

Scientific note

Taxonomic identity of two *Pseudocellus* from Eastern Cuba

(Arachnida, Ricinulei, Ricinoididae)

Rolando Teruel*

The taxonomic definition of the Cuban ricinulid *Pseudocellus paradoxus* (Cooke, 1972) is currently unsatisfactory: two other taxa formerly described as separate species (*Cryptocellus cubanicus* Dumitresco & Juvara-Bals, 1973 and *Cryptocellus mayari* Armas, 1977) were regarded as its junior synonyms (Armas, 1980), but then suggested to be valid (Teruel & Pérez 2003, Teruel & Armas 2008).

Recently, the present author succeeded in collecting new samples of all three taxa (topotypes included) and examining the types of two of them. This revealed that *C. cubanicus* and *C. mayari* are valid species of the genus *Pseudocellus* Platnick, 1980 (this was never formally established because the genus *Pseudocellus* was described shortly after the synonymies were published). Thus, the following nomenclatural changes are herein proposed: 1) *Cryptocellus cubanicus* Dumitresco & Juvara-Bals, 1973, **restored name** = *Pseudocellus cubanicus* (Dumitresco & Juvara-Bals, 1973), **new combination**; 2) *Cryptocellus mayari* Armas, 1973, **restored name** = *Pseudocellus mayari* (Armas, 1973), **new combination**.

These species will be fully redescribed in a forthcoming paper (R. Teruel, in prep.), but their main diagnostic differences are given here as follows: *P. cubanicus* n. comb. is distinguished from *P. mayari* and *P. paradoxus* by its more slender body and appendages, paler

coloration, male leg II tibia apically curved inwards and male copulatory apparatus different; *P. mayari* n. comb. is diagnosed from *P. cubanicus* and *P. paradoxus* by its tergites XI–XII shorter and wider, leg II femur more swollen, and male copulatory apparatus different. Most of these differences are evident in Figure 1.

References

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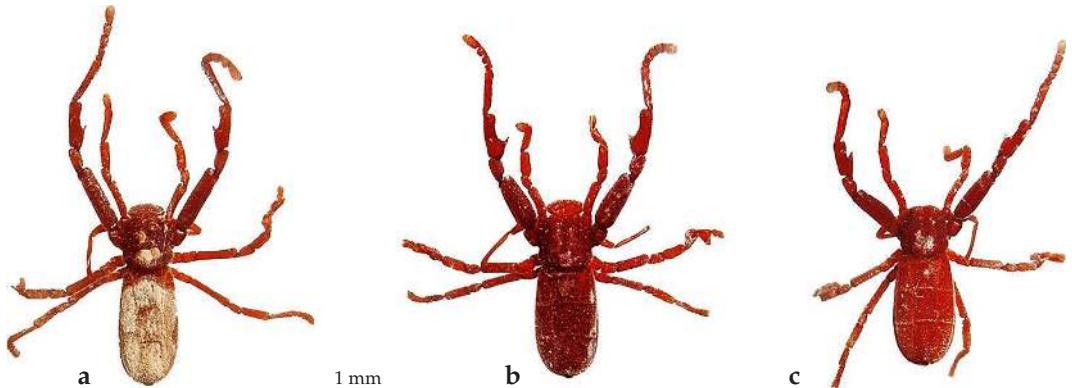


Fig. 1. Males of *P. cubanicus* n. comb. (a), *P. mayari* (b) and *P. paradoxus* (c).

* Rolando Teruel, Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad, Museo de Historia Natural “Tomás Romay”, José A. Saco # 601, esquina a Barnada, Santiago de Cuba 90100, Cuba; e-mail: rteruel@bioeco.cu