

Description of *Yacuitella*, new genus (Araneae, Salticidae)

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Summary

A new genus and species of salticid, *Yacuitella nana*, is described from the subtropical forest of the Iguazú National Park, Argentina. The genus appears to be unrelated to any of the described genera of the family.

Introduction

Yacuitella nana, new genus, new species is described from the Iguazú National Park, Argentina. This new genus is placed within the Salticidae Fissidentati (*sensu* Simon, 1903) because of the presence of a retromarginal cheliceral carina divided into several teeth. However, the placement of the genus within the subfamilies or groups is problematic.

The general appearance of the body and the coloration resemble those of *Yepoella* Galiano, 1970, but in *Yacuitella* the sides of the carapace are parallel, the cephalic region is higher than the thoracic, the endites have no external apophyses, the legs are slender and the cheliceral retromargin is fissidentate. The male palp of *Yacuitella* has two apophyses and the embolus on the apical division of the tegulum. This condition is also present in *Amphidraus* Simon, 1900, whose cheliceral retromargin has several teeth on a common base, as already suspected by Simon (1901: 422) and confirmed by Galiano (1962, 1967, 1997). However, the body of *Amphidraus* is short and high and the epigynal conformation very different. *Eupoa* Žabka, 1985, from Vietnam, according to the author (Žabka, 1985: 220) has "on patella, tibia and bulb surface numerous apophyses, flanges and hooks varying in size and shape", but this genus also has a short and wide body.

In the present state of the systematic knowledge of salticids, *Yacuitella* is of uncertain affinities. It does not belong to any described group.

Methods

The format of the descriptions follows Galiano (1963); leg spination is described as in Platnick & Shadab (1975) with small changes. Abbreviations: AME, ALE, PME, PLE= anterior median eyes, anterior lateral eyes, posterior median eyes, posterior lateral eyes, respectively; MACN=Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia". All measurements are in millimetres.

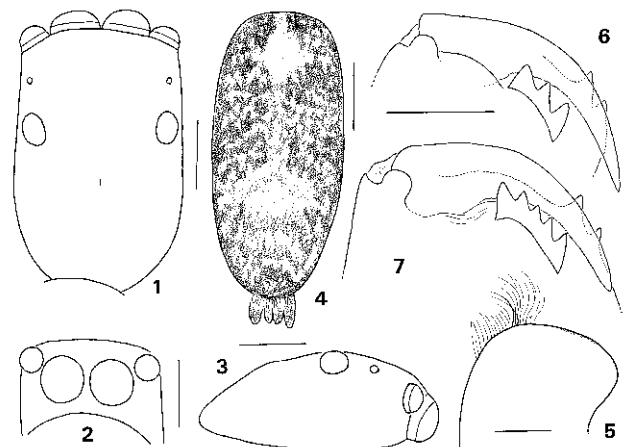
Genus *Yacuitella*, new genus

Type species: Yacuitella nana, new species.

Etymology: The generic name is derived from the name of the Yacuí stream plus the Latin diminutive suffix *-ella*. The gender is feminine.

Diagnosis: *Yacuitella* differs from all other genera of Salticidae by the combined presence of two apophyses plus the embolus on the apical division of the tegulum, three palpal tibial apophyses, a cymbial basal process, fissidentate retromarginal teeth, elongated body, slender legs and a simple epigynal plate.

Description: Carapace (Figs. 1–3) low, thoracic groove about a quarter of distance from PLE to posterior border. Clypeus narrow, with few hairs. Ocular quadrangle wider than long, parallel or with first row of eyes a little wider than third row. Endites small, outer angle rounded (Fig. 5). Sternum broad, anteriorly truncated, equal to labial base. Chelicerae parallel, vertical, small, with two promarginal teeth and a retromarginal carina divided into three to six acute teeth (Figs. 6, 7). Legs slender, with relatively few spines. Male palp: femur widened in middle, with ventral depression on distal half (Fig. 11); tibia with one dorsal and two retrolateral apophyses (Fig. 10); cymbium (Figs. 8–10, 15) with sinuous retrolateral border, a depressed area (apparently membranous) without hairs on ventral apical retrolateral side, and a retrodorsal process that lies between the dorsal and retrodorsal tibial apophyses; bulb oval, apical division of tegulum with embolus and two conical acute apophyses (Figs. 8, 9, 15). Apical division of tegulum lies in deep cavity of distal alveolus of cymbium, with dorsal tegular apophysis not visible in lateral view in unexpanded palps. Epigynum: anterior, contiguous copulatory openings concealed by a small, median protuberance (Figs. 12, 14: arrow); epigynal area has no other sculpture or orifice. Vulva (Figs. 12, 13): copulatory ducts large, with adjacent gland near opening; semi-spherical spermathecae anteriorly placed; walls of ducts and spermathecae show internal conical projections, perhaps of glandular function, some apparently formed by a base and a stalk (Fig. 13: arrow).



Figs. 1–7: *Yacuitella nana* sp. n. 1–5 Male holotype. 1 Carapace, dorsal view; 2 Ditto, frontal view; 3 Ditto, lateral view; 4 Abdomen, dorsal view; 5 Left endite, ventral view. 6 Male paratype, right chelicera, ventral view; 7 Female paratype, right chelicera, ventral view. Scale lines=0.5 mm (1–4), 0.1 mm (5–7).

Yacuitella nana, new species (Figs. 1–15)

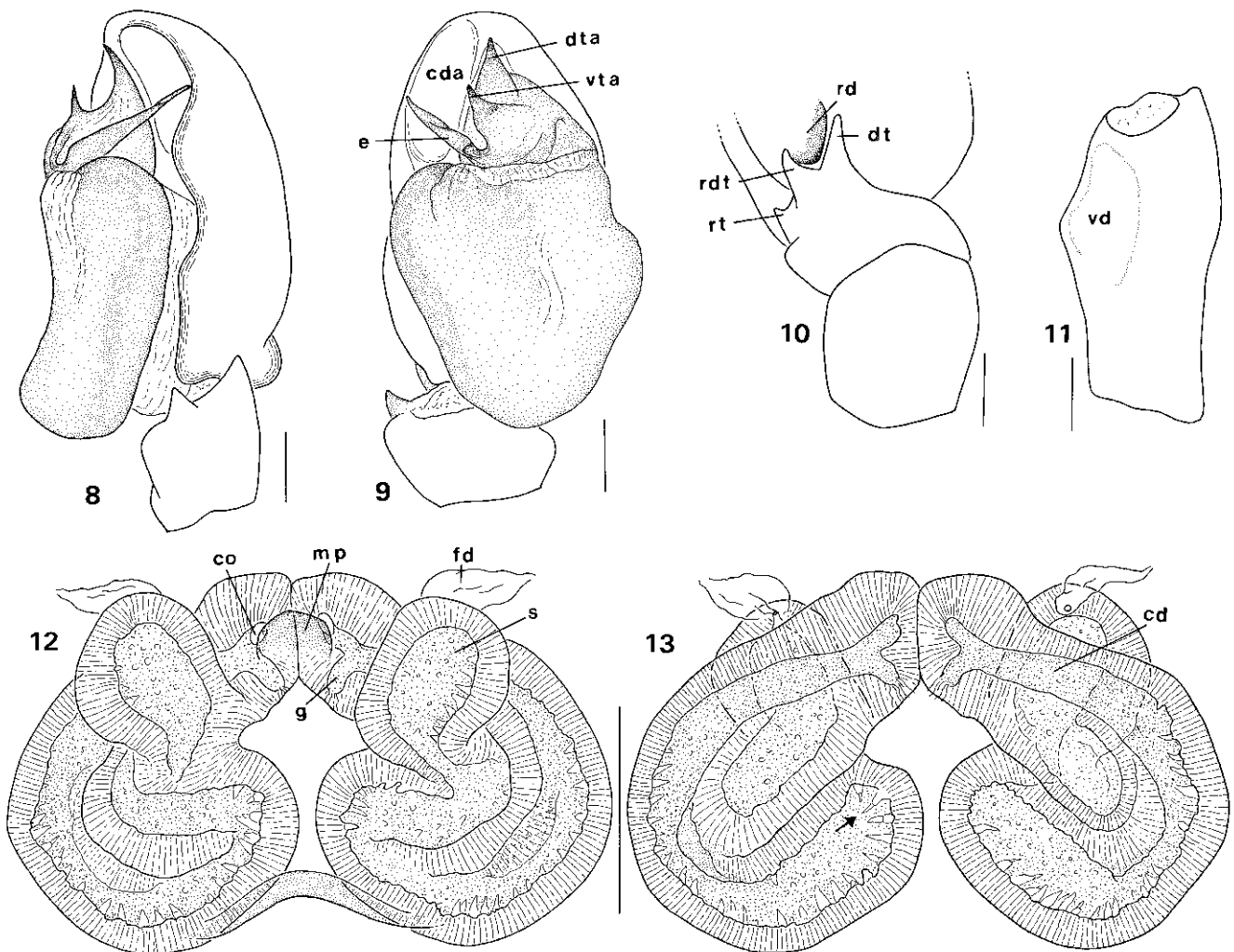
Type: Holotype male (MACN 9591) from Refugio Piñalitos, Depto. Gral. Belgrano and Ruta 101, Misiones, Argentina, November 1954 (Schiapelli & Galiano).

Etymology: From the Latin, meaning small.

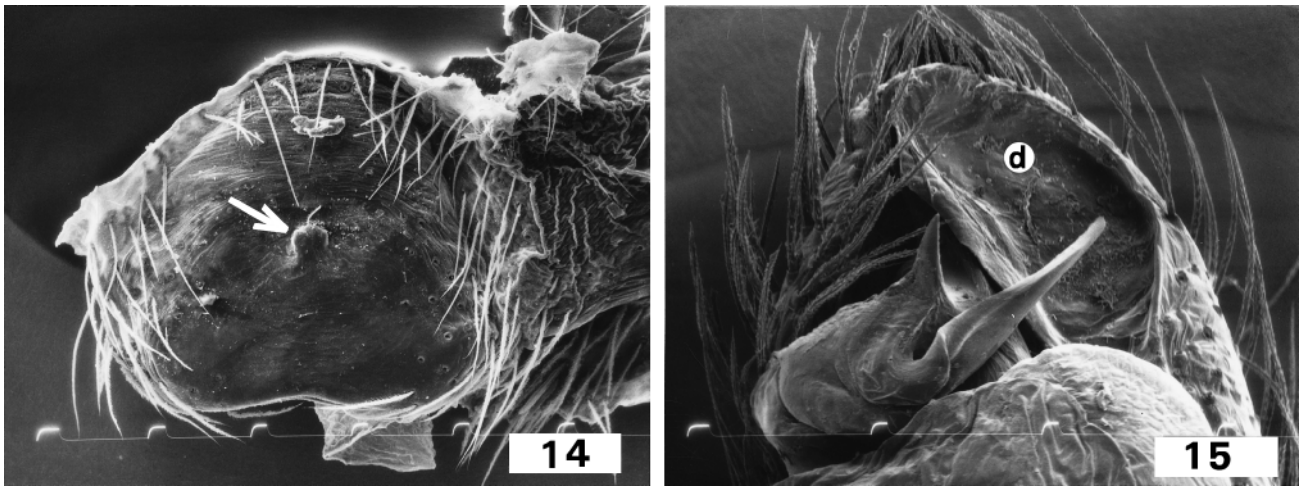
Description: *Male holotype*: Total length 3.80. Carapace 1.87 long, 1.20 wide, 0.78 high. Clypeus 0.08 high. Ocular quadrangle parallel, 1.10 wide, 0.84 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.38, ALE 0.22; ALE-PME 0.23, PME-PLE 0.19. Thoracic groove 0.22 behind PLE. Endites small, external angle rounded. Chelicerae parallel, vertical, small; two promarginal teeth, retromarginal carina divided into four teeth on left chelicera and six on right. Legs long, slender. Leg formula: 4312. Leg spination: Femora I, II, IV d 1-1-1; III d 1-1-1, p lap. Tibiae I v 2-2-2; II (right) v 1r-1r-1r, p 1, (left) v 1r-2-1r, p 1; III v 1p-1p, p 1-1, r 1-1; IV v 1r, p 1-1, r 1-1. Metatarsi I v 2-2; II v 2-2, p lap; III v 2-2, p 1-2, r 1-2; IV v 2ap, p 1-2, r 1-1-12. Palp (Figs. 8–11,

15): see description of genus. Colour: carapace with narrow black marginal band. Cephalic region low, dark brown, with hairs of same colour; some white hairs in middle of anterior border. Thoracic region brown, with median longitudinal light brown band, with few white hairs. Chelicerae and labium light brown; endites and sternum yellowish brown. Abdomen long, without constriction, with shiny dorsal scutum and few sparse hairs. Tegument brown with yellow dots and bands as in Fig. 4. Venter brown, blackish around base of spinnerets, a yellow patch on epigastric region. Sides blackish with yellow dots. Leg I yellow, except tibia and metatarsus light brown, lateral black bands on both sides of all articles from coxa to metatarsus. Legs II–IV similar, except trochanter III without retrolateral black band and tarsus IV a little darker in middle.

Female paratype: Total length 3.40. Carapace 1.53 long, 1.05 wide, 0.62 high. Clypeus 0.03 high. Ocular quadrangle 0.73 long, first row width 0.98, third row 0.97. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.33, ALE 0.22; ALE-PME 0.18, PME-PLE 0.13. Chelicerae: promargin



Figs. 8–13: *Yacuitella nana* sp. n. **8** Male paratype, left palp, retrolateral view (expanded); **9** Male holotype, right palp, ventral view; **10** Male paratype, left palp, patella, tibia and base of cymbium, dorsal view; **11** Male holotype, right palp, femur, ventral view; **12** Vulva, ventral view; **13** Ditto, dorsal view. Abbreviations: cd=copulatory duct, cda=cymbial depressed area, co=copulatory opening, dt=dorsal tibial apophysis, dta=dorsal tegular apophysis, e=embolus, fd=fertilisation duct, g=glands, mp=median protuberance, rd=cymbial retrodorsal process, rdt=retrodorsal tibial apophysis, rt=retrolateral tibial apophysis, s=spermatheca, vd=ventral depression, vta=ventral tegular apophysis. Scale lines=0.1 mm.



Figs. 14–15: *Yacuitella nana* sp. n. **14** Epigyne, ventral view (arrow to median protuberance); **15** Male paratype, apical half of left palp, ventral view (d=cymbial depressed area). Scale lines=0.1 mm.

with two teeth; retromargin of right chelicera with four teeth, left with five teeth. Leg formula: 4312. Leg spination: Femora I–IV d 1-1-1. Tibiae I v 2-2-2; II v 1r-2-2; III p 1-1, r 1-1; IV p 1, r 1. Metatarsi I, II v 2-2; III v 1ap, r 1-2, p 2ap; IV v 2ap, p 2ap, r 1-1. Epigynum and vulva (Figs. 12–14): see description of genus. Colour: as in male but lighter. Abdomen without scutum. Chelicerae, sternum and palps yellow. Venter yellow. Legs yellow, with blackish bands as follows: leg I: retrolateral band from trochanter to basal half of patella; prolateral band from basal third of femur, prolateral tibia, retrolateral apical third of tibia; pro- and retrolateral metatarsus. II: pro- and retrolateral on trochanter; retrolateral and prolateral apical small band on femur; patella and tibia as leg I; pro- and retrolateral small median patches on metatarsus. III: basal prolateral spot and subapical ring on femur; large ring on basal third of metatarsus; darker middle part of tarsus. IV: basal dorsal spot, extended to prolateral side, and subapical ring on femur; small basal ventral spot and subapical ring on tibia; metatarsus and tarsus as leg III, but darker.

Other material examined: ARGENTINA: Misiones: Depto. Gral. Belgrano and Ruta 101, Refugio Piñalitos, 1♂ 1♀ paratypes (MACN 9594), November 1954 (Schiapelli & Galiano); Depto. Iguazú, Parque Nacional

Iguazú, Arroyo Yacuí and Ruta 101, 1♂ paratype (MACN 9592), October 1954 (R. Orfila), 1♀ 1♂ paratypes (MACN 9593), September 1968 (Galiano); Cataratas del Iguazú, 1 ♀ (MACN 9595), September 1963 (Galiano).

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