Sericopelma* were transferred. The taxonomic attributes to define *Sericopelma* relative to *Brachypelma* and select other Neotropical genera are discussed, especially for females. As important diagnostic characters for *Sericopelma*, the single (unilobar) spermathecae swollen at the apex forming a P-shaped cross-section, metatarsus IV with trace scopula, femur IV with a dense retrolateral pad of plumose hair, plus other attributes. Some past confusion in these characters are clarified and *Sericopelma* relative to *Brachypelma* and *Megaphobema mesomelas* are discussed. Finally recommendations are given about these taxonomic changes for CITES regulations.

Keywords

Spider taxonomy, Theraphosidae, *Brachypelma*, transfer, *Sericopelma*

Introduction

Sericopelma Ausserer, 1875 was established for a male tarantula from an unspecified location in Panama without leg I tibial apophyses, named *S. rubronitens* Ausserer, 1875. *Sericopelma* was originally a subgenus of *Eurypelma* Koch, 1851, but later given full generic status (Simon 1892). Karsch (1880) also described an early male tarantula from Chiriquí Panama without leg I tibial apophyses as *Theraphosa panamana* Karsch, 1880. In revision, Simon (1892) synonymized *T. panamana* into Ausserer's *Sericopelma rubronitens*, emphasizing the lack of male tibial apophyses. He also considered that another male in the Paris collection from Chiriquí, Panama, might be the same. Like Karsch, he drew on similarities to the genus *Theraphosa*, where males of *T. blondi* (Latreille, 1804) also lack tibial apophyses, but distinguished the genera by several other features such as bulb shape, eye ratios, and cephalothorax dimensions. Soon after, Pickard-Cambridge (1897) described another species from four males also collected around Chiriquí province in Panama, which he named *Sericopelma commune* F.O.P.-Cambridge, 1897. He distinguished *Sericopelma* by femur IV “with a thick scopuliform pad on inner side”, male tibia I without spurs, and emphasized the lack of scopulae on protarsus (metatarsus) of leg IV “with no thick scopulae on the inner side”. Pocock (1901) again treated *Sericopelma* as congeneric with *Theraphosa*, but was not subsequently accepted.

Throughout the early twentieth century, only male *Sericopelma* were formally known and females remained unrecognised. Simon had described *Eurypelma panamense* Simon (1891) from a female with the vague locality of “Panama, Guatemala” emphasising conspicuous scopulae on femoral leg IV, but failed to recognize it as *Sericopelma* (see Gabriel 2009). Schiapelli and Gerschman de Pikelin (1967) then evaluated both sexes of a *Sericopelma* sp. from “Rio Grande, Nicaragua” (? = Río Grande de Matagalpa) and illustrated the first female spermathecae. Next, Valerio (1980) described seven new Costa Rican species including three from both sexes, namely *Sericopelma generala*, *S. immensum* and *S. silvicola*, but only males for *S. dota*, *S. ferrugineum*, *S. melanotarsum* and *S. upala*. Following Schiapelli and Gerschman (1967), *Sericopelma* was characterized in Valerio (1980) by the “presence of a thick scopula on the inner side of femur IV, and by the absence of spurs on tibia I [of males], and by the absence of stridulatory setae on trochanter I, and [absence of] scopula on metatarsus IV”. Smith (1991b) then re-described a syntype male of *S. commune* and illustrated the spermathecae of a female *Sericopelma* sp. in the BMNH collection. He suggested the latter was the un-described female of *S. commune*, and although stating “not a species description”, it has been subsequently treated as such (*i.e.* World Spider Catalog 2015). We deduce that Smith (1991b) was referring to a female from Pozo Azul de Pirrís, Costa Rica, assigned by Valerio to *S. immensum* [see discussion]. Schmidt (1994) described the exuvia of a female as *S. melanotarsum*, illustrating the spermathecae, but did not give collection locality nor list any museum deposit. Most recently, Gabriel (2009) transferred the Panamanian *Sericopelma panamense* (Simon, 1891) from *Eurypelma*, illustrating the holotype spermathecae plus of another Panamanian *Sericopelma* sp. from Boquete, Chiriquí province, whilst Gabriel and Longhorn (2011) illustrated the spermathecae of a *Sericopelma* sp. from Bocas del Toro province, Panama. Finally Andre and

Esche (2011) showed the spermathecae of *S. melanotarsum* alongside other morphological data, plus substantial ecological, behavioural, and captive breeding data. However, despite these studies, *Sericopelma* as a whole remains poorly defined.

The genus *Brachypelma* Simon, 1891 was created for *Mygale emilia* White, 1856, originally listed from Panama. However, this location is erroneous, as the natural distribution of the type species and allies is South-western México (*i.e.* Smith 1994, Loch et al. 1999, Schmidt 2003). *Brachypelma* is currently said to range from México to Panama, though the southern-most species have not been revised until now. Pickard-Cambridge (1897) could not distinguish *Brachypelma* from *Eurypelma*, and considered the genera synonymous, describing other species such as *B. smithi* (F.O.P.-Cambridge, 1897), which has become a flagship for conservation efforts under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). *Eurypelma* was partly dismembered by Pocock (1903), who recognised the importance of plumose hairs on leg I and palp to define *Brachypelma*, whilst Simon (1903) admitted *Eurypelma* was previously insufficiently characterised. *Brachypelma* was considered valid by Valerio (1980) who described three new species from Costa Rica, *B. albopilosum* Valerio, 1980, *B. fossorium* Valerio, 1980 and *B. angustum* Valerio, 1980. Soon after, Smith (1986) formalised additional transfers from *Eurypelma* to *Brachypelma*. Valerio (1980) had previously also transferred the Costa Rican *Eurypelma mesomelas* O.P.-Cambridge, 1892 into *Brachypelma* and described the female. Smith (1986, 1987) agreed, but not Schmidt (1991a/b), who further transferred it to *Megaphobema* despite objections by Smith (1991a/b). Schmidt (1993, 2003) continued to list this as *Megaphobema mesomelas*, as does the current World Spider Catalog (World Spider Catalog 2015).

Here taxonomic placement of some Costa Rican and Panamanian species is re-evaluated. Petrunkevitch (1925) had previously recorded several alleged *Eurypelma* from Panama, listing some as species now placed in *Brachypelma* (namely *emilia*, *sabulosum* and *vagans*) since known only from México, Guatemala and Belize (Smith 1994, Loch et al. 1999). Chamberlin and Ivie (1936) went further and described a species from Barro Colorado Island [Panama] as *Eurypelma embrithes*, placing it in that genus without explanation. Already, the robustness of *Eurypelma* should have been suspicious, as many species had been placed there without justification. Petrunkevitch (1939) later considered *Eurypelma* as “genus incertum and invalidum”, although was treated as valid by Roewer (1942). Raven (1985) went on to regard *Eurypelma* as a junior synonym of the arboreal *Avicularia* Lamarck, 1818. Consequently several species were transferred to *Avicularia* that clearly did not belong there. Schmidt (1993) instead transferred several former *Eurypelma* into *Aphonopelma*, leading to the new combination *Aphonopelma embrithes* (Chamberlin & Ivie, 1936) although gave no justification, nor apparently examined any relevant types. Smith (1994) relocated *embrithes* to *Brachypelma* after reviewing many historical specimens, but did not explain his placement of this Panamanian species, thereby becoming the southern-most representative of *Brachypelma*. However, *B. embrithes* has since been listed as such (*e.g.* World Spider Catalog 2015) and receives legal protection under CITES legislation. However, much taxonomic revision is necessary for this protected genus in the context of others genera such as *Sericopelma*,

although Smith (1994), Locht et al. (1999) and West (2005) have each made valuable contributions. Here, type material of *B. embrithes* and *B. angustum* are re-examined and their taxonomic placement is reconsidered in a modern context.

Methods

Specimens were examined under a binocular microscope, photographs of spermathecae and other structures were typically made using a Leica M135 auto-montage system, other photographs with a Fujipix S5000. All measurements are given in millimetres (mm). *Abbreviations, Institutes:* AMNH = American Museum of Natural History; BMNH = British Museum of Natural History; CNAN = Colección Nacional de Arácnidos, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; LAAHFC = Laboratorio de Acarología “Anita Hoffmann”, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; MCZ = Museum of Comparative Zoology Harvard; MIUCR = Museo de Invertebrados University Costa Rica, MIUP = Museo de Invertebrados G.B. Fairchild, Universidad de Panama; MNHN = Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris; OUMNH = Oxford University Museum of Natural History, UK; PMY = Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale, Connecticut; SJLC = Private collection Stuart J. Longhorn; STRI = Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute; NHMV = Natural History Museum Vienna (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien), Austria; ZMB = Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany. *Others:* CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; ANAM = Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente; B.C.I. = Barro Colorado Island; Imm = immature specimen; Ident. = indeterminate; det. = determined as; ALE = Anterior Lateral Eyes; PLE = Posterior Lateral Eyes; AME = Anterior Medial Eyes, PLE = Posterior Lateral Eyes; LHS = Left Hand side (from above); RHS = Right Hand Side. DMS = Degrees, Minutes, Seconds. Authors comments/emphases in[].

Type material examined: 1 ♀ holotype & 1 imm ♀ paratype *Aphonopelma seemanni* F.O.P.-Cambridge 1897, BMNH [unknown accession], Puerto Culebra, Costa Rica, leg. Dr. B. Seemann; 1 ♀ holotype *Brachypelma angustum* Valerio 1980, UCR-433; 1 ♂ holotype *Brachypelma baumgarteni* Smith 1993, BMNH 1999-122, Sierra Madre del Sur, Mexico, leg. M. Baumgarten; 1 ♀ holotype *Brachypelma embrithes* (Chamberlin and Ivie 1936), AMNH [No accession], Barro Colorado Island (B.C.I.), Panama, leg. unknown; 1 ♂ neotype *Brachypelma emilia* (White 1856), BMNH 98-12-24-32, Ciudad (Durango, Mexico) leg. Mr. Forrer (See Smith 1994); 1 ♂ para-neotype *B. emilia* (labeled as paratype), OUNMH Jar 106, Ciudad, Mex (Durango, Mexico) leg. Forrer; 1 ♂ holotype *Brachypelma fossorium* Valerio 1980, UCR-238 Guanacaste, Gte Filadelfia, leg. 24 jul.1973, Eddie Herrera & 1 ♀ allotype UCR-126, Guanacaste, Finca Santo Tomás, leg. 9 Apr. 1966, C.E. Valerio; 1 ♀ holotype *Brachypelma sabulosum* (F.O.P.-Cambridge 1897) BMNH 1898.12.24.54, Tikal Petten (=Peten), Guatemala, leg. A.P.Maudslay; 1 j♂ holotype (originally listed as ♀) *Brachypelma smithi* (F.O.P.-Cambridge 1897), BMNH 1898.12.24.33 (1143), Dos Arroyos, Mexico (=Guerrero), leg. H.H. Smith; 1 ♂ holotype & 1 ♀ paratype

Brachypelma vagans (Ausserer 1875), BMNH 1890-7-1-380-282, Yucatan (Keyserling collection), leg. Unknown; 1 ♂ holotype *Megaphobema mesomelas* (O.P.-Cambridge 1892), BMNH 1898.12.24.55, Caché, Costa Rica, leg. H. Rogers, Goodman and Salvin collection [ex-dried]; 1 ♂ holotype, 1 ♂ paratype (=syntype) *Megaphobema robustum* (Ausserer 1875), BMNH 1890.7.1.369-371, Bogotá [=Colombia] (Keyserling collection), leg. unknown; 1 ♂ holotype *Megaphobema peterklaasi* Schmidt 1994, SMF 38028 Costa Rica, leg. P. Klaas, det G. Schmidt 1994 & 1 ♂ paratype SMF 38030, same data; 1 ♂ holotype & 1 ♀ allotype *Megaphobema velvetosoma* Schmidt 1995, SMF 57910, Ecuador, area around Tena, leg. D. Antonelli; 3 ♂ 'syntypes' (lectotype and paralectotypes) *Sericopelma commune* F.O.P.-Cambridge 1897, BMNH 1898.12.24 19-21, Panama, Chiriquí, leg. G.C. Champion; 1 ♂ paralectotype (fourth syntype) *S. commune* OUMNH Jar 106, Chiriquí, leg G. Champion.; 1 ♂ holotype *Sericopelma immensum* Valerio 1980, UCR-237, San José, Cantón Dota, Finca El Cedral 2100 m, leg. 28 Oct. 1972, Guillermo Solís & 1 ♀ allotype UCR-288, San José, Cantón Puriscal, Naranjal de Guarumal, 480 m, leg. 5 Apr. 1972, Luis E. Jirón; 1 ♀ holotype *Sericopelma panamense* (Simon 1891), AR 4850 MNHN (Simon Collection), 'Panama and Guatemala' leg. unknown; 1 ♂ holotype *Sericopelma panamanalium* (Karsch 1880), ZMB 2394 BERLIN = Junior synonym of *S. rubronitens* by Simon (1892), Panama, Chiriquí, leg. Unknown; 1 ♂ holotype *Sericopelma rubronitens* Ausserer 1875, NHMV Nr.1874.III.1, WIEN, Panama, leg. unknown.

Other material examined: See supplement for full listing of examined Nicaraguan, Costa Rican and Panamanian *Sericopelma* spp. in the collections at BMNH, MCZ, MNHN, MIUP, OUMNH, PMY, SJLC. Specimens of various *Brachypelma* sp. from BMNH, CNAN, MCZ, OUMNH, LAAHCF, SJLC, *Megaphobema* sp. from MCZ, OUMNH, SJLC and *Theraphosa* sp. from OUMNH and SJLC.

Results

Taxonomy

Family Theraphosidae Thorell, 1869

Genus *Sericopelma* Ausserer, 1875

Sericopelma embrithes (Chamberlin & Ivie, 1936), comb. n.

Eurypelma embrithes Chamberlin & Ivie, 1936: 7 (D female)

Avicularia embrithes Raven, 1985: 146, 148, 151 (T f from *Eurypelma*).

Aphonopelma embrithes Schmidt, 1993: 78 (T f from *Eurypelma* = *Avicularia*).

Brachypelma embrithes Smith, 1994: 160 (T f from *Eurypelma* = *Avicularia*).

Description. *Female* (Holotype AMNH): Total length including chelicerae 58.6. Carapace, length 27.6, width 23.2. Caput, high. Ocular tubercle, length 2.6, width 3. An-

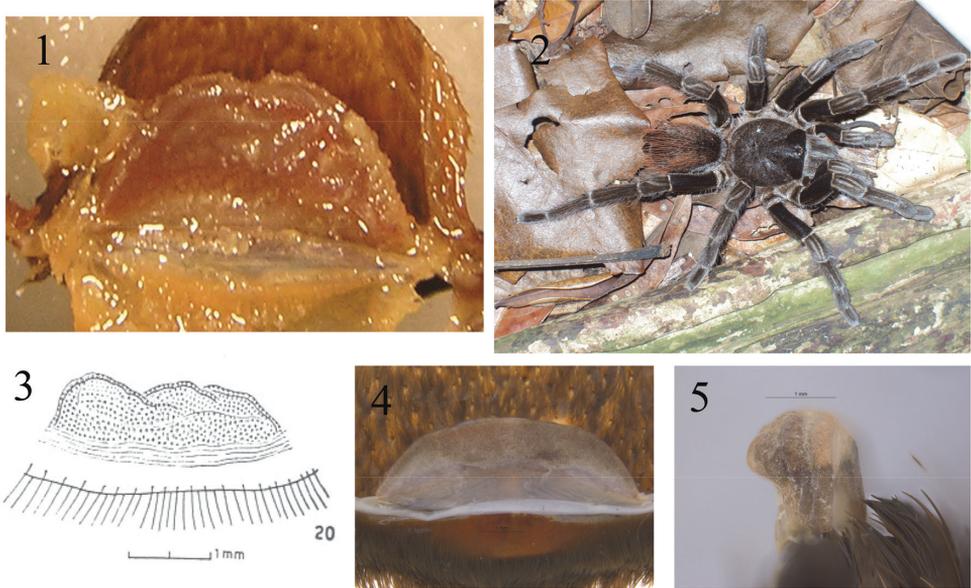


Figure 1–5. **1** Spermathecae from holotype of *S. embrithes* in dorsal view **2** Live specimen *in situ* of *Sericopelma* cf. *embrithes* at type locality on Barro Colorado Island, probable adult Female [Photo: Insa Wagner, STRI] **3** Spermatheca drawing of female Nicaraguan *Sericopelma* sp. in dorsal from Schiapelli and Gerschman (1967), their figure 20 **4** Spermatheca of mature female *Sericopelma* sp. Boquete (8.78°N, 82.43°W), Distrito Boquete, Chiriquí Province, Panama, dorsal view lacking any distinct median notch **5** Same spermatheca (as 4) in lateral view with diagnostic ‘P-shape’ (of seen in reverse).

terior row procurved, posterior row recurved. Eyes ALE > AME, AME > PLE, PLE > PME. Clypeus; 0.9, clypeal fringe long. Fovea, deep transverse. Maxillae, with 100–120 cuspules, covering approximately 60% of proximal edge. Labium, length 3.2, width 4.4, with 40–60 labial cuspules most separated by less than 0.5 - 1 times the width of a single cuspule. Labio-sternal mounds separate. Sternum, damaged with three pairs of sigilla. Femur IV with a dense pad of plumose hair on retro-lateral surface, pro-lateral surfaces of trochanter/femur of anterior legs lacking stridulatory setae. Tarsi I–IV densely scopulate. Metatarsal scopulae, I 88%, II 83%, III 64%, IV 15% of the length of the segment, IV divided. Lengths of leg and palpal segments see Table 2. Spination: femurs I, III, IV, 0-0-2 palp d 0-0-1, patella I, palp, II, III 0-2-0, IV 0-3-0, tibia 1 d 0-2-0, v 0-0-3, II d 1-2-0, v 1-1-3, III d 2-2-2, v 0-2-3 (apical), tibia IV d 4-3-2, v 2-1-2, palp d 0-1-2, metatarsus I 0-0-1, II v 0-0-2 (apical), III d 2-3-2, v 4-0-5 (apical), IV d 3-2-2, v 5-5-9 (5 apical). Posterior lateral spinnerets, with three segments, basal 4.4, medial 3.7, digitiform apical 6.1. Lateral median spinnerets, with one segment. Spermathecae, single domed receptacle apically swollen (Fig. 1). Urticating hairs (not from holotype) type I and III.

Colour. Type specimen alcohol faded brown. Live freshly moulted specimens from type locality are an overall blackish with longer red hairs on the abdomen, with grayish hairs on the dorsal trochanter, coxae and edges of the carapace, and two converging stripes on patella in older specimens (Fig. 2). These colours fade to overall

Table I. *S. embrithes* female holotype lengths of legs and palp.

	I	II	III	IV	Palp
Femur	17.9	17.5	14.8	19.9	14.5
Patella	10.8	9.7	8.7	10.6	9.0
Tibia	12.7	13.2	11.3	15.5	9.8
Metatarsus	12.7	12.2	14.6	21.3	-
Tarsus	9.9	9.8	9.8	11.0	11.1
Total	64.0	62.4	59.2	78.3	44.4

brown with subdued russet abdominal hairs after a few months and the first dry season (RG pers.obs.).

Distribution. Only known from type locality Barro Colorado Island, = Lake Gatun/ Canal Zone, Distrito La Chorrera, Provincia de Panamá, República de Panamá [DMS = 9°09'00"N, 79°50'41"W].

Remarks. Originally, this species was described by “Carapace is decidedly longer than wide. Median depression transverse; deep” and “barely a trace of scopula on metatarsus IV”. Our examination confirmed these features, but lead us to conclude identification as *Sericopelma* as defined here, including presence of an apically swollen unilobar spermathecae (Fig. 1, see also Figs 3–5, 7–9, contrast 13–16). The type locality of Barro Colorado Island is the site of a Smithsonian Institute field-centre; hence there is a large series of specimens from type locality assignable to *Sericopelma embrithes* (Fig. 2) in the MCZ, MIUP and PMY (supplementary material). It is possible that *S. embrithes* (Chamberlin and Ivie 1936) is a junior synonym of another *Sericopelma* sp. such as *S. commune* Pickard-Cambridge, 1897 or *S. panamanum* (Karsch, 1880). Unfortunately, the mature male of *S. embrithes* remains unknown. However, geographic considerations can be vital to make confident decisions about both generic and species identities as many tarantulas have narrow distributions, and we contend these older named Panamanian species were collected in distant western Panama, namely ‘Chiriquí’, likely the cool highlands near Volcán Baru and Boquete (Prov. de Chiriquí) where Europeans would acclimatize (rather than the small modern village of Chiriquí, Prov. de Chiriquí). Conversely, *S. embrithes* from Barro Colorado Island (Prov. de Panamá) is within the central Canal Zone, a distance of over 300 km from ‘Chiriquí’ (Specifically *ca.* 320 km from Panama City to Boquete).

***Sericopelma angustum* (Valerio, 1980), comb. n.**

Brachypelma angusta Valerio, 1980: 269, f. 19. (D female)

Euathlus angustus: Raven 1985: 150 (T f from *Brachypelma*).

Brachypelma angustum: Schmidt 1992: 10, f. 8 (T f from *Euathlus*).

Brachypelma angustum: Schmidt 1993: 82, f. 192. (misidentification*)

[*Note: The figure ‘Abb. 192’ in Schmidt 1993 shows a spermathecae of an alleged *B. angustum*, but does not conform to either the Valerio’s (1980) drawing of the

holotype spermathecae, nor our examination of the type. We suggest the material of Schmidt (1993) was likely misidentified pet trade *Brachypelma* sp. as with discussion and figures in Peters (2000, 2003), also misidentified pet trade *Brachypelma* sp.]

Description. *Female* (Holotype UCR 433): Total length including chelicerae 58.9. Carapace, length 22.9, width 19.2. Caput, high. Ocular tubercle, length 2.6, width 3.1. Anterior row procurved, posterior row recurved. Eyes, ALE > PLE, PLE > AME, AME > PME. Clypeus, 0.5, clypeal fringe long. Fovea, deep transverse. Maxillae, with 80–100 cuspules, covering approximately 60% of proximal edge. Labium, length 2.9, width 3.7, with 21 labial cuspules (a bald area in the centre of the labium lacks sockets for cuspules and may indicate previous damage, this cannot be confirmed until further specimens are examined) most separated by less than 0.5–1 times the width of a single cuspule. Labio-sternal mounds separate. Sternum damaged, narrow, length 10.2 (approx), width 8.4 with three pairs of sigilla. Femur IV with a dense pad of plumose hair on retro-lateral surface, pro-lateral surfaces of trochanter/femur of anterior legs lacking stridulatory setae. Tarsi I–IV densely scopulate, tarsus IV with spines along central axis. Metatarsal scopulae, I 84%, II 78%, III 35%, of the length of the segment, IV lacking scopulae. Lengths of leg and palpal segments see Table 1. Spination: femurs I, II, IV d 0-0-1, III 0-0-4, palp 0-0-2 (no spines on LHS palp only on RHS palp), patella II, palp 0-1-0, III 1-1-0, tibia I d 0-2-0, v 4-3-3, II d 1-1-1, v 2-4-3, III d 2-2-2, v 3-5-3, tibia IV d 2-0-4, v 4-4-3, palpal tibia d 0-2-1, v 2-2-4 (apical), metatarsus I v 2-0-3, II d 0-1-1, v 2-1-3 (apical), III d 3-3-2, v 3-5-10 (6 apical), IV d 6-5-4, v 8-11-16 (6 apical). Posterior lateral spinnerets with three segments, basal 3.9, medial 3.2, digitiform apical 5.1. Lateral median spinnerets with one segment. Spermathecae, single domed receptacle apically swollen with slight medial indentation. Urticating hairs, type I and type III present.

Colour. Alcohol faded brown, posterior legs III and IV with longer reddish setae.

Distribution. Only known from type locality San Pedro de Arenal, Cantón San Carlos, Provincia de Alajuela, Costa Rica. [Likely DMS = 10°22'30"N, 84°34'47"W].

Remarks. The holotype is now fragmented (Figs 6–11) and right legs II and III both appear to have been lost in life as coxal stumps are blackened indicating wound healing. Accession data from UCR and jar labels specify the holotype was collected on 01-Oct.-1974 by Edgar Vargas, but this information was not given by Valerio 1980. In the holotype jar of *S. angustum* a label “igual a *Sericopelma upala* (?) CEV 13 julio 83” (Fig. 6) shows Valerio himself (= CEV) had doubts about placement in *Brachypelma*, also considering it conspecific to the male he described as *S. upala*. The type localities are close, less than 50 km apart in Alajuela with similar ecotypes of lowland tropical forest, now largely fragmented to sugarcane plantation and cattle pasture (S. Longhorn pers. obs). However, until further specimens of *Sericopelma upala* and/or *S. angustum* are examined, we are not prepared to place them into synonymy at this time. We suspect Valerio (1980) lacked sufficient access to *Brachypelma* material to make a more informed decision about the genus, failing to recognise defining characteristics (as outlined below).



Figure 6–11. Holotype of *S. angustum*. **6** Habitus and labels **7** Valerio (1980) figure 19, drawing spermathecae **8** Spermathecae, dorsal view **9** Spermathecae, lateral view showing (reversed) ‘P-shape’ diagnostic of *Scricopelma* **10** Dense pad of plumose hairs on femur IV not present in *Brachypelma*, upper with alcohol wet, bottom left inset same dried, bottom right inset closeup of plumose hairs **11** tarsus leg IV showing unusual spines along central axis, bottom left inset closer image.

Table 2. *S. angustum* female holotype lengths of legs and palp.

	I	II	III	IV	Palp
Femur	16.3	15.2	14.6	18.9	11.9
Patella	9.5	8.9	8.3	9.7	7.1
Tibia	14.0	12.0	11.2	15.1	9.4
Metatarsus	12.0	12.0	15.0	22.0	-
Tarsus	9.6	9.4	9.1	9.6	9.8
Total	61.4	57.5	58.2	75.3	38.2

Sericopelma commue F.O.P.-Cambridge, 1897

Sericopelma communis F.O.P.-Cambridge: 15 (D male).

Sericopelma commune Smith, 1991b: 18 (f), here considered misplaced in this species.

Type. *Male* (3 male syntypes, BMNH 1898-12-24-19-21, male syntype OUMNH O.P.-Cambridge Coll. Jar 106):

Remarks. Smith (1991b) refers to three of four male syntypes from Chiriquí as *S. commune*, specifically BMNH 1898-12-24-19-21 (*i.e.* accessioned 24th-Dec-1898, coded '19-21'), then described a female, saying "Female BMNH 98-12-24-22. Assigned to the species by Valerio". The only female BMNH specimen with this accession has the oldest label "Museo Nacional de Costa Rica, Pozo Azul de Pirris, José C. Zeldón", naming a collector from the 1890s. A later label "*Sericopelma immensa* n. sp. Det. C. E. Valerio, Jan 10, 1979" matches his paper (Valerio 1980) referring to a BMNH specimen from this same locality as *S. immensum*. However, the species on the Valerio label has been physically scored out, but likely reads *immensa*. Another pen-written label says "*Sericopelma commune* F.O Pick–Cambr." (in handwriting of curator Doug Clark, died 1972), apparently present when both Valerio and Smith examined the specimen. We suspect this label misled Smith (1991b) to reconsider the specimen as the un-described female *S. commune*, even though collected at a Costa Rican locality (Parrita Cantón, Puntarenas), approx. 250 km from the Chiriquí type site. However Smith only records the distribution (indicating both sexes) from Chiriquí, Panama. Further confusion occurs with another mature male in BMNH with an old pencil-written label "Panama", then two pen labels in Clark's handwriting, "*S. commune* PDA Costa Rica BMNH 1898-12-24-22" and "*Sericopelma commune* det. Clark 1960". We suspect these latter labels were an attempt by Clark to wrongly allocate this "Panama" male to both the Pozo Azul de Pirris accession, and as a 'missing' fourth male syntype of *S. commune*. Clark perhaps did not realise that fourth male is in the Pickard-Cambridge collection at OUMNH, where a male labelled 'syntype' had the unequivocal label "*Sericopelma communis* Fopc Chiriqui – Champion". In a BMNH accessions book, 1898-12-24-22 corresponds to "*Sericopelma* sp? Pozo Azul de Pirris (Costa Rica). Pres. by F.D. Godman, Esq., Costa Rica Mus, F.O.P.-Cambridge". However, although F.O. Pickard-Cambridge apparently recognised it as a possible female *Sericopelma* sp, the lack of accounts before Valerio (1980) indicate it was ignored,

perhaps due to uncertainty about matching it with known males. We consider this female to be the same listed by both Valerio (1980) and Smith (1991b) and suggest its unsecure designation as the first described female of *S. commune* be suspended, instead to favour topotypic specimens from Chiriquí, such as the region of Volcán where G. Champion likely collected the four male syntypes.

Distribution. Only known from type locality, Chiriquí = Chiriquí, Provincia de Chiriquí, República de Panamá.

***Sericopelma panamanum* (Karsch, 1880), stat. rev.**

Theraphosa panamana Karsch, 1880: 84 (D male).

Sericopelma panamana F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1897a: 16.

Sericopelma rubronitens Simon, 1892: 159 (S, here considered misplaced in this species).

Type. *Male* (1 male holotype, ZMB 2394 BERLIN):

Remarks. Simon (1892) makes no clear justification why Karsh's *T. panamana* from Chiriquí should be synonymous with *S. rubronitens*, only referring to similarities in eye pattern and absence of tibial spurs in Karsh's description against another non-type male specimen in the Paris collection, which he had assigned as *S. rubronitens*. Our re-examination of the type specimen confirmed its designation as a *Sericopelma* sp., but not its synonymy with *S. rubronitens*, which is here reversed.

Distribution. Only known from type locality, Chiriquí = Chiriquí, Provincia de Chiriquí, República de Panamá.

Geographic distribution, and generic limits

We believe it is important to re-clarify the characteristics of *Brachypelma* in this context. The type of *Brachypelma* is *B. emilia*, originally suggested in the paper's title to be from Panama (White 1856). A later male from México: Ventanas, Prov. de Durango (leg. Forrier) was described by Simon (1891) as generic type. Smith (1994) incorrectly says "Simon lists his specimen as coming from Panama" (p.166). We suspect this stems from a mis-listing by F.O.P-Cambridge (1897) of "PANAMA (coll. Simon: Male)" where locality was confused with the original type. While the original specimen appears lost (Smith 1994) or 'non-existent' (Pickard-Cambridge 1897), an excellent illustration in White's paper allows identification, showing an adult male with tibial spurs. The route of the collector (Berthold Seemann) is well known (Seemann 1852), joining his ship in Panama and voyaging north along the Pacific, docking in México both at San Blas (Estado Nayarit) and Mazatlán (Sinaloa). The original type taken to the BMNH was most likely collected during the second inland foray in 1849/50 to Ciudad de Durango (modern Victoria de Durango, Durango) and Tepic (Nayarit). However, another male deposited in MNHN was used as generic type of *Brachypel-*

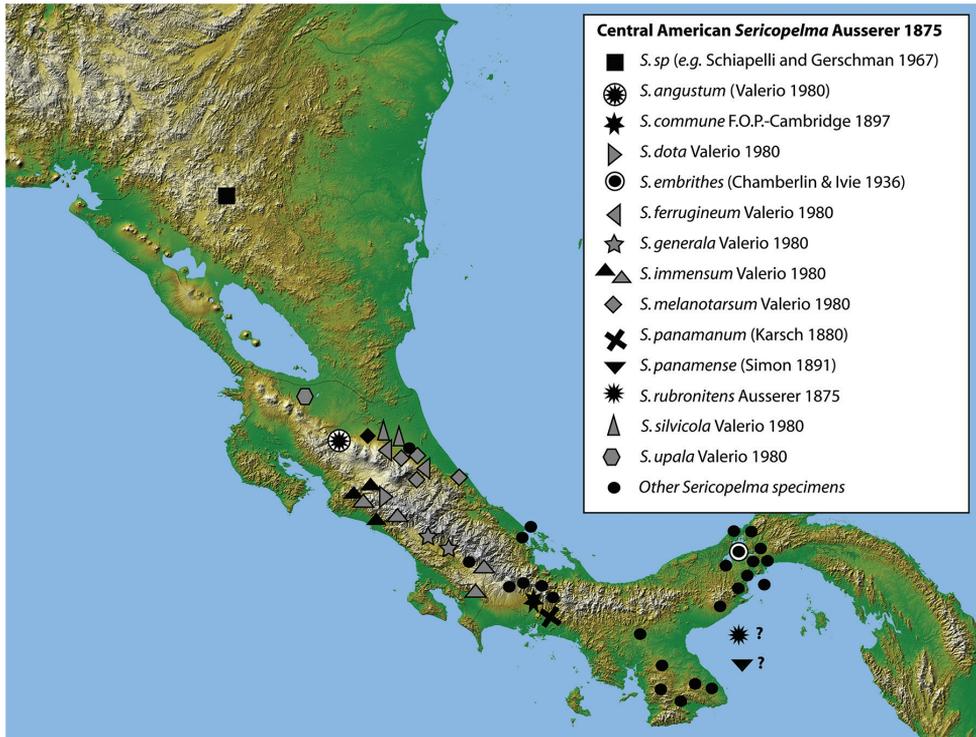


Figure 12. Geographic distribution of the genus *Sericopelma* from published records (including this study), where complete black-centered shapes are for specimens examined during this study, whilst gray shapes [outlined in black] are further specimens listed by Valerio (1980), accordingly data for *S. immensum* has black shapes (for the holotype, allotype and further female from Pozo Azul de Pirris examined here), and gray shapes for further sites of Valerio. *S. rubronitens* and *S. panamense* are of unspecific location, but canal-zone seems likely.

ma, from Ventanas (leg. Forrer). This is likely modern Villa Corona, Estado Durango (DMS = 23°52'51"N, 105°46'19"W) (Selander and Vaurie 1962), but concurs both with the route of Seemann (within 15 km from Mazatlán to Ciudad de Durango) and with modern understanding of the species distribution across Sinaloa, Durango and Nayarit (Locht et al. 1999). Pickard-Cambridge (1897) mentions two males by Mr. Forrer from Ciudad [modern Victoria de Durango] plus Simon's male from Ventanas, but none specifically as neotype. One adult male which Smith (1994) refers to as neotype was accessioned in NHM as BMNH 98-12-24-32 where it is labelled 'leg. Forrer' plus 'Ciudad'. The second adult male is in the Pickard-Cambridge collection at OUNMH (Jar 65), with the same collection details of 'Ciudad. Mex, Forrer', plus labelled 'paratype A.M. Smith'. However, we argue preference could have been given to the generic type of Simon from Ventanas. Simon (1891) also referred to a female specimen, though Pickard-Cambridge (1897) stated the female is unknown. However Smith (1994) gives a comprehensive description of both sexes, using a later

female BMNH 1962-2-28-1, and as a result the taxonomic identity of this species is clear. Simon (1891) originally emphasized several characters for *Brachypelma*, including presence of distinct scopula on the metatarsus, and femur IV without inner scopula (i.e. no dense pad of plumose hairs), instead long and simple hairs (“*metatarsus parvis scopula crassa medium articulum fere attingente munitus, femora postica haud scopulata intus longe et simpliciter pilosa*”, Simon 1890). The genus is also characterised by plumose hairs on the prolateral face of leg I trochanter/femur and retrolateral face of the palp (Pocock 1903). These features have been supported by subsequent authors as diagnostic for *Brachypelma* (e.g. Smith 1994), such as both sexes without a plumose pad on leg IV femur, the metatarsus IV distally one-third to one-fifth scopulate, and no tarsal division by stiffened setae, along with male palpal bulb distally wide and flattened (spoon-shaped), two unequal spurs on male tibia of leg I, females with a simple undivided/fused spermathecae (Figs 13–14) which we further clarify have a flat cross-section. Despite some earlier confusion about the types, the type species *B. emilia* is well defined, and the genus is easily separated from *Sericopelma*. The geographic range of *Brachypelma* is securely centred in south-western Mexico, now with *B. albopilosum* and *B. fossorium* at its southern-most limit in Northern Costa Rica. Due to the generic transfers here of *S. angustum* and *S. embrithes* (and comments below on other specimens), there are now no reliable records of the genus *Brachypelma* in Panama. The transfers proposed here verify that the *Brachypelma* as currently defined ranges from Mexico to north Costa Rica, and is not native in Panama or further south.

Geographic distribution of *Sericopelma*. From examination of specimens (see methods and supplement), combined with data we consider reliable in Schiapelli and Gerschman (1967) and Valerio (1980), we consider that *Sericopelma* ranges from Nicaragua to Panama (Fig. 2), with the northern-most report from Nicaragua. This was confirmed by examination of a single male specimen from Matagalpa, Nicaragua held in MCZ.

We regard the inclusion of 'Guatemala' in the original type locality of *S. panamense* from 'Panama, Guatemala' as an error, and suggest that 'Guatemala' instead refers to the locality for a second specimen (actually from another genus, and seemingly not of a taxon from Panama) which we found in the same jar from the Paris collection.

Panama [Provincia]: *Sericopelma commune* Pickard-Cambridge 1897 [Chiriquí]; *S. embrithes* (Chamberlin & Ivie, 1936) [Panamá]; *S. panamense* (Simon 1891) [Unspecified*]; *S. rubronitens* Ausserer 1875 [Unspecified**] (including as junior synonym *S. panamanum* (Karsch 1880) [Chiriquí]). **Costa Rica [Provincia]:** *Sericopelma angustum* (Valerio 1980) [Alajuela]; *S. dota* Valerio 1980 [San José]; *S. ferrugineum* Valerio 1980 [Cartiogo, Heredia]; *S. generala* Valerio 1980 [San José]; *S. immensum* Valerio 1980 [San José, Puntarenas]; *S. melanotarsum* Valerio 1980 [Alajuela, Cartiogo, Heredia; Limón]; *S. silvicola* Valerio 1980 [Cartiogo, Heredia, Limón]; *S. upala* Valerio 1980 [Alajuela, Cartiogo]. **Nicaragua [Departamento]:** *Sericopelma* sp. *indet.* [Matagalpa] (e.g. Schiapelli and Gerschman 1967).

Note: The extralimital Brazilian *Sericopelma fallax* Mello-Leitão, 1923 is considered misplaced (see Gabriel and Longhorn 2011). * Originally listed as Panama and Guatemala, though the latter is unlikely. ** Originally simply listed as Panama.



Figure 13–16. Selected taxa with similar spermathecae to *Sericopelma*. **13** *Brachypelma emilia*, type species of the genus from México, specimen EME10 in SJLC **14** *Brachypelma verdezi* from México, PAL4 in SJLC **15** *Megaphobema robustum* type species of the genus from Colombia, OUMNH 2008 072 (ROB3); and **16** *Megaphobema mesomelas* from Costa Rica as MES4 in SJLC.

Discussion

Prior to Valerio (1980) the diagnostic features for *Sericopelma* were poorly known, with males primarily recognised by the palpal bulb shape and absence of tibial apophyses (Ausserer 1875, Karsch 1880, Simon 1891/82), while females were unrecognized until Schiapelli and Gerschman (1967). Over-reliance on the lack of male tibial apophyses led many museum specimens to be mislabelled and misplaced. In actuality, Simon (1891) had described the first female *Sericopelma* as *Eurypelma panamense*, but unrecognized until Gabriel (2009) rediscovered it as a former *Eurypelma*, a genus that Raven (1985) had described as a taxonomic “dumping ground”. We now confirm that Chamberlin and Ivie (1936) misplaced another female into *Eurypelma*, here transferred to *Sericopelma embrithes* (Chamberlin & Ivie, 1936). As the female characteristics of *Sericopelma* have long been uncertain, the female description by Smith (1991b) was valuable to resolve uncertainty about spermathecae characteristics. Schiapelli and Gerschman (1967) illustrated the first spermatheca of a probable *Sericopelma* from Nicaragua (Fig. 3) [Nb. specimen not seen]. Their relatively poor illustration shows

possible indentations or notches on the apex, which appears atypical of the genus. However, we confirm that *Sericopelma* indeed exists in that region from another examined male *Sericopelma* sp. in MCZ with the label “Matagalpa, Nicaragua”. Valerio (1980) described seven species from Costa Rica, only illustrating the spermathecae of both *S. immensum* and *S. silvicola* as simple domes, and neither shows any such notches. Neither do spermathecae of Smith (1991b) nor Schmidt (1994) show any such notches. Perez-Miles et al. (1996) reproduced the Schiapelli and Gerschman (1967) illustration, stating female *Sericopelma* have “a single spermathecae receptaculum with a median notch”, plus key “19. Female with notched spermathecae”. Schmidt (2003) also referred to the *Sericopelma* spermathecae as “*Einteilige flache*” (*i.e.* single flat) using the same illustration, not mentioning any apical notches or indentations. We regard the ‘notched spermathecae’ of Schiapelli and Gerschman (1967) as misleading, and its use to define female *Sericopelma* as erroneous. We find that mature female *Sericopelma* spermathecae lack any distinct median notch (Fig. 4) and furthermore, are distinctly swollen on the apex producing a diagnostic P-shape when viewed in profile (Fig. 5), which is also diagnostic for most immature *Sericopelma* females. We suggest this apical swelling probably expands with age (*i.e.* ontogenetic modification). Although the holotype spermathecae of *S. angustum* does have a slight medial concaved indentation, we consider this unique. It also shows the diagnostic swollen apex with P-shaped profile diagnostic for *Sericopelma*. The swollen apex is not found in the other Neotropical theraphosid genera where females have a single unilobar spermathecae, instead flattened or apically narrowed cross-section, such as *Brachypelma* Simon, 1890, *Megaphobema* Pocock, 1901 and *Theraphosa* Thorell, 1870. Female *Sericopelma* can be distinguished from *Eupalaestrus* Pocock, 1901, *Vitalius* Lucas, Silva & Bertani, 1993, *Nhandu* Lucas, 1983, *Pamphobeteus* Pocock, 1901 and *Xenesthis* Simon, 1891 by the unilobar spermathecae lacking two separated apical projections (Bertani 2001), and from *Mygalarachnae* Ausserer, 1871, by the unilobar structure lacking a broad median notch (Gabriel and Longhorn 2011).

Along with spermathecae attributes, *Sericopelma* can now be defined by; Carapace longer than wide (Ausserer 1875, Karsch 1880, Simon 1892, Pickard-Cambridge 1897, Schiapelli and Gerschman 1967), deep transverse fovea (Ausserer 1875, Karsch 1880, Pickard-Cambridge 1897) and distinct radiating sulci (Ausserer 1875). We confirm these attributes as useful for both sexes, although carapace is more rounded in mature males than females. Another useful diagnostic is few/weak metatarsal scopulae on distal leg IV forming two distinct pads, elsewhere defined as “barely a trace of scopula on metatarsus IV” (Chamberlin and Ivie 1936), “not scopulate, or very slightly so at the apex” (Pickard-Cambridge 1897), or absent (Ausserer 1875, Simon 1892, Valerio 1980, Schiapelli and Gerschman 1967). Here we confirm that almost every examined specimen of *Sericopelma* actually does have trace of scopulae on the distal leg IV metatarsus, most forming two small distinct pads when viewed ventrally (Fig. 17, in most extensive form). Such ‘trace scopulae’ are typically present on in both mature sexes, but in some specimens are distinct while in others greatly reduced. The fresh specimens that lacked trace scopulae were smaller juveniles, suggesting the feature may become



Figure 17–18. 17 Leg IV tarsus and metatarsus of *Sericopelma immensum*, allotype female (Naranjal de Guarumal, Cantón Puriscal, San José, Costa Rica), showing most extensive metatarsal ‘trace’ scopula 18 Nymphal (pre-dispersal) young misidentified by Petrunkevitch as *Brachypelma vagans* Panama, and inset, older yet smaller (post-dispersal) young of *Brachypelma* cf. *vagans* (pettrade, from Mexico).

more conspicuous through development. Trace scopulae were absent on some larger specimens, but only when eroded through wear or damage. Our examination of *S. angustum* confirmed trace scopulae on leg IV metatarsus as with other *Sericopelma*, unlike the one-third to one-fifth scopulae present in *Brachypelma*. From a large array of specimens (see Supplement), female *Sericopelma* may be robustly defined by: Spermathecae single (unilobar), swollen at the apex to form a P-shaped cross-section, femur IV with a dense retrolateral pad of plumose hair, trochanter/femur of leg I lacking stridulatory setae, carapace longer than wide, deep transverse fovea and distinct radiating sulci, ventral metatarsus IV with a divided and reduced trace of scopulate hairs at the distal end. Apart from spermathecae attributes, these remaining features also define mature males along with the absence of tibial spurs and characteristic embolus shape.

The dense retrolateral pad of plumose hair on femur IV is another useful character to separate *Sericopelma* from *Brachypelma*. We clarify the term ‘femoral scopulae’ in *Sericopelma* as a broad pad of plumose hairs. Valerio (1980) defined *Brachypelma* with “Scopula in femur IV inconspicuous or absent”, as did subsequent authors (Smith 1994, Schmidt 2003). Yet Valerio (1980) had previously confirmed that femur IV of *B. angustum* does indeed have a modified patch of hairs, by “*Femur IV con cojinete medial*” (p. 270), and elsewhere confirmed *Sericopelma* indeed possess such. Our examination of the *S. angustum* holotype (Figs 6–11) showed a broad pad of plumose hair on retrolateral femur IV (Fig. 10) as in other *Sericopelma* spp., but not *Brachypelma*. Schmidt and Krause (1994) reported that *Brachypelma klaasi* is exceptional with a “thin pad of plumose hairs on femur IV”, used to support a new genus *Brachypelmides*, since rejected. They gave no indication of which sex was examined nor where femoral hairs were found. We therefore also examined mature *B. klaasi* specimens of both sexes and found no distinct pad on retrolateral femur IV, just a few sporadic fine-hairs slightly plumose basally, near the distal femur. We suggest these conform to the diagnostic ‘short weak-feathered hairs (= kurze schwachgefiederte Haare) of Schmidt and Krause (1994), but do not form any distinctive pad as in *Sericopelma* (as *S. angustum* and *S. embrithes*). Instead in *B. klaasi*, these modified hairs are interspersed among more numerous long-fine hairs and thicker bristle-like hairs. Further, there is a bald-line forming a longitudinal strip along the axis in *B. klaasi*, observable in both fresh and alcohol preserved specimens, contrasting with the dense pad of plumose hairs in *Sericopelma*. Modified hairs of *B. klaasi* hind-femurs were difficult to distinguish on alcohol-preserved specimens, so we also examined dried exuvia as Schmidt and Krause (1994), where fine-basally plumose hairs were more easily detected. Other examined *Brachypelma* spp. only showed fine hairs and bristle like hairs on femur IV, as reported for *B. albiceps* by Loch et al. (1999).

With a more robust definition of *Sericopelma* (including female characteristics), we can be increasingly certain about generic boundaries. Valerio (1980) defined *Sericopelma* by “the presence of a thick scopula in the inner side of femur IV, the absence of spurs on tibia I, [absence of] stridulatory setae on trochanter I, and [absence of] scopula on metatarsus IV”. Also “One spermathecae, semicircular, sometimes with lateral extensions, covered with fine spinules”, or as “*Receptaculum seminis* opens on dorsal

side of apical region, communicating with distal tip of bulb by and open groove.” This may be alluding to the apically swollen P-shaped cross-section that we consider diagnostic for *Sericopelma*. Valerio appears to have been misled by the central depression he characterised as “Spermathecae with a shallow notch in anterior edge (Fig. 7 [his figure 19])”, leading him to recognise similarity with *B. albopilosum*, and misdiagnosing them both as *Brachypelma* by shared “Spermathecae with a conspicuous depression on the anterior edge”. Our examination of *S. angustum* showed the spermathecae indeed possesses a slight medial indentation, but less defined than Valerio suggested, and we further recognise the apical swelling with a P-shape cross-section (Figs 8, 9) as diagnostic of *Sericopelma*. Spermathecae of other genera like *Brachypelma* (Figs 13–16) are flat throughout in cross-section. Further, *S. angustum* does not have any plumose hairs on the proteral trochanter or femur of leg I (or II), nor the retrolateral palpal trochanter (*i.e.* Smith 1994, Schmidt 2003), but does have a distinctive pad of plumose hairs on femur IV (Fig. 10), together confirming it as *Sericopelma*, representing a unique species due in part to distinctive spines on tarsus IV (Fig. 11).

During this study, we found many historical museum specimens with mistaken identities, most importantly several wrongly reported as Panamanian *Brachypelma*. Petrunkevitch (1925) listed *Sericopelma commune*, 1 male and 1 female from the Canal zone. *Sericopelma rubronitens* from 2 females from Culebra (probably Pacific Canal Zone, ‘Gaillard Cut’), and 2 females from Bocas del Toro. As discussed above, *S. commune* was described from males collected in distant Chiriquí, hence the identity of his Canal Zone species is dubious. Petrunkevitch did not compare his specimens to the earlier male types (nor could he with females), so his determination of various females as *S. rubronitens* cannot be regarded as reliable descriptions. Our confidence in Petrunkevitch determinations is greatly reduced as he also misidentified other geographically diverse specimens as *S. rubronitens*, all from outside the geographic range of the genus *Sericopelma*, such as from México, Haiti, and Ecuador (see supplement for re-evaluation), probably as all were similarly coloured with dark bodies and reddish abdominal hairs. He also inconsistently referred to specimens from Barro Colorado Island as either *S. rubronitens* or *S. commune* (see supplement), despite being the type locality for *S. embrithes*. Petrunkevitch (1925) mistakenly reported several *Brachypelma* from Panama, namely *B. emilia*, 1 female of *B. sabulosum* from Culebra, 1 female of *B. vagans* from Culebra, plus 4 young *B. vagans* specimens without locality. For *B. emilia*, Petrunkevitch (1925) merely repeated the erroneous location from the original description. Interestingly, some male *Sericopelma* from Chiriquí do superficially resemble *B. emilia* by light pinkish lower legs and carapace, plus black triangle on the carapace, perhaps leading to early confusion. On re-examination of the Petrunkevitch specimens in PMY, his alleged *B. sabulosum* was a *Sericopelma* sp, as likely are the 4 immatures of alleged *B. vagans*. The immatures are pre-dispersal nymphs, with the wrong proportions for *B. vagans* – where nymphs are almost one fifth of this size. In *B. vagans*, the legs remain proportionally shorter even when older post-dispersal ‘spiderlings’ of equivalent size (Fig. 18). The most likely genus for these large nymphs is *Sericopelma*. The alleged female *B. vagans* was not located, but we also expect to be a misidentified

Sericopelma, which can be similarly coloured and often confused by non-specialists. Distribution of *B. sabulosum* and *B. vagans* from Panama should be regarded as mistaken, *B. sabulosum* is only validly recorded from Guatemala, whilst *B. vagans* is recorded from México, Belize and Guatemala.

Finally, another allied Costa Rican species with long ambiguous placement is *Megaphobema mesomelas* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1892), again originally placed in the poorly defined *Eurypelma*. Valerio (1980) described the first female and transferred it to *Brachypelma* before Schmidt (1991a/b) transferred to *Megaphobema*. Smith (1991b) also re-evaluated the species, drawing tarsus IV with twin central lines of modified setae (his figure 6), which Valerio had recognised as “*Cojinete del tarso IV dividido por varias filas de espinas*”. Against this, we considered *S. angustum* where scopulae are interspersed by thickened spines (Fig. 11), which we consider species specific - as not observed in other *Sericopelma*, nor mature specimens of other candidate genera. However, our inspection of various recent (both sexes) and historical specimens of *M. mesomelas* (including the male holotype and another male from same collector in the O.P.-Cambridge collection), each revealed only few long soft hairs on tarsus IV, not thickened spines. Our re-examination of *M. mesomelas* lead us to agree it does not belong in *Brachypelma*, nor *Sericopelma*, but neither do we agree with placement in *Megaphobema* (Gabriel and Longhorn, in prep). Female *Sericopelma* can be distinguished from *Megaphobema* by the form of the spermathecae, in the latter by greater ventral surface sculpturation with striated grooves more evenly spaced and extending to lateral edges, or a more cerebriform pattern, plus flatter cross-section (Fig. 15). Mature males of *Sericopelma* lack tibial apophyses (as do some other genera), but are present in *Megaphobema* (and other genera). Both sexes of *Megaphobema* also can be distinguished from *Sericopelma* by more extensive scopulae on metatarsus IV. For *M. mesomelas* the sternum is especially narrow and elongate, which Smith (1987) says “over twice as long as wide”. We agree, observing the *M. mesomelas* sternum is more extremely narrowed than *S. angustum*. The narrowed form in both conflicts with *Brachypelma*, defined by a broad sternum (*i.e.* Simon 1891, “*Sternum aequae longum ae latum*”). *S. angustum* was diagnosed by Valerio (1980) by “Carapace longer than 18.0 mm” or “Carapace very narrow (1.6 times longer than broad)”, and his specific epithet ‘*angust*’ (= narrow) refers to both the narrow cephalothorax and sternum. We suggest the narrowed sternum can be indicative of close evolutionary affinities of *M. mesomelas* with *Sericopelma*, particularly *S. angustum*.

Consequences for conservation, including CITES

Currently, all *Brachypelma* species are protected by international commercial trade regulation (CITES, Appendix II). Transfer of *S. embrithes* and *S. angustum* into *Sericopelma* means that consequently these species may now only be protected by national wildlife laws. However, there does not appear to be a current need to regulate trade in *S. embrithes* and *S. angustum*, so we assert both species should indeed be removed from CITES listing. As with most theraphosids, the major threat appears to be habitat

destruction. For *S. angustum*, much of its probable habitat in northern Costa Rica has already been disrupted by human activity, often for sugar cane plantations. However, its conservation status within Costa Rica must be urgently evaluated. For *S. embrithes*, much of its original range was likely destroyed during the damming of the Chagres River for the Panama canal, isolating Barro Colorado Island. A more deserving candidate for CITES regulation is *Megaphobema mesomelas*; a large brightly coloured species which has regularly been targeted by illegal collection for commercial gain, and traded internationally. We also point out there remains need for continued regulation of all *Brachypelma* sp. traded as exotic pets, including those in the pet-markets still exchanged under the former name '*Brachypelma angustum*', which would retain their CITES protected status under the aegis of *Brachypelma* sp.

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Appendix

Additional non-type material for comparison. Note – SJLC are mainly pet-trade, often of unclear providence unless otherwise stated, plus exuvia of other immatures and adults]

Sericopelma specimens:

***S. embrithes* [Panama, Canal zone = Prov. Colón, Panamá and Panamá Oeste] - MCZ:** 2 ♀ 2 Imm, *Sericopelma embrithes* 74344 July 1936, B.C.I.; 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74335 22/10/1954 B.C.I.; 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74637 20/10/1950 B.C.I.; 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74612 7/12/50 B.C.I.; 3 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74338 B.C.I.; 2 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74345 June – July 1950, B.C.I.; 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74634 23/07/1950, B.C.I.; 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74348 06/08/39, B.C.I.; 7 Imm *S. embrithes* unsexed, 74340 16/08/1954, B.C.I.; 1 Imm ♀ 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74343 B.C.I.; 2 Imm ♂ 3 Imm ♀ *S. embrithes* 74342 July 1936 B.C.I.; 1 Imm ♀ *S. embrithes* 74635 summer 1939 B.C.I.; 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* 74336 summer 1939, B.C.I.; 1 ♀ 74373, [no data], 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* B.C.I., Canal Zone, Sept, coll. Phil Raw; **PMY:** 1 ♀ *S. embrithes* B.C.I. Canal Zone, Panama, July 1938, Coll. and Ident. (as *S. rubronitens*) by A. Petrunkevitch, from burrows on the lawn by the laboratory; 2 ♀ *S. embrithes* B.C.I. Panama, 04.viii.1938. coll. and Ident. (as *S. rubronitens*) by A. Petrunkevitch, [reverse reads ‘in life with red abdomen’]; 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* (as *S. rubronitens*) B.C.I. Panama, July 1938, Coll. and Ident. by A. Petrunkevitch [mis-sexed ♀]; 1 ♂ *S. embrithes* B.C.I. Canal Zone, Panama, Coll. and Ident. (as *S. communis*) by A. Petrunkevitch, 1 Imm ♂ *S. embrithes* B.C.I. Panama, July 1938, coll. and Ident. by A. Petrunkevitch, [mis-sexed as ♀]; 1 ♀ 4 larvae *S. embrithes* 7 Imm, B.C.I., Canal Zone, A.M. Chickering, 1 ♀ 5 imm *S. embrithes*, B.C.I., Canal Zone, A.M. Chickering, July 12 1934.

***Sericopelma* spp. [Panama, Canal zone = Prov. Colón, Panamá and Panamá Oeste] - BMNH:** 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. 1926.1.27.14 Taboga Island, Panama, 12/09/24, coll. G.I. Collenette. **MCZ:** 1 Imm ♀ 2 Imm ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. 74341 Ft. Clayton, IPAC. Side Panama, coll. Shropshire; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. 74346 Fort Davis, C.Z. 1924-1925 coll. Major D.R. Chase; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. 74638 Bouia Point 1927,

J. Barbour Don, I.B. Shropshire, collection; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Fort Sherman C. Z. [Canal Zone], Feb 1924, det, N. Banks; 2 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Ancón, Canal Zone, Mar-April 1922, T. Barbour and W.J. Brooks, det, N. Banks; 1 ♀ 2 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Corogae, Canal Zone, Atl.[Atlantic] Side, det. N. Banks. **MUIP**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Province Panama, Arraijan, San Jose de Bernardino 26.08.2003 coll. M. Barahona; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Arraijan Panama 08.1995; 2 ♀ 1 Imm ♂ Vista Bella, Arraijan Panama Rep Panama 08 04 1990 coll. David Maruaga; 2 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Huili Arraijan, Panama R.D. Pan 8 November 86 coll. Daniel Holnes; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Villalobos, Pedregal. Panama R.D. Pan 05.09.85 coll. Ramito Pinzon, Diana Moreno; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Imprenta de la Universidad de Panama. Panamá 17.08.1981 coll. H. Martinez; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Ciudad Panama, Republic de Panama, 26.08.1988 coll. Jasmin (sec. esc) Fistica; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Panamá province, Panama Campana, L. Ortega 12.09.02; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Profomsamilla 13, via Bolivar Panama 16 Oct 1980 coll. Alfonso Chong; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Samaria, San Miguelito, Province Panama, Republic of Panama, coll. R. Navarro 16.12.94; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Ciudad de Panama, Province Panama, Puerto Nuevo, Republic of Panama, 17.Dic.1977, coll. D. Quintero jnr; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Isla Bagano, near bridge wet more, on forest litter, Province Panama, Republic of Panama, 31.01.76, coll. Claudia de Peralta; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Province Panamá, Chilibre Carretera Puente de Chilibre, 25m despues del Puente, 15.Oct.1977, coll. D. Quintero jnr; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Ciudad de Panama Ivan Diaz de rajo de tronco caido, Republic of Panama, 09.Dec.1977, coll. D. Quintero jnr; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Province Panamá, area del canal, Howard Hecia Ferfan, 7-8.Feb. 2009, coll. S. Ortaga; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Republic of Panama, Panamá Oeste Province, Bejuco, Sora, 21.Julio. 2007, coll. R. Carranzo. **PMY**: 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Culebra, Panama [was misidentified as *B. sabulosum*]; 4 Imm *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, [were misidentified as *B. vagans*], 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Culebra, Panama (described as *S. rubronitens* in the “Archnida of Panama”), A. Petrunkevitch; 1 Imm ♂ *S. cf. rubronitens* Culebra, Panama; 1 ♀ *S. cf. rubronitens* Culebra, Panama, Dr. B.H. Buxton. [**Panama, Central zone = Prov. Coclé, Herrera, Los Santos, Veraguas**] - **MCZ**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. El Valle, Panama, August 1936 (likely El Valle de Antón, Coclé; 1 ♂ 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. 74371, San Pablo, Panama, Serly (possibly Rio San Pablo, Soná). **MUIP**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Altos de El Valle, Finca el Naranjal, Panama (Coclé), 22 Julio 1979, coll. Elisa De Fuentes; 2 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Rio Hato as Pollas Clano Bonito, Farallon el Platanoc, Las Guias y El Rincon, Coclé, Panama 10.6.85, 24.7.85; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Province Coclé, Río Hato (Las Guias – Farallon), Sept – Oct 1983, coll. A. Parra; 1 Imm ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Province Herrera, District Las Minas, R.F. [=Refugio Forestal] El Monteuso - Estacion, 13-15.Dic 2002 coll. P. Gonzales; 2 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Province Herrera, R.F. El Montueso, 3 Mayo 2007, coll. R.J. Miranda & A. Santor; 2 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Theraphosidae *S. commune* F.O.P.C. 1897 Det R.J. Miranda 2004

Panama, Province Los Santos, Cerro Canajagua 830m alt 11.12.02 coll. D. Gonzalez; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Prov. Los Santos, Honantial 19. Augusto. 2000 L. Shamix; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Province Herrera, San José, Oct 24 de Leo 1989, coll. K.F. Ponce; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama Province Los Santos, R.F. La Trondda, La Trondda, 14-17 Augusto 2007, coll. R.J. Miranda. 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. San Juan, Rio Cañazas, Province Veraguas, Panama, 22.Agosto.1987, coll. D. Quintero. [**Panama, West Zone = Prov. Chiriquí, Bocas del Toro**] - **MCZ**: 1 ♂ 74632 Boquete R.P. 23.03.1941; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Chiriquí, Volcán, 1200m el [elevation], 9/viii/1983, H.+L. Levi, in hole in low stone wall. **MUIP**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Finca del las Flores/Fleurs, Boquete Chiriquí Prov. Panama 07 Junio 1968 coll. Jorge Tovan; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Boquete, Chiriquí Provenca Panama 21.07.1992, coll. Miguel Bogante; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Nueva California, Volcan, Chiriquí Province Republic of Panama coll. Leonardo Yanguetz, Ríos de Unas Matas de Caña? debajo de las hojas secas suelo humedo; 1 Imm ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Isla Colon Bocas del Toro Province, Panama 24.10.82 coll Astenid Araiz; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Volcán, Province Chiriquí, Republic of Panama, 9.Sept.1987, coll. Arsenio Araug; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Isla Taboga, Republic of Panama, Augusto 1985, coll. Kyle Summers. **OUNMH**: 1 ♂ *S. commune* Panama, Jar 106 Chiriquí, Champion, syntype. [**Panamá, Unknown Prov.**] - **MNH**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma rubronitens* Ausserer 1875. (Simon det) AR4803 PARIS. **MCZ**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp.74369, Panama; 2 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. 74370, Prob[ably] Panama; 1 ♀ 1 Imm ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. 74372, Panama.. **MUIP**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama 06.12.02 coll. G. Lover; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. [labeled Theraphosidae] Mulio 9 de Mayo 1994, ?Estuooeucauterisis, Disele el 15 Sept 1993 total 176 dias; 1 ♀ No Data, Panama; 1 Imm ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. San Cristobal ?Verani(S) Sanmig Velito Panama, 10.05.93; 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Poblado ?Irhe en la Hibrochet, de Banyo 10.00am, Panama, Republic of Panama, 29.12.88 coll. Abraham Beauville.. **OUNMH**: 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Panama, Jar 82 S. Tinter, Roger, O.P. Cambridge coll. [**Unknown – likely Panama**]: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Central America ex London Zoo. [**Costa Rica**] - **BMNH**: 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. 1906.11.3.1, Banana River 15 miles from Coast, July 1905, Costa Rica, Jose (?Río Banano, Cantón Limón, Prov. Limón); 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. 98-12-24-22 Pozo Azul de Pirrís, Prov. San José, Costa Rica, coll. C. Zeledon [Modern Cantón Parrita, Prov. Puntarenas]; **OUNMH**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. Guápiles, Pococi, Prov. Limón, Costa Rica. coll. 2006 Viteslav Honsa SERGU1, died n.11.10, ex Benoit Menart; 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. Sabanilla, Puntarenas Sud, Coto Brus, Costa Rica Coll. 2006 leg. Viteslav Honsa SERSB1 died 25.08.10; 1 ♂ as prev. leg. Viteslav Honsa SERSB2 died n.11.10, ex Benoit Menart; 1 ♂ *S. immensum* 2009 007, pet trade, K Matzen, 1 ♀ *Sericopelma* sp. 2009 007, Costa Rica, ex pet trade w/c 1997; 1 ♂ *S. melanotarsum* 2009 007, ex pet trade, K Matzen; 1 ♀ *S. melanotarsum* 2009 007, Costa Rica, w/c died 2000, donated anon. [**Nicaragua**] - **MCZ**: 1 ♂ *Sericopelma* sp. 74625 Matagalpa Nicaragua 1073, Richardson Dec 1907, R.C. Feb 12-1909.

***Brachypelma* specimens:**

- B. albiceps* - BMNH:** 1 ♀ *B. albiceps* (CB from German import as *B. rubnau*) RUHZ, died VIII.03, Ex E. Hijmensen/ S. Longhorn. **CNAN:** 1 ♂ *B. albiceps* n79. Teloloapan, Mpio. de Teloloapan. Edo. Guerrero, México. 15.IX.52, coll. Leonila Vazquez; 1 ♂ *B. albiceps* Presa Vicente Guerrero, Edo. Guerrero, México. 23.XI.96, coll. A. Castido Octavio; 1 ♀ *B. albiceps* Ref.3094. Presa Vicente Guerrero, Edo. Guerrero, México. 5.X.76. coll. No data. **LAHFHC:** 1 ♂ *Brachypelma albiceps* Sur Morelos. Edo. Morelos 1996. coll. A. Lochter. **SJLC** [all pet-trade of unknown providence unless otherwise stated]: 1 Imm *Brachypelma albiceps* RUH2, died 11.IV.09, Ex unknown; 1 ♂ *B. albiceps* RUH3, died 2008, Ex Mark Davies.
- B. auratum* - BMNH:** 1 ♀ *B. auratum* Ref.27. Entre Hermiltepec y Río Pungarancho, Edo. Guerrero, México. 02.XI.2002. coll. E. Gonzalez y C. Duran. **OUMNH:** 4♀ *B. auratum* 2007 064 pet trade, Lee Arden (spidershop UK) died 2007. **SJLC:** 1 ♀ *B. auratum* AUR7 died 11.V.08, Ex unknown; 1 ♀ *B. auratum* AUR9, died VI.03, Ex Paul Herbert; 1 ♂ *B. auratum* AUR10, died I.04, Ex Stephen Copley; 1 ♂ *B. auratum* AUR11, died VI.04, Ex Ian Metcalfe; 1 ♂ *B. auratum* AUR12, died 25.VI.08, Ex Andy Fischer; 1 ♂ 1 ♀ *B. auratum* AUR13/AUR14, died 2008, Ex Mike Fletcher; 1 ♀ *B. auratum* AUR15, died 2010, Ex Becky Norris.
- B. albopilosum* - OUMNH:** 1♀ *B. albopilosum* 2007 064, pet trade, C/B. **MCZ:** 2 ♀ *B. cf. albopilosum* 74614, Georgia Fruit Company, Honduras, 20.v.1932; 1 ♀ *B. cf. albopilosum*, 74624, With Fruit Honduras; 1 ♀ *B. cf. albopilosum* 74615, Leon River Valley, East of Río Ulúa, Honduras, 1924, Donor, United Fruit Company, 1 ♀ *B. cf. albopilosum* Río Ulúa, Tela, Honduras, Fruit Company. **SJLC:** 1 ♂ *B. cf. albopilosum* ALB1, died 17.II.01, Ex Ronald Baxter; 1 ♂ *B. cf. albopilosum* ALB9, died 03.V.01, Ex Mark Dean; 1 ♂ *B. cf. albopilosum* died 01.XII.07, Ex Stuart Longhorn CB; 1 ♂ *B. cf. albopilosum* ALB12, died V.08, Ex Andy Matthews. (Plus several further specimens collected across Honduras to be detailed elsewhere).
- B. baumgarteni* - OUMNH:** 1♀ *B. baumgarteni* 2007 064 pet trade, Ex Boris Striffler from first import; 1♂ *B. baumgarteni* 2007 064, pet trade, Ex Boris Striffler from first import - remains of male eaten by female. **SJLC:** 1 imm *B. baumgarteni* BAU7, died XII.01, Ex Ronald Baxter; 1 ♀ *B. baumgarteni* BAU8, died I.03, Ex Ronald Baxter; 1 ♀ *B. baumgarteni* BAU12, died V.08, Ex Paul Herbert; 1 ♂ BAU13, died 2008, Ex Mark Pennell. **Known hybrid** - 1 ♂ imm *B. sp. baumgarteni* × *boehmei*, BAU10, died 2008, Ex Eddy Hijmensen.
- B. boehmei* - SJLC:** 1 ♂ *B. boehmei* BOH9, died 16.X.03, Ex Ronald Baxter; 1♀ *B. boehmei* BOH10, died 07.VI.12, Ex Ronald Baxter; 1 ♂ *B. boehmei* BOH11, died 25.V.08, Ex Mark Kent; 1 ♂ *B. boehmei* BOH12, died 2001, Ex Mark Dean; 1 imm ♂ *B. boehmei* BO13, died 2004, Ex Ray Gabriel.
- B. emilia* - CNAN:** 1 ♀ *B. emilia* Ref.3121. Sinaloa, Edo. Sinaloa, México. 30.I.65, coll. Ent 46; 1 ♀ *B. emilia* Ref.3080/No.80. Mazatlán, Mpio. Mazatlán, Edo. Sinaloa, México. VII.1959. coll. Ent 5. **OUMNH:** 2♀ *B. emilia* 2007 064, pet trade, imported Lee Arden Spidershop UK died 2007; 1♂ 2007 064, *B. emilia*, pet trade; 1♂ *B. emilia*, Jar 65, Cambridge coll. (discussed in text). **SJLC:** 1 ♀

B. emilia EME8, died 12.08.09; 1 ♂ *B. emilia* EME9, died 26.04.09, Ex Andy Fisher; 1 ♀ *B. emilia* EME10, died 19.05.09, Ex Becky Norris [spermathecae shown in figure 13]; 1 ♂ *B. emilia* EME11, died 2009, Ex Becky Norris; 1 imm, *B. emilia* EME12, died 2009, Ex Becky Norris.

B. *klaasi* – CNAN: 1 ♂ *B. klaasi*. Reserva Biosfera Chamela - Cuixmala. Edo. Jalisco, México. 18.V.81. coll. A. Pescador. **LAHFHC:** 1 ♂ *B. klaasi* Ref.1714.23 Reserva Biosfera Chamela - Cuixmala. Edo. Jalisco, México. 3.IV.98. coll. A. Locht. **OUMNH:** 1 ♂ *B. klaasi* 2007 064; 1 ♂ *B. klaasi* 2008 071, Eddy Hijmensen. **SJLC:** 1 ♂ *B. klaasi* KLA1, died IV.01, Ex Mark Pennell; 1 ♂ *B. klaasi* KLA4, died 08.XII.98, Ex Ray Gabriel; 1 ♂ *B. klaasi* KLA5, died 2002; 1 ♀ *B. klaasi* died 2005, Ex Paul Herbert, 1 imm, *B. klaasi* died 2009, Ex Becky Norris; 1 ♀ *B. klaasi* died 20.II.10, Ex Mark Pennell.

B. *schroederi* – SJLC: 1 ♂ *B. schroederi* SHR3, died VII.08, Ex Steffan Schroeder; 1 ♂ *B. schroederi* SHR4, died 01.I.10, Ex Andy Hood; 1 ♂ *B. schroederi*, SHR6, died 20.IX.15, Ex Peter Roach; 1 ♀ *B. cf. schroederi*, SHR5, died 19.V.09, Ex James Box.

B. aff. ‘*smithi*’ – CNAN: 1 ♀ *B. aff. smithi* Entre Tepames y Rio Coahuayana, Frontera, Edo. Colima, México. 8.VII.2005, coll A. Cervantes y M. Olson. **LAHFHC:** 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* Colima. Edo. Colima, México. 23.Oct. coll. A. Locht; 1 ♂ *B. smithi* Acapulco, Mpio. Acapulco de Juárez, Edo. Guerrero, México. 20.III.97. coll. A. Locht. **OUMNH:** 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi*, 2007 064, C/B, 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* 2009 001, pet trade, 24/09/08, Yinnon Dolev; **SJLC:** 1 ♀ *B. cf. smithi* (traded as *annitha*), ANN1, died 25.III.02, Ex Tony Packer C/B; 1 Imm *B. cf. smithi* (traded as *annitha*) ANN2, died 2004, Ex Eddy Hijmensen C/B; 1 ♂ *B. cf. smithi* (trade as *annitha*), ANN3, died 2007, Ex Eddy Hijmensen C/B; 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* SMI1, died IV.01, ex Jean-Michel Verdez; 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* SMI8, died 03.V.07, Ex Stuart Longhorn; 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* SMI13, died unk.II.02, Ex Alan Smith; 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* SMI16, died 2008, Ex Ray Gabriel; 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* SMI17, died 2008, Ex anon; 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* SMI18, died 18.V.11, Ex Nicola Dolby; 1 ♀ *B. aff. smithi* SMI9, died 31.I.15, Ex Stuart Longhorn; 1 ♀ *B. aff. smithi* SMI12, died X.01, Ex Paul Herbert; 1 imm *B. aff. smithi* SMI14, died 2004, Ex Ray Gabriel; 1 imm *B. aff. smithi* SMI15, died 20.07.07, ex Lee Arden; 1 ♂ *B. aff. smithi* × (?) *klaasi* hybrid, HYBAXB, died II.10, Ex S.Longhorn.

B. aff. ‘*vagans*’ – BMNH: 1 ♀ *B. sp. (vagans-complex)* 2003-148 Las Cuevas Research Station. Chiquibul National Park, Cayo District, Belize. 27.05.01. leg. Stuart Longhorn, Julie Chuter, Martin Nicholas. 1 ♀ *B. sp. (vagans-complex)*, 2003-148 Pooks Hill Lodge, near Teakettle, Cayo District, Belize, 05.06.01, leg. Stuart Longhorn, Julie Chuter, Martin Nicholas. Plus several other specimens to be detailed elsewhere. **CNAN:** 1 ♂ *B. cf. vagans* Celestún, Edo. Yucatán, México. 26.X.00. coll. Tila M.P; 1 ♂ *B. sp. (vagans-complex)* Valerio Trujano, Mpio. Cuicatlan, Edo. Oaxaca, México. 31.XII.04. coll. B. Chavez; 1 ♂ *B. sp. (vagans-complex)* Sierra de Sta. Martha. Los Tuxtlas. Edo. Veracruz, México. 17-XII-76. coll. H. Perez; 1 ♀ *B. sp. (vagans-complex)* Área Protegida del Selva Lacandona, Mpio. Ocosingo, México. 7-IV-05. coll. O. Francke, A. Ballesteros, A. Valdez; 2 ♂ *B. sp. (vagans-complex)*

plex) Locale as previous. 6.VIII.2005. coll. As previous. **MCZ**: 1 ♀ *Brachypelma* sp. (*vagans*-complex) 74611, Stann Creek, Belize, under rock, 26.vi.1975, W. Sedgewick. 4 Imm *B. sp.* (*vagans*-complex) 74627, El Cayo, British Honduras [Belize], under rock, Feb.-Mar. 1931; 1 ♀ 3 Imm *B. sp.* (*vagans*-complex) 74620, Uaxactun, Petén, Guatemala, Mar.-April 1931, H.H. Bartlett. **LAAHFC**: 1 ♀ *Brachypelma* sp. (*vagans*-complex), Los Tuxtlas. Edo. Veracruz, México. No data. coll Unknown; 1 ♂ *Brachypelma* cf. *vagans* Merida, Edo. Yucatán, México. XI.1996. coll. H. Lopez; 1 ♂ *Brachypelma* sp. (*vagans*-complex) Playa el Arroyito. Mpio. Santa María de Huatulco, Edo. Oaxaca, México. 28.XII.98. coll. A. Locht. **OUMNH**: 1 ♀ *Brachypelma* sp. (*vagans*-complex) 2007 064; 1 ♀ imm *Brachypelma* sp., Jar 61 1905, Cambridge coll; 1 ♀ Imm *Brachypelma* sp., Cambridge coll, 1 ♀ *Brachypelma* sp., “Honduras”, Jar 63 Boston* Nr Belize, O. Pickard-Cambridge colln (perhaps New Boston); 1 ♂ *B. aff. vagans* 2007 064, pet trade, C/B; 1 ♀ *B. aff. vagans* 2008 071, pet trade, C/B; 1 ♂ & 1 ♀ *B. vagans*, Jar 69 Guatemala, Cahabón, F. Sarg, Cambridge coll. **PMY**: 2 ♀ *Brachypelma* sp. (*vagans*-group), Tampico, México, Bis;hop Coll. 1940, in life with red abdomen, colour fades before moulting [were misidentified as *S. rubronitens*]. **SJLC**: 1 ♀ *B. sp.* ‘*sabulosum*’, Aldea El Remate (casa Don David), nr Flores, Petén, Guatemala. Collected 19.V.08, David Ortiz; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*sabulosum*’, SAB1, died VII.03; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*sabulosum*’, SAB2, died 01.III.08, Ex Guatemala, Ronald Baxter; 1 ♀ *B. sp.* ‘*sabulosum*’, SAB3, died 12.VI.11, Ex Guatemala, Ronald Baxter; 1 ♀ *B. cf. sabulosum* Parque Nacional Yaxha, Petén, Guatemala, 21.V.08. Coll. David Ortiz and Eduard Hijmensen; 1 ♀ *Brachypelma* sp. ‘*vagans*’ VAG3, died 25.XI.00; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*vagans*’, VAG4, died VII.01; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*vagans*’ VAG7, died 13.VIII.97, Ex Richard Gallon; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*vagans*’ died pre 2001, Ex Richard Gallon; 1 ♀ *B. albopilosum* × *B. ‘vagans*’ (maternally purebred *albopilosum*) HYB4, died 2005, Ex S. Longhorn; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*angustum*’ ANG2, died III.01, Ex Tony Davies; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*angustum*’ ANG3, died VI.01, Ex unknown; 1 ♀ *B. sp.* ‘*angustum*’ ANG4, died 2003, Ex unknown; 1 ♀ *B. sp.* ‘*angustum*’ ANG5, died 2004, Ex Unknown; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*angustum*’ ANG6, died 10.01, Ex Guy Tansley; 1 ♂ *B. sp.* ‘*angustum*’, ANG7, died 20.X.04, Ex Unknown.

B. verdezi – **LAAHFC**: 1 ♀ *B. verdezi* (labelled *B. vagans*) Acapulco, Mpio. Acapulco de Juárez, Edo. Guerrero, México. 1990. coll A. Locht., **SJLC**: 1 ♀ *B. verdezi* (traded as *pallidum*), PAL2, died 2005; 1 ♀ *B. verdezi* (traded as *pallidum*), PAL4, died 26.X.09, Ex David James [see fig. 14]; 1 ♂ *B. verdezi* PAL5, died 27.IV.09, 1 ♂ *B. verdezi* PAL6, died 24.09.08, Ex Yinnon Dolev.

Megaphobema specimens:

M. mesomelas - **BMNH**: 2 ♂ *M. mesomelas* (18)96.3.20.3-4, El Azahar, (Canton Cartago, Dept.) Cartago, Costa Rica. J.F. Tristán (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica). 1 ♂ *M. mesomelas* 1898.12.24.56, La Palma (Prov. Cartago), Costa Rica. J.F. Tristán (Museo Nacional de Costa Rica). [note, this specimen was mislisted as type by Smith 1991b, also has additional label ‘Visto por de Pikelin y Schiapelli, mayo 1968’]; 1 ♀ *M. mesomelas* (18)96.10.25.1 La Palma (Prov. Cartago), Costa Rica.

- [incl. dissected spermathecae labeled A.M.Smith]; 2 ♂ *M. mesomelas* 1905.3.29.14-15, Cariblanco (San Carlos, Prov. Alajuela), Costa Rica. Charles H. Lankester [both ex dried/pinned]; 2 ♂ *M. mesomelas* Dried/pinned collection (possibly additional specimens from H. Rogers, Caché listed by FOPC 1897, Costa Rica). **OUMNH:** 1 ♂ *M. mesomelas* O. Pickard-Cambridge coll, Dried - drawer 46, Costa Rica (possibly syntype examined by FOPC); 2 ♀ *Megaphobema mesomelas* 2007 064, pet trade, Eddy Hijmensen; 1 ♀ *M. mesomelas* 2009 001, Costa Rica, Dutch Pet trade; 1 ♂ *M. mesomelas* 2009 001, Costa Rica, pet trade; 1 ♂ *M. mesomelas* 2008 072, Costa Rica, 01/12/97, w/c. **SJLC:** 1 ♀ *M. mesomelas* MES4, died 12.12.01 [see fig. 16].
- M. peterklaasi* – OUMNH:** 1 ♀ *M. peterklaasi* 2008 072, pet trade, Ex A Mathews; 1 ♂ *M. peterklaasi* 2009 001, Costa Rica, Holland previously dried; 1 ♂ *M. peterklaasi* 2008 072, Costa Rica, 01/12/97, w/c Costa Rica. **SJLC:** 1 ♀ *Megaphobema peterklaasi* PEK2, died approx 2006, Ex Eddy Hijmensen.
- M. robustum* – MCZ:** 1 ♂ *M. robustum* 74298 Colombia, Dept. Meta, Carimagua, 370m, 18 May 1973, Mary Corn, in cow pasture Savannah. **OUMNH:** 4 ♀ *M. robustum* 2008 072, Colombia, w/c 1997 [see fig. 15 for spermathecae of ROB3, 1 ♀ *M. robustum* O.P. Cambridge coll, Drawer 9; 1 ♀ *M. robustum*, Hope / Westwood coll, Drawer 23; 1 ♀ *M. robustum*, O.P. Cambridge coll, Drawer 46. **SJLC:** 1 ♂ *M. robustum*, Colombia, pet trade, died 2013 don. Craig Mackay; 1 ♀ *M. robustum* ROB5, died n.II.2014, Ex Stuart Longhorn; 1 Juv. *M. robustum* ROB5, died n.XI.2001, Ex Stuart Longhorn.
- M. teceae* – OUMNH:** 1 ♂ *M. teceae* 2008 072, Brazil, Manaus, died 01/01/08 Ex Ken Matzen; 1 ♀ *M. teceae*, 2009 001, Brazil, Manaus, died 01/01/09, Ex K. Matzen 2008.
- M. velvetosoma* – OUMNH:** 1 ♂ *M. velvetosoma* VEL7, died 12.06.09, Ex Ray Gabriel; 1 ♀ *M. velvetosoma* 2008 072, W/c Ecuador (importer Erato Holland) 1997 w/c., 1 ♀ *M. velvetosoma*, VEL6, died 18.04.12 Ecuador, Ex John Chambers. **SJLC:** 1 ♀ *M. velvetosoma* VEL5, died 25.IX.15, Ex Stuart Longhorn; 1 imm *M. velvetosoma* VEL1, died 15.07.01, Ex WC import Paul Stevens, Tena, Ecuador.

***Theraphosa* specimens:**

- T. apophysis* – BMNH:** 5 ♀ & 1 ♂ *T. apophysis* Venezuela, Roraima. Coll. Ian Wallace. 13.11.90, det. A.M. Smith. **OUMNH:** 3 ♂ *T. apophysis*, 2007 064, pet trade, c/b.
- T. stirmi* – BMNH:** 1 ♀ *T. stirmi* [labelled *T. blondi*] 1939.3.24.42 British Guiana (=Guyana), New River (East Berbice-Corentyne). Jan-March 1938, Purch. C.A.Hudson; 1 ♂ & 1 ♀ *T. stirmi* [labelled *T. blondi*] Carl Davis. No data; 1 ♂ *T. stirmi* [labelled *T. blondi*] British Guiana (=Guyana). 2°19'05.0"N 59°22'33.5"W (=Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo, Region of Isherton, south Rupununi), G.McDonnell 1933; 1 ♀ *T. stirmi* [labelled *T. blondi*] Guyana, Cuyuni-Mazaruni, Upper Waruma. 11.8.1971. M.Lyes Coll. (=British Roraima Expedition), det as *T. blondi* by W.Bücherl; 1 ♀ *T. stirmi* [labelled *T. blondi*] Guyana, (Cuyuni-Mazaruni), Upper Mazaruni, wet trail after rain 3500 ft. British Roraima Expedition 27.8.1971. M.Lyes Coll. det as *T. blondi* by W.Bücherl; 1 juv. British

Roraima Expedition, M.Lyes coll. det. *T. blondi* by W.Bücherl; 1 ♀ *Theraphosa* cf. *stirmi* [labelled *T. blondi*] Brazil, State of Amazonas, Environs of Yanomami village of Watoriki, close to (Rio) Demini, FUNAI post. 1°31'N 62°49'W. **OUMNH**: 1 ♂ Imm *T. stirmi* (accessioned as sp., Guyana) 2007 064, 10/03/09, Imported Lee Arden (Spidershop UK); 1 ♀ *T. stirmi* [sold as sp. burgundy] 2009 007, Guyana, 10/03/09, Imported Lee Arden (Spidershop UK); 1 ♀ Imm *T. stirmi* (as *Theraphosa* sp, Guyana) 2009 007, 10/03/09, Imported Lee Arden Spidershop UK; 1 ♀ Imm *T. stirmi* [sold as sp. burgundy], 2009 051, Guyana, Imported Lee Arden (Spidershop UK).

T. blondi – **OUMNH**: 1 ♂ *T. blondi* 2009 007, pet trade, Guy Tansley; 1 ♀ *T. blondi* 2009 001, pet trade, c/b 1996 died 01/10/08 K Halsey; 1 ♀ *T. blondi*, Hope coll; 1 ♂ *T. blondi* O.P.Cambridge coll, Drawer 48; 1 ♂ Imm *T. blondi* 2007 064, pet trade, M Walters stuck in moult. **SJLC**: 1 ♀ *T. blondi*, died 2013. W/c French Guiana, Ex J.M. Verdez.

T. sp. (indet.) – **BMNH**: ♀ *Theraphosa* sp. indet. [labelled *T. leblondi*] 1968.2.27.10. British Guiana (=Guyana). Coll. J.W Lester; 1 ♀ *Theraphosa* indet. [labelled as *T. blondi*] Brazil, St. Paulo (?). S.Roburn. No further data; 1 ♂ *Theraphosa* indet. [labelled *T. blondi*] No further data.

Other specimens:

PMY: 1 Imm ♂ *Pamphobeteus?* sp. Guayaquil, Ecuador, Banana Distribution Company, New Haven, 30.iii.1951 [was misidentified by Petrunkevitch as *S. rubronitens*]; 1 ♀ *Phormictopus* sp, Yale-Fla. Haiti Exped. Feb., March, April 1959 P. S. Humphrey, [was misidentified by Petrunkevitch as *S. rubronitens*].

MNHN: 1 ♀ Theraphosinae indet, AR 4850 MNHN (Simon Collection), 'Panama and Guatemala' leg. unknown (same jar as holotype for *S. panamense*).