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***Zelotes balcanicus* sp. n., a new and widespread species from the Balkan Peninsula (Araneae, Gnaphosidae). A new *Zelotes* species**

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***Zelotes balcanicus* sp. n., a new and widespread species from the Balkan Peninsula (Araneae, Gnaphosidae).** - *Zelotes balcanicus* sp. n. (male/female) from Bulgaria, Romania, Greece and Macedonia is described and illustrated. This new species has somatic and genital characters that correspond well with those of the genus *Zelotes*.

Keywords: Description, spider, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Macedonia.

***Thivolleo*, a new genus with two new species from Africa (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea, Crambidae, Pyraustinae)**

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***Thivolleo*, a new genus with two new species from Africa (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea, Crambidae, Pyraustinae).**- *Thivolleo* gen. n. is erected for three species, one known: *T. xanthographa* Hampson, 1913 comb. n., and two new species: *T. albicervix* sp. n. and *T. meruensis* sp. n. The three species occur in Africa. The genitalia and adults of all species are illustrated. The genus is tentatively placed near *Pronomis* Munroe & Mutuura, 1968.

Keywords: *Thivolleo* new genus - new species - Pyraustinae - Africa.

New species and records of *Phlegra* from Africa (Araneae, Salticidae)

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New species and records of *Phlegra* from Africa (Araneae, Salticidae). - Six poorly known species of *Phlegra* from Africa are diagnosed, figured and redescribed: *P. lugubris* Berland & Millot, 1941; *P. nuda* Próchniewicz & Hęciak, 1994; *P. pusilla* Wesołowska & van Harten, 1994; *P. soudanica* Berland & Millot, 1941; *P. trifoveolata* Lessert, 1927; and *P. tristis* Lessert, 1927. New records from the Mediterranean and Africa, and taxonomic comments on *Phlegra bresnieri* (Lucas, 1846) are provided. *Phlegra lugubris* var. *senegalensis* Berland & Millot, 1941 and *P. tuzetae* Berland & Millot, 1941 are synonymized with *Phlegra lugubris* Berland & Millot, 1941. The ♀ lectotype is designated for *Phlegra tristis* Lessert, 1927. Three new species are described: *Phlegra etosha* sp. n. (♂; Namibia); *P. gagnoa* sp. n. (♂; Ivory Coast); and *P. touba* sp. n. (♂♀; Ivory Coast).

Keywords: Jumping spiders - synonymy - lectotype designation - (re)descriptions.

Re-assessing *Platyceps ventromaculatus* (Gray, 1834) (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubrinae)

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Re-assessing *Platyceps ventromaculatus* (Gray, 1834) (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubrinae). - The morphology and distribution of Gray's racer has been examined. *Platyceps ventromaculatus* seems to frequent habitats below 500 m altitude throughout most of its range. Its occurrence in the Himalayan foothills (Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal) and the specific identity of the holotype of *P. semifasciatus* Blyth, 1860 need further investigations. *P. ventromaculatus* crosses the Indus Valley and is found, for instance, along the Makran littoral to as far west as the border area with Iran. *Coluber chesneii* Martin, 1838 may be a valid northern Saharo-Arabian taxon of the genus *Platyceps* Blyth, 1860.

Keywords: morphology - distribution - taxonomy - systematics - *Coluber chesneii* Martin - *Platyceps semifasciatus*.

A new *Drapetisca* species from China and comparison with European *D. socialis* (Sundevall, 1829) (Araneae: Linyphiidae)

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A new *Drapetisca* species from China and comparison with European *D. socialis* (Sundevall, 1829) (Araneae: Linyphiidae). A new *Drapetisca* species, *Drapetisca bicruris* sp. n. is described from China. It has been earlier confused with the European *D. socialis* (Sundevall, 1829). The two species are compared with each other and figures are provided for both species.

Keywords: Taxonomy - Palearctic region - Micronetine - genital structures - specimens.

Coelotine spiders of the *Draconarius incertus* group (Araneae: Amaurobiidae) from southwestern China

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Coelotine spiders of the *Draconarius incertus* group (Araneae: Amaurobiidae) from southwestern China. – Five new coelotine species are added to the *Draconarius incertus* group: *Draconarius auriculatus* sp. n., *Draconarius falcatus* sp. n., *Draconarius immensus* sp. n., *Draconarius mupingensis* sp. n. and *Draconarius papillatus* sp. n. Detailed descriptions and illustrations of the new species are provided. The *Draconarius incertus* group now includes 8 species, all of which are from southwestern China.

Keywords: Taxonomy - new species - endemism - topography - variation.

New species of coelotine spiders (Araneae, Amaurobiidae) from northern Thailand III

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New species of coelotine spiders (Araneae, Amaurobiidae) from northern Thailand III.-

Two new species of coelotine spiders are described from northern Thailand: *Draconarius globulatus* sp. n. and *D. papai* sp. n., both from Phu Soi Dao National Park, Uttaradit Province. The unique patellar apophysis can easily distinguish *Draconarius globulatus* sp. n. from all other *Draconarius* species. *Draconarius papai* sp. n. is similar to the *venustus*-group species.

Keywords: Thailand - *Draconarius* - *venustus*-group - zoogeography.

New yellow-legged *Hybos* from Nanling, Guangdong, China (Diptera, Empidoidea, Hybotidae)

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New yellow-legged *Hybos* from Nanling, Guangdong, China (Diptera, Empidoidea, Hybotidae). - Five species of the genus *Hybos* with yellow legs are reported from the Nanling National Nature Reserve, Guangdong province. The following 3 species are described and illustrated: *Hybos ruyuanensis* sp. n., *H. trispinatus* sp. n., and *H. wangae* sp. n. They are compared with morphologically similar species.

Keywords: Diptera - Hybotidae - *Hybos* - new species - Nanling-Guangdong

Four interesting psocids (Psocodea: 'Psocoptera') from European parts of Russia and from the eastern Mediterranean

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Four interesting psocids (Psocodea: 'Psocoptera') from European parts of Russia and from the eastern Mediterranean. - The following two new species are described from the central and southern parts of European Russia: *Valenzuela labinae* sp. n. (Caeciliusidae), *Peripsocus golubae* sp. n. (Peripsocidae). The macropterous morph (female) of *Valenzuela labrostylus* Lienhard is described for the first time and the species is newly recorded from Greece (Island of Kefallinia). The sexually dimorphic species *Oreopsocus buholzeri* Lienhard (Psocidae) is newly recorded from Israel and the wing of the macropterous morph (male) is illustrated for the first time.

Keywords: Caeciliusidae - Peripsocidae - Psocidae - new species - Greece - Israel.

***Hyphessobrycon togoi*, a new species from the La Plata basin (Teleostei: Characidae) and comments about the distribution of the genus in Argentina**

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***Hyphessobrycon togoi*, a new species from the La Plata basin (Teleostei: Characidae) and comments about the distribution of the genus in Argentina.** - A new species of the characid genus *Hyphessobrycon* is described from tributaries of the Río de la Plata and the Salado River system in middle-eastern Argentina. *Hyphessobrycon togoi* can be distinguished from all congeners, except *H. langeanii* Lima & Moreira, by the presence of a well-defined, round to horizontally oval humeral spot. Other diagnostic characters defining *Hyphessobrycon togoi* are the possession of a short expanded maxilla with one large multicuspid tooth; premaxilla with an outer row of 3 small teeth, with 5 or 6 cusps, relatively apart from each other; inner series with 5 teeth that are distally broader, with numerous cusps (6-11) and overlapping each other; iv-v, 17-20 anal-fin rays; 31-36 scales on longitudinal series. *Hyphessobrycon togoi* is also distinguished by the presence of bony hooks on all fins of the mature males. Considerations about the distribution of the species of genus *Hyphessobrycon* in Argentina are included.

Keywords: Ostariophysi - *Hyphessobrycon* - new species - systematic - biodiversity - taxonomy - distribution - middle eastern Argentina.

Descriptions of adults, immature stages and venom apparatus of two new species of *Eudinostigma* Tobias (Hymenoptera, Braconidae), hyperparasitoids of *Phryxe caudata* (Rondani) (Diptera, Tachinidae)

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Descriptions of adults, immature stages and venom apparatus of two new species of *Eudinostigma* Tobias (Hymenoptera, Braconidae), hyperparasitoids of *Phryxe caudata* (Rondani) (Diptera, Tachinidae). - The imagines and cast skin of the final larval instar of two new species of Alysini from Spain, hyperparasitoids of *Phryxe caudata* (Rondani), *Eudinostigma bienesae* Fischer, Tormos & Pardo, sp. n. and *Eudinostigma planiceps* Fischer, Tormos & Pardo, sp. n., and the venom apparatus of *E. bienesae* Fischer, Tormos & Pardo, sp. n. are described, illustrated, and compared with those of allied species. The morphological

structures of phylogenetic value are discussed, and keys for the discrimination of the imagines are provided.

Keywords: Hymenoptera - Braconidae - new species - hosts - immature stages - venom apparatus - Spain.

Oribatids from Switzerland XIII (Acari: Oribatida: Brachychthoniidae). (*Acarologica Genavensia* CVII)

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Oribatids from Switzerland XIII (Acari: Oribatida: Brachychthoniidae). (*Acarologica Genavensia* CVII). – All published records and newly determined Swiss moss mites belonging to the family Brachychthoniidae are listed, discussed or described. From the 25 named species in the literature 16 are confirmed after critical discussion. New identifications of 28 species are given: 2 of which (*Liochthonius tumidus* sp. n. and *Liochthonius tumulosus* sp. n.) are new to science, 15 species are new for the Fauna of Switzerland and 5 are confirmations for the Swiss territory of doubtful species in the literature. As a synthesis a preliminary list of 36 Brachychthoniidae species belonging to 8 genera from Switzerland is given.

Keywords: Acari - Oribatida - Brachychthoniidae - taxonomy - new species - Switzerland.

Review of the orientation behaviour in the bee parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*: Sensory equipment and cell invasion behaviour

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Review of the orientation behaviour in the bee parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*: Sensory equipment and cell invasion behaviour. - Cell invasion behaviour is a crucial phase in *Varroa destructor* (Anderson & Trueman, 2000) life history. This review gives a survey of what is known about the sensory equipment of *Varroa* suited for its orientation. Most attractive for *Varroa* females are nurse bees and drone larvae just before the capping by the nurse bees. In search of cues to determine the sex and age of the brood, the whole spectrum of approaches from direct observation of the invasion behaviour in observation hives to electrophysiological recordings of the sensilla was used. There was no single key factor identified to be responsible for the host recognition, but rather a complex mixture of chemical compounds from the brood and physical parameters of the comb. In consideration of our limited understanding of host parasite interaction there is no solution in sight for a biological *Varroa* treatment regime based on interference with *Varroa* orientation during the brood invasion phase.

Keywords: *Varroa destructor* - *Apis mellifera* - olfaction - host finding - orientation.

Origine des populations de rainette verte (*Hyla* spp.) de l'ouest de la Suisse

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Origin of tree frog (*Hyla* spp.) populations in western Switzerland. - DNA-based techniques are important tools for species assignment, in particular when identification with morphological criteria is difficult. The aim of this study was to genetically determine the species identity of tree frogs (*Hyla* spp.) populations from western and northern Switzerland (Swiss Plateau), this area being frequently subjected to introductions of species or sub-species from south of the Alps. We sequenced 261 base pairs of the mitochondrial DNA cytochrome b gene from 24 samples of tree frogs from the Swiss Plateau, Ticino (southern Switzerland) and the Dombes region (Ain, France), and compared them with homologous sequences retrieved from DNA databases. The phylogenetic analyses revealed two distinct clades. The first one is represented by samples of Green tree frog (*Hyla arborea*) from the Swiss Plateau, France, Germany and Greece, confirming the current knowledge about the species' distribution. The second clade includes samples belonging to the Italian tree frog (*Hyla intermedia*) from south of the Alps (Ticino and Italy), and unexpectedly from the Grangettes site in western Switzerland. These results suggest the introduction of the Italian tree frog *H. intermedia* north of the Alps, and raise questions about the management of the Grangettes protected area.

Keywords: Hylids - cytochrome b - conservation - invader.

A new species of *Hyphessobrycon* (Characiformes, Characidae) from the río Uruguay basin, Argentina

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A new species of *Hyphessobrycon* (Characiformes, Characidae) from the río Uruguay basin, Argentina. - *Hyphessobrycon isiri* sp. n., is described from the río Uruguay basin. *Hyphessobrycon isiri* sp. n. differs from the remaining species of the genus by the presence of teeth of the inner series of the premaxilla with 5 to 11 cusps, one maxillary tooth with 7 cusps; 16 to 22 branched anal-fin rays; one humeral spot vertically elongated, and a midlateral stripe ending in a conspicuous caudal spot.

Keywords: Characiformes - systematics - *Hyphessobrycon* - río Uruguay basin - Argentina.