

Araneae, Deinopidae, *Deinopis amica* Schiapelli and Gerschman, 1957: First record for Uruguay and distribution map

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ABSTRACT: This is the first record for the species *Deinopis amica* and for the family Deinopidae in Uruguay. The present study expands the known distribution of the species to the lower Uruguay River. Data on natural history of the species is provided.

The family Deinopidae Kock, 1850 comprises medium to large cribellate spiders with four genera and 57 species described and distributed in Australia, New Caledonia, America, Asia and Africa (Platnick 2011). Members of this family have large posterior median eyes, elongated abdomen and in the field they can be recognized by their particular web architecture (Brescovit *et al.*, 2002; Ubick *et al.* 2005). They are known as net-casting or ogre-faced spiders. They construct an expandable web that they hold between the front legs for prey capture (Jocqué and Dippenaar-Schoeman, 2007) (Figure 1). The genus *Deinopis* MacLeay, 1839 is the most speciose of the family with 44 species and it is mainly distributed throughout tropical and subtropical regions (Platnick 2011; Jocqué and Dippenaar-Schoeman, 2007).

In this note we report the first record of the family Deinopidae for Uruguay, based in the collection of individuals of *Deinopis amica* Schiapelli and Gerschman 1957. This represents the southernmost record for the species. The individuals were collected at Caballada Island (33° 5'43.55"S; 58°10'52.18"W) in Uruguay River, and at the field of the Prefectura Naval (33°06'45.25" S, 58°15'3.76" W), at the coast of Uruguay River, near Fray Bentos city, at the west of the country (Figure 1). We identified the individuals as *D. amica* due the presence of the diagnostic characters indicated by Schiapelli and Gerschman (1957): the presence of toracic furrow and the morphology of the epigynum and palpal organ. We collected thirty one individuals in riparian forests: three males, seven females and twenty-one immatures (Figure 2). Seventeen specimens were captured by suction with a G-Vac and fourteen individuals were obtained by nocturnal hand collection, using head lamps. The specimens on its webs were observed from the ground level up to 1,50 m high. The body is brownish with a medium clear longitudinal band at the dorsal prosoma, the cardiac mark is brown and more conspicuous at the anterior abdomen, and legs present dorsal and lateral black spots. The body size variation was (measurements are given in

millimeters): females (N=7): total length: 15.55 ± 2.65 ; carapace length: 4.15 ± 0.45 ; carapace width: 2.60 ± 0.30 ; males (N=3): total length: 13.80 ± 1.00 ; carapace length: 3.95 ± 0.05 ; carapace width: 2.50. We deposited voucher specimens in the arachnological collection of Facultad de Ciencias Universidad de la Republica (FCE), Uruguay.



FIGURE 1. *Deinopis amica* and its web.



FIGURE 2. Riparian forest in Caballada Island at Uruguay River.

Specimens examined: Uruguay. Río Negro. Caballada Island: 26/03/2008, 1♀, A. Laborda, (FCE 5711); 23/03/2009, 1♀, A. Laborda, (FCE 5712); 26/03/2009, 1♀, A. Laborda, (FCE 5713); 19/12/2007, 1♀, A. Laborda, (FCE 5714); 26/03/2008, 2♀, G. Useta, (FCE 5715); 26/03/2008, 1♀, F. Pérez-Miles, (FCE 5716); 29/09/2007, 1♂, A. Laborda, (FCE 5717); 15/12/2008, 1♂, A. Laborda, (FCE 5718); 15/12/2008, 1♂, F. Pérez-Miles, (FCE 5719); 25/06/2008, 1J, A. Laborda, (FCE 5720); 25/06/2008, 1J, G. Useta, (FCE 5721); 25/06/2008, 1J, G. Useta, (FCE 5722); 24/09/2007, 1J, L. Montes de Oca, (FCE 5723); 19/12/2007, 1J, F. Pérez-Miles, (FCE 5726); 02/10/2008, 2J, A. Laborda, (FCE 5727); 25/06/2008, 2J, G. Useta, (FCE 5728); 25/06/2008, 1J, G. Useta, (FCE 5729); 15/12/2008, 1J, A. Laborda, (FCE 5730); 25/06/2008, 1J, L. Montes de Oca, (FCE 5731); 15/12/2008, 1J, L. Montes de Oca, (FCE 5732); 25/06/2008, 1J, G. Useta, (FCE 5734); 08/10/2009, 1J, F. Costa, (FCE 5737); 25/06/2008, 1J, F. Pérez-Miles, (FCE5738). **Prefectura Naval:** 16/12/2008, 1J, G. Useta, (FCE 5724); 26/06/2008, 1J, A. Laborda, (FCE 5725); 16/12/2008, 1J, A. Laborda, (FCE 5733); 16/12/2008, 1J, L. Montes de Oca, (FCE 5735); 16/12/2008, 1J, F. Pérez-Miles, (FCE 5736).

Previous literature records of the species reported its distribution to some localities of Misiones Province at the Northeast of Argentine. Along the Uruguay River there are several islands originated by sediments deposition. The islands present subtropical vegetation that constitute a corridor for the flora and fauna between the Misiones jungle at the higher Uruguay River and the lower region of this River. The occurrence of this species, 640 km South from Misiones coincides with this hypothesis (Figure 3). Part of the wetlands and islands of Uruguay River are being proposed as protected areas by

the Uruguayan government. A management conservation plan of the riparian forest and wetlands in the islands along the coast of the Uruguay River is necessary for the maintenance of this biological corridor.

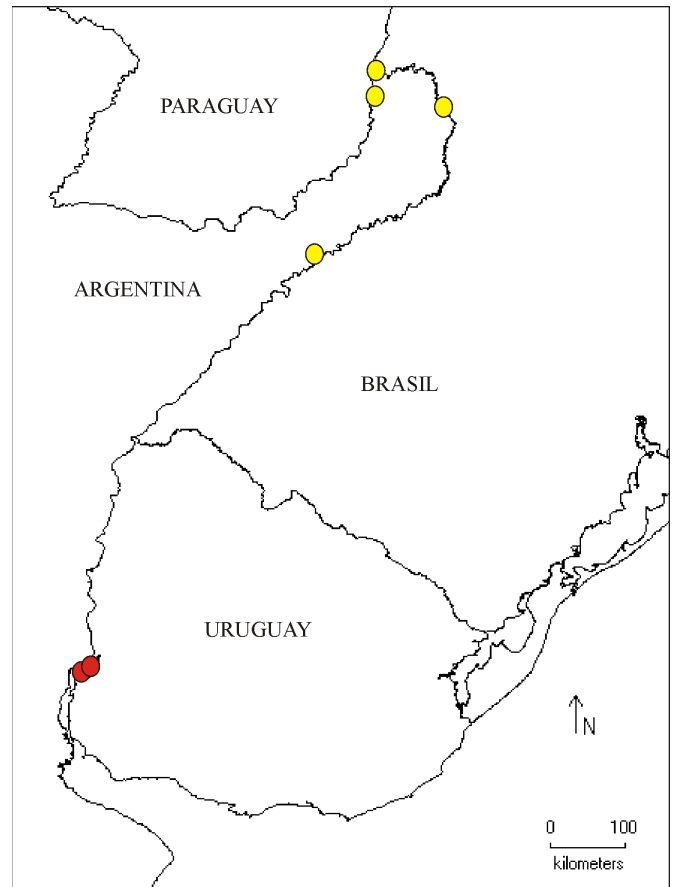


FIGURE 3. Geographic distribution of *Deinopis amica*. Literature record: yellow circle. New record: red circle.

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