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Scientific note

Second record of Net-casting Spiders in Peru

(Araneae, Deinopidae)

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The spider family Deinopidae C. L. Koch, 1850, also known as Net-casting Spiders, consists of elongated, medium-sized to large cribellate spiders. They are characterized by the extremely large posterior median eyes, which allow an excellent view at low light conditions. A small, rectangular, and expandable net, which is held by the long and slender front legs (Fig. 1A,B) is actively used by casting over prey (Brescovit et al. 2002, Joqué & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2007).

The distribution is worldwide in tropical and subtropical areas. There are just three genera within this family: the recently established genus *Asianopsis* Lin & Li, 2020 with seven species from Asia, the genus *Menneus* Simon, 1876 with 14 valid species from Africa and Australia, and the third genus *Deinopis* MacLeay, 1839, also known as Ogre-faced Spiders, which consists of 46 accepted species, recorded for Africa, Asia, Australia, New Guinea, and the tropical and subtropical parts of the Americas. Of these, 21 species are known from the Neotropics. Beside some species from southern USA, Central America, and the West Indies, there are 15 species, which occur in Colombia, Venezuela, French Guiana, Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay (World Spider Catalog 2020). But, up to now, only one single record of seven unidentified specimens of the genus *Deinopis* has been reported for Peru (Madre de Dios, Pakitza) in 1996 (Silva & Coddington 1996).

Between the years 2008 and 2017 we collected 10 specimens (3 males and 7 females) of *Deinopis* sp. in Peruvian Amazonia, Dept. Huánuco, Rio Yuyapichis, ACP Panguana (9°37'S, 74°56'W, 230 m a.s.l.). Because a revision of the neotropical Deinopidae is missing up to now, determination to species level wasn't successful. This is the second record of the family Deinopidae and the genus *Deinopis* in Peru after 24 years.

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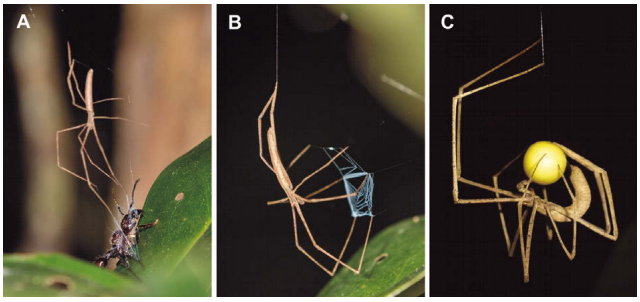

Fig. 1. *Deinopis* sp. at its natural habitat in Panguana. **A.** Specimen with prey. **B.** Typical hunting position. **C.** Female with egg sac. (Photos A and B: Konrad Wothe, photo C: S. Friedrich).

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