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On *Unicorn*, a New Genus of the Spider Family Oonopidae (Araneae, Dysderoidea)

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ABSTRACT

A new genus, *Unicorn*, is established for some South American dysderoid spiders that are easily mistaken for orsolobids but lack the elevated tarsal organ considered synapomorphic for that family. The monophyly of *Unicorn* is supported by the presence of a clypeal horn and an expanded palpal tibia in males. Five new species are described: *U. catleyi* (type species), *U. toconao*, *U. socos*, and *U. chącabuco* from Chile, and *U. huanaco*

from Bolivia. Orchestina argentina Mello-Leitão is transferred to Unicorn, and a male of the species is described for the first time. Unicorn is hypothesized to represent a close relative of the oonopid genus Xiombarg Brignoli; the female of its type species, X. plaumanni Brignoli, is described for the first time, and the species is newly recorded from eastern Argentina.

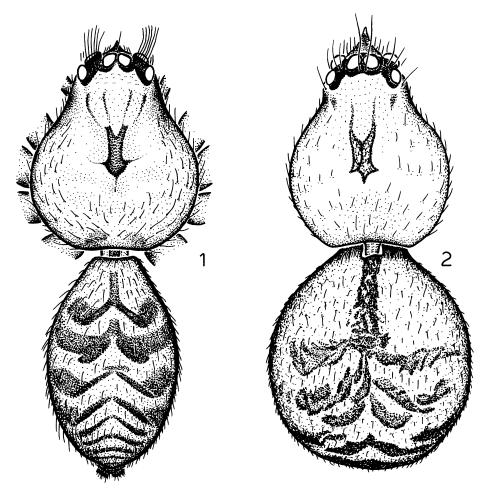
INTRODUCTION

Some of the peculiar haplogyne spiders described below have been known in collections for several years. The first reference to them in the modern literature was apparently published by Lehtinen (1981: 4–5), who men-

tioned "a few undescribed species of Neotropical Diguetids, including species with... cephalic horns in males" (his comment was based on the specimen discussed below as *Unicorn argentina*).

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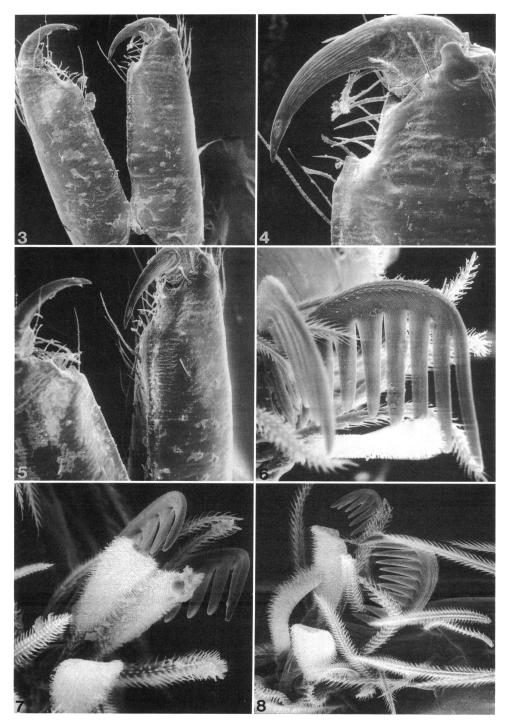


Figs. 1, 2. Carapace and abdomen, dorsal views. 1. Unicorn catleyi, new species. 2. U. huanaco, new species.

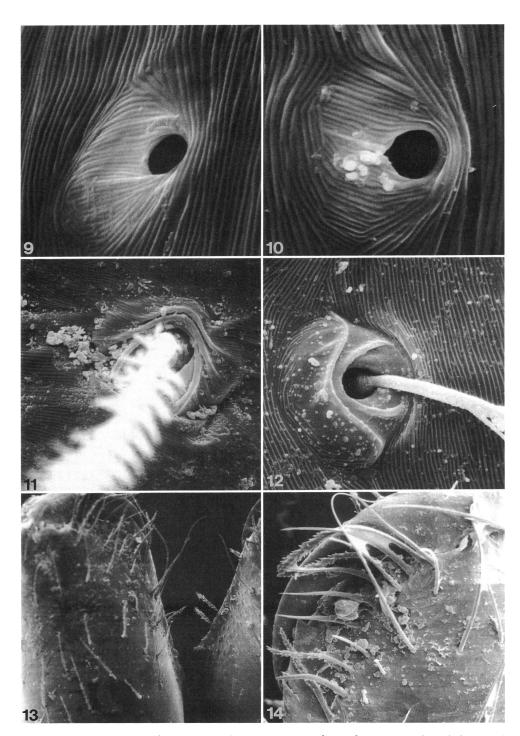
When the family Orsolobidae was redefined and reviewed by Forster and Platnick (1985), a few odd dysderoid specimens from central Chile and Argentina (including the male misidentified as a diguetid by Lehtinen) were suspected to be orsolobids, because of their relatively large size, eye arrangement, color pattern, parallel endites, and the presence in males of a clypeal horn (figs. 1, 2) similar to that of the Tasmanian orsolobid genus *Cornifalx* Hickman (1979). Scanning electron microscopy, however, revealed that these animals lack the elevated tarsal organ that is considered synapomorphic for the Orsolobidae.

Over more recent years, additional specimens from northern Chile and Bolivia have

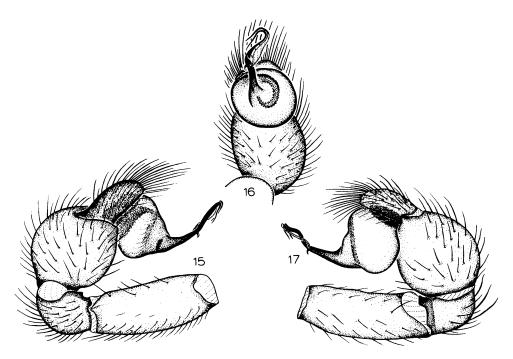
been encountered. In each case, the additional specimens also were initially (and mistakenly) thought, by us and other workers, to be orsolobids. More detailed study suggests that they represent a monophyletic group (described below as the genus Unicorn) that seems closest to the oonopid genus Xiombarg Brignoli (1979), previously known only from the male holotype of its type species, X. plaumanni Brignoli from Santa Catarina, Brazil. Two additional specimens of that species are reported below, from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and Misiones, Argentina. Their general appearance is very similar to that of Unicorn species, and it is thus not surprising that these specimens were also thought initially to be orsolobids.



Figs. 3-8. *Unicorn catleyi*, new species. 3. Male chelicerae, posterior view, 4. Male cheliceral fang, posterior view, showing tooth-shaped tip of cheliceral lamina. 5. Male chelicerae, oblique posterior view. 6. Claws of leg I, male, distal view. 7. Claws of leg IV, male, oblique ventral view. 8. Claws of leg I, female, oblique ventral view.



Figs. 9-14. 9-11. Unicorn catleyi, new species. 12-14. Xiombarg plaumanni Brignoli. 9. Tarsal organ from leg I, male, dorsal view. 10. Same, female. 11. Trichobothrial base from metatarsus IV, male, dorsal view. 12. Trichobothrial base from tibia I, male, dorsal view. 13, 14. Male chelicerae, posterior views.



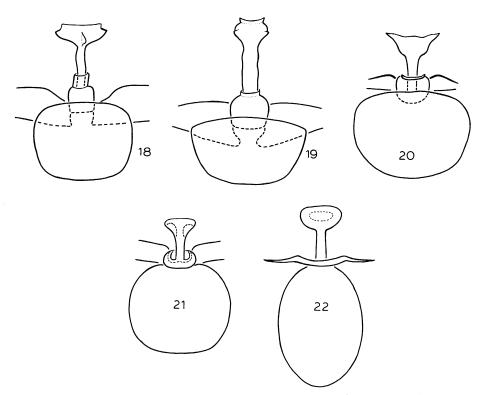
Figs. 15–17. Unicorn catleyi, new species, left male palp. 15. Prolateral view. 16. Ventral view. 17. Retrolateral view.

Many of the features in which these animals resemble orsolobids are plesiomorphic within the Dysderoidea. These taxa are thus of special interest, since it appears likely that they (along with the genus Orchestina Simon, with which they share an H-shaped eye arrangement in which the lateral eye diads are widely separated from the posterior medians) are among the most primitive members of the Oonopidae, an understudied group in which generic interrelationships remain almost totally unresolved. (If the views of Dalmas, 1916: 205, on the affinities of the African genera Calculus Purcell and Sulsula Simon are correct, they may also belong among this assemblage of relatively primitive oonopids, but we have seen no specimens of those taxa.) We describe here the six known species belonging to *Unicorn*, and also provide supplementary information on Xiombarg, including a description of the first known female of its type species.

Of particular interest in both genera is the presence of a cheliceral lamina, terminating in a strong, tooth-shaped process situated opposite the tip of the cheliceral fang (figs. 3—

5, 13, 14). Brignoli (1979: 914, fig. 3) illustrated the process in *Xiombarg* (even though he described that taxon as having "cheliceri privi di denti"). The occurrence of a distinct lamina in these dysderoids supports the results of Platnick et al.'s (1991) cladistic analysis, which indicated that the presence of a cheliceral lamina is a synapomorphy of Haplogynae, rather than just of the smaller group Sicarioidea. The latter hypothesis was suggested again recently by Forster (1995), but that view is highly unparsimonious (even on the basis of previous data), and becomes even less persuasive now that a cheliceral lamina has been found within the Dysderoidea.

Given these plesiomorphic characteristics, one might reasonably ask why *Unicorn* and *Xiombarg* (and, for that matter, even *Orchestina*) should be considered oonopids at all. No extensive argument for the monophyly of the family, even with the orsolobids removed, has ever been put forward. It appears at this point that only two derived characters, the loss of cheliceral teeth and the loss of the female palpal claw, may effectively separate oonopids from the other dysderoids



Figs. 18-22. Internal female genitalia, dorsal views. 18. Unicorn catleyi, new species. 19. U. toconao, new species. 20. U. socos, new species. 21. U. chacabuco, new species. 22. Xiombarg plaumanni Brignoli.

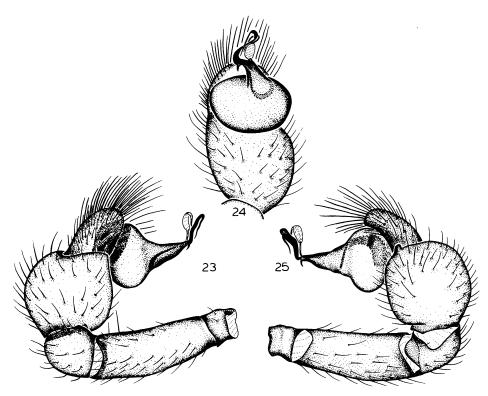
(Forster and Platnick, 1985). Neither loss character is compelling, and at least two other features of Unicorn and Xiombarg are atypical among oonopids: the capsulate tarsal organ, and the clearly uniseriate tarsal claw dentition. Charles Griswold (in litt.) has examined specimens from South Africa that closely resemble Unicorn and Xiombarg in eye pattern, tarsal organ morphology, claw dentition, and claw tuft morphology. The capsulate tarsal organ may unite these South African dysderoids (which might belong to Calculus) with Unicorn and Xiombarg in a group that could thus represent the sister group of the other oonopids. Judging by unpublished micrographs by R. R. Forster, at least some species currently placed in Orchestina have a tarsal organ with a distinctly raised lip, identical neither to the capsulate form (figs. 9, 10) nor to the flat, exposed organ typical of other oonopids (Forster and Platnick, 1985: figs. 858, 859).

We are grateful to the curators and collec-

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COLLECTIONS EXAMINED

AMNH American Museum of Natural History
CAS California Academy of Sciences, C.
Griswold



Figs. 23-25. Unicorn toconao, new species, left male palp. 23. Prolateral view. 24. Ventral view. 25. Retrolateral view.

CBF Colección Boliviano de Fauna, La Paz,

R. Altamirano

MCP Museu de Ciências da Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul,

Porto Alegre, A. A. Lise

MCZ Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, H. W. Levi

MHNG Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève, B. Hauser

MLP Museo de La Plata, Argentina, C. Sutton de Licitra

SYSTEMATICS

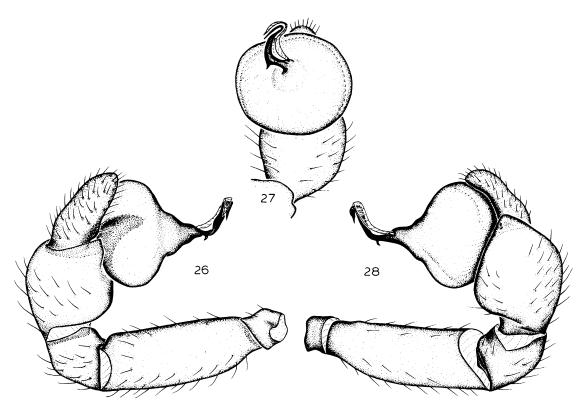
Unicorn, New Genus

TYPE SPECIES: Unicorn catleyi, new species. ETYMOLOGY: The generic name refers to the clypeal horn of males, and is considered masculine in gender.

DIAGNOSIS: Specimens of *Unicorn* resemble those of *Orchestina* Simon and *Xiombarg* Brignoli (and of the Orsolobidae) in having an H-shaped eye pattern, with the lateral eye

diads widely separated from the posterior medians (figs. 1, 2); more derived oonopid genera have the lateral eye diads close to the posterior medians (and, in the most derived forms, even have the two anterior lateral eyes touching each other, in front of the posterior medians). *Unicorn* specimens lack the enlarged femora IV that are synapomorphic for *Orchestina*. Males of *Unicorn* can easily be separated from those of *Xiombarg* and other genera by the presence of a clypeal horn (figs. 1, 2) and an expanded palpal tibia (figs. 15–17). Both sexes of *Unicorn* differ from those of *Xiombarg* in having spines on at least the posterior tibiae and metatarsi.

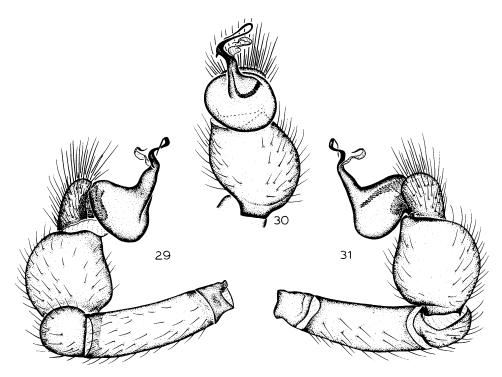
DESCRIPTION: Relatively large oonopids (total length 2.2–2.8). Carapace yellow, pars cephalica low, flat, greatly narrowed opposite palpi, usually darkened posteriorly, usually with four dark lines radiating forward to ocular area; males with anteromedially projecting clypeal horn (figs. 1, 2) surrounded by extremely long, stiff, erect setae extending



Figs. 26–28. Unicorn argentina (Mello-Leitão), left male palp. 26. Prolateral view. 27. Ventral view. 28. Retrolateral view.

from behind eyes to point considerably anterior of horn; pars thoracica flat, coated with long, recumbent setae. Six subequal eyes occupying most of cephalic width, arranged in H-shaped pattern, with anterior laterals widely separated; posterior medians almost contiguous, separated from posterior laterals by more than their diameter. Chelicerae sexually dimorphic (those of males long, slender, anteriorly more excavated than those of females), vertical, long, extending beyond endites, with typical haplogyne median lamina terminating in single, large, tooth-shaped process situated opposite fang tip (figs. 3–5); normal cheliceral teeth absent. Endites long, extending beyond labium, unmodified, parallel, separated at tip by almost their width, bearing short serrula composed of single row of teeth; labium short, rebordered. Legs uniformly yellow, long, slender, clothed with long setae; typical leg spination pattern (only surfaces bearing spines listed): tibiae: I, II p0-1-1, v0-0-2, r0-0-1; III, IV p0-1-1, v1p-1p-2,

r0-1-1; metatarsi: III p1-1-0, v1p-1p-1p, r1-1-0; IV p1-1-1, v1p-1p-2, r1-1-1; tarsi with two claws, each bearing single row of about 12 long teeth, claws situated on onychium bearing three spatulate setae, with two lateral setae situated dorsad of single median one (figs. 6-8); apparently with single subdistal trichobothrium on metatarsi, none verified on tibiae or tarsi, base with three elevated ridges (fig. 11); tarsal organ capsulate (figs. 9, 10). Abdomen white, with dark cardiac mark and posterior chevrons, most posterior pair of chevrons extending almost entirely around spinnerets, venter with pair of dark, longitudinal stripes near sides; all surfaces densely clothed with long, stiff setae. Six spinnerets, anterior laterals with three segments, posterior laterals with two; colulus narrow, setose (insufficient specimens available for scanning electron microscopy of spigot morphology). Respiratory system with two closely spaced pairs of spiracles, anterior pair leading to booklungs with few lamellae, posterior pair



Figs. 29-31. Unicorn huanaco, new species, left male palp. 29. Prolateral view. 30. Ventral view. 31. Retrolateral view.

more narrowly separated from each other, leading to pair of large tracheal trunks extending anterior of genitalia before breaking into tracheoles. Male palp with enlarged tibia (figs. 15, 17); embolus with subbasal hook on proximal side, accompanied by translucent sclerite (fig. 16). Female palp without claw. Anterior portion of female genitalia with single anterior receptaculum, expanded distally, pair of sclerotized lateral plates, and single, circular, sclerotized median plate; posterior portion with globose, membranous median receptaculum (figs. 18–21).

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from central and northern Chile, western Argentina, and Bolivia.

Unicorn catleyi, new species Figures 1, 3-11, 15-18

Types: Male holotype and female allotype from an elevation of 3400 m at a site 2 km S Zapahuira, 18°20'S, 69°34'W, Parinacota, Región de Tarapacá (I), Chile (Feb. 3, 1994; N. I. Platnick, K. M. Catley, R. Calderón G., R. T. Allen), deposited in AMNH.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is a patronym in honor of one of the collectors.

DIAGNOSIS: This species seems closest to $U.\ toconao$ but has a much smaller male clypeal horn (fig. 1), lacks a protrusion on the distal surface of the base of the male embolus (figs. 15–17), and has a more widely expanded tip of the anterior receptaculum of females (fig. 18).

MALE: Total length, not including cheliceral horn, 2.27. Carapace 1.11 long, 0.90 wide. Femur I 1.20 long. Coloration typical for genus except abdominal venter without longitudinal stripes, with single transverse stripe at epigastric level. Clypeal horn relatively small (fig. 1). Eye length ratio, ALE: PME:PLE, 4:5:5; PME separated by over half their length from ALE, PLE separated by three times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.58 long. Leg spination: tibiae I p0-1-0; metatarsi II, III r0-1-0. Base of embolus lacking protrusion on distal surface at point where main body of embolus turns toward prolateral side of bulb; translucent sclerite relatively narrow at base (figs. 15-17).

FEMALE: Total length 2.71. Carapace 1.22 long, 0.94 wide. Femur I 1.02 long. Coloration typical for genus except abdominal venter unmarked. Eye length ratio, ALE:PME: PLE, 10:9:8; PME separated by half their length from ALE, PLE separated by more than three times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.49 long. Leg spination: tibiae: I p0-0-0, v0-0-0, r0-0-0; II p0-1-0, v0-0-0, r0-0-0; III v0-0-1p; metatarsi III r0-1-0. Anterior expansion of anterior receptaculum wide, with produced lobes at sides (fig. 18).

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: One male taken with the types, and one female taken at an elevation of 3640 m at a nearby site 24 km S Zapahuira, 18°25'S, 69°31'W, on the following day, by the same collectors (AMNH).

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Tarapacá, Chile.

Unicorn toconao, new species Figures 19, 23-25

Types: Male holotype and female allotype from an elevation of 3780 m at a site 35 km SE Toconao, 23°20′S, 67°47′W, El Loa, Región de Antofagasta (II), Chile (Feb. 1, 1994; N. I. Platnick, K. M. Catley, R. Calderón G., R. T. Allen), deposited in AMNH.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS: This species seems closest to *U. catleyi* but can be distinguished by the much larger male clypeal horn (as in fig. 2), the protrusion on the distal surface of the base of the male embolus (fig. 24), and the narrow, rectangular tip of the anterior receptaculum of females (fig. 19).

MALE: Total length, not including clypeal horn, 2.26. Carapace 1.09 long, 0.94 wide. Femur I 1.20 long. Coloration typical for genus. Clypeal horn relatively large (as in fig. 2). Eye length ratio, ALE:PME:PLE, 4:5:5; PME separated by half their length from ALE, PLE separated by over three times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.53 long. Leg spination typical for genus. Base of embolus bearing distinct protrusion on distal surface at point where main body of embolus turns toward prolateral side of bulb; translucent sclerite relatively wide (figs. 23–25).

FEMALE: Total length 2.62. Carapace 1.23 long, 1.02 wide. Femur I 1.20 long. Colora-

tion typical for genus. Eye length ratio, ALE: PME:PLE, 3:5:5; PME separated by two-thirds their length from ALE, PLE separated by over three times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.51 long. Leg spination: tibiae: I v2-2-2, r0-1-1; II v1p-1p-2, r0-1-1; III v1p-2-2, r1-1-1; IV r1-1-1; metatarsi: I, II p0-1-1, v1p-1p-2, r0-1-1; III p1-1-1, v1p-1p-2, r1-1-1; IV v1p-2-2. Anterior expansion of anterior receptaculum narrow, rectangular, with produced lobes at each corner (fig. 19).

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: None. DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Antofagasta, Chile.

Unicorn socos, new species Figure 20

TYPE: Female holotype taken at an elevation of 360 km at a site 24 km S of Socos at km 347 of Route 5, 30°53′S, 71°37′W, Limari, Región de Coquimbo (IV), Chile (Nov. 9, 1993; N. I. Platnick, K. M. Catley, M. J. Ramírez, R. T. Allen), deposited in AMNH.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS: This species resembles *U. cha-cabuco* in having a y-shaped tip of the anterior receptaculum in females, but has a proportionately larger basal portion of that tip (fig. 20).

MALE: Unknown.

FEMALE: Total length 2.43. Carapace 1.05 long, 0.92 wide. Femur I 1.20 long. Coloration typical for genus except abdominal venter unmarked and distal tips of femora darkened. Eye length ratio, ALE:PME:PLE, 7:10: 10; PME separated by over half their length from ALE, PLE separated by more than three times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.49 long. Leg spination: tibiae: I, II p0-0-0, v0-0-0, r0-0-0; III p0-1-0, v0-0-1p, r0-0-0; IV p0-1-0, v0-0-1p, r0-1-0; metatarsi: I, II v0-1p-0; III v1p-1p-2, r0-1-0. Anterior expansion of anterior receptaculum y-shaped, basal portion of that expansion relatively large (fig. 20).

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: None.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Coquimbo, Chile.

Unicorn chacabuco, new species Figure 21

TYPE: Female holotype taken at an elevation of 1100 m on the Cuesta Chacabuco,

32°57'S, 70°48'W, Chacabuco, Región Metropolitana de Santiago, Chile (Sept. 18, 1966; E. I. Schlinger), deposited in CAS.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS: This species resembles *U. socos* in having a y-shaped tip of the anterior receptaculum in females, but has a proportionately smaller basal portion of that tip (fig. 21).

MALE: Unknown.

Female: Total length 2.26. Carapace 0.98 long, 0.86 wide. Femur I 0.94 long. Coloration typical for genus except pars thoracica with radiating dark markings, abdominal venter with dark markings around spinnerets only, femora and patellae with distal dark rings, tibiae with subbasal and distal dark rings. Eye length ratio, ALE:PME:PLE, 3:4: 4: PME separated by over half their length from ALE, PLE separated by four times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.41 long. Leg spination: tibiae: I, II p0-0-0, v0-0-0, r0-0-0; III, IV v0-0-2; metatarsi III p0-0-0, v1p-0-0, r0-0-0. Anterior expansion of anterior receptaculum y-shaped, basal portion of that expansion relatively small (fig. 21).

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: None. DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality, north of Santiago, Chile.

Unicorn argentina (Mello-Leitão), new combination Figures 26-28

Orchestina argentina Mello-Leitão, 1940: 257 (putative female [actually penultimate male] holotype from Quebrada del Toro, Mendoza, Argentina, in MLP, examined).

Note: Mello-Leitão (1940) described this species on the basis of a single putative female, but the holotype is actually a penultimate male. It lacks the expanded femora IV synapomorphic for *Orchestina* and is certainly misplaced in that genus. Brignoli (1979) pointed out that the species might belong to *Xiombarg*. The specimen is badly faded, but a few leg spines are visible, and it thus appears to belong to *Unicorn* (rather than *Xiombarg*), as its type locality would suggest. Because only a single species of *Unicorn* is currently known from western Argentina, it seems best to use Mello-Leitão's name for that species, even though the holotype cannot

be identified with certainty. No etymology for the specific name was provided by Mello-Leitão, and it is assumed to be a noun in apposition that requires no change of gender with the generic transfer.

DIAGNOSIS: Males can easily be recognized by the globose palpal bulb (figs. 26–28).

MALE: Total length, not including clypeal horn, 2.71. Carapace 1.34 long, 1.13 wide. Femur I 1.62 long. Carapace and abdominal venter without dark markings. Clypeal horn relatively large (as in fig. 2). Eye length ratio, ALE:PME:PLE, 10:13:11; PME separated by almost half their length from ALE, PLE separated by almost three times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.60 long. Leg spination uncertain (most segments missing, remaining ones bald, faded): tibiae I apparently p1-0-0, v0-0-0, r1-0-0; II missing; III, IV apparently p1-0-1, v0-0-0, r1-0-1; metatarsi: I-III missing; IV apparently p-1-1-1, v0-0-0, r1-1-1. Palpal bulb enlarged, globose, subequal in size with palpal tibia (figs. 26-28).

FEMALE: Unknown.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: ARGENTINA: Mendoza: Quebrada del Toro (M. Birabén, MLP), 1 penultimate à (holotype). San Juan: 82 km NW San Agustín, Dept. Valle Fértil, April-May 1958, elev. 1300 m, semidesert site with frequent dews (B. Patterson, MCZ), 1å.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from semidesert sites in western Argentina.

Unicorn huanaco, new species Figures 2, 29-31

TYPE: Male holotype from Huanaco, Aroma, La Paz, Bolivia (June 15, 1983; Colina), deposited in CBF.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS: Males can be recognized by the relatively narrow embolar base and the sharply bent basal portion of the embolar tip (figs. 29–31).

MALE: Total length, not including cheliceral horn, 2.37. Carapace 1.09 long, 0.96 wide. Femur I 1.25 long. Coloration typical for genus except lateral pair of dark markings on pars cephalica weak, interrupted, abdominal venter with single anterior transverse and two paramedian longitudinal dark bands. Clypeal horn relatively large (fig. 2). Eye length

ratio, ALE:PME:PLE, 7:10:9; PME separated by half their length from ALE, PLE separated by over three times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.50 long. Leg spination: tibiae: I, II v0-0-1p; III, IV v0-1p-1p; metatarsi: I p0-1-0, v0-1p-1p, r0-1-0; II p0-1-0, r0-1-0; III p0-1-0, v1p-1p-1p, r0-1-0; IV v0-1p-2. Base of embolus narrow, sides almost parallel, basal portion of embolar tip sharply bent (figs. 29-31).

FEMALE: Unknown.

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: None.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Bolivia.

Xiombarg Brignoli

Xiombarg Brignoli, 1979: 914 (type species by original designation X. plaumanni Brignoli).

DIAGNOSIS: Specimens resemble those of *Unicorn* but lack leg spines (in both sexes) as well as the clypeal horn and expanded palpal tibia found in male *Unicorn*. The chelicerae have a lamina ending in a tooth-shaped point (figs. 13, 14). There is a subbasal trichoboth-rium on the tibiae and a subdistal one on the metatarsi; their bases bear two elevated ridges (fig. 12). The male palp of the only known species is distinctive, with a highly coiled embolar tip and separate, sclerotized apophysis (Brignoli, 1979: figs. 1, 2). In the female genitalia, the tip of the anterior receptaculum is rounded (rather than angular as in *Unicorn*)

and the median plate is short and laterally elongated (fig. 22).

Xiombarg plaumanni Brignoli Figures 12-14, 22

Xiombarg plaumanni Brignoli, 1979: 916, figs. 1-3 (male holotype from Nova Teutonia, Santa Catarina, Brazil, in MHNG, examined).

DIAGNOSIS: With the characters of the genus.

MALE: Described by Brignoli (1979).

FEMALE: Total length 2.33. Carapace 0.96 long, 0.86 wide. Femur I 0.94 long. Coloration as in *Unicorn* except distal tips of femora with dorsal dark markings. Eye length ratio, ALE:PME:PLE, 8:11:10; PME separated by half their length from ALE, PLE separated by over three times the PME length. Chelicerae 0.47 long. Leg spines absent. Palpal tarsus without claw. Anterior receptaculum oval, on narrow stalk (fig. 22).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: ARGENTINA: Misiones: Arroyo Guerrero, N San Javier, Apr. 11–21, 1989 (Garabi, MCP 1280), 18. BRAZIL: Rio Grande do Sul: Cachoeira do Sul, Capanézinho, Oct. 17, 1992 (R. G. Buss, MCP 3316), 19. Santa Catarina: Nova Teutonia, July 1958, elev. 200–500 m (F. Plaumann, MNHG), 18 (holotype).

DISTRIBUTION: Southeastern Brazil and adjacent Argentina.

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