

**A new species of the spider genus *Oltacloea* (Araneae: Prodidomidae) from Brazilian “caatinga” in Central, Bahia**

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**Summary**

*Oltacloea beltraoae*, a new species from the “caatinga” area in Central, state of Bahia, Brazil, is described.

**Introduction**

This is the first of a series of papers describing spiders from the Brazilian “caatinga”. This phylogeographic region is characterised by a very hot and dry climate and sparse vegetation (Ab’Saber, 1977; Vivo, 1997; Joly *et al.*, 1999). The fauna of this region has only recently begun to be investigated thoroughly and presents a large number of adaptations (Mares *et al.*, 1985) and endemic taxa, as documented for mammals (Rocha, 1995), snakes (Vanzolini *et al.*, 1980; Rodrigues, 1992), lizards (Rocha, 1999; Rodrigues *et al.*, 2001) and bees (Martins, 1999).

The Central area belongs to the Irecê region of the state of Bahia (SEBRAE, 1995). This project was carried out by the staff of the Archaeology department of the

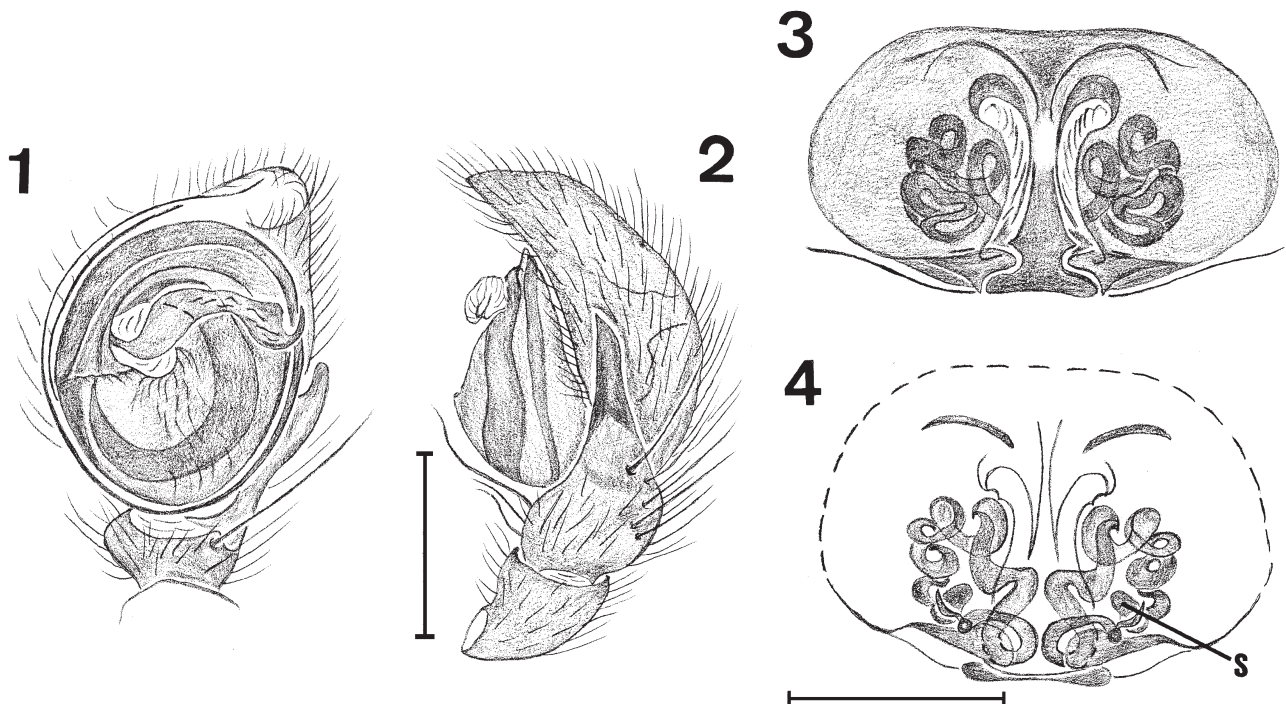
Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro. The region is known for its archaeological sites scattered over an area of 72 km<sup>2</sup> on the limestone plain of the Chapada Diamantina domain, where a large number of small subterranean cavities can be found. These cavities, commonly known as “tocas”, are no more than 100 m deep, and were used as shelters by prehistoric human populations. The study area is described in detail in Locks *et al.* (1997) and Lumley *et al.* (1987). The authors participated in two sampling expeditions of the Central project during 1997 and 2000. During the first expedition we collected a new species belonging to the genus *Oltacloea* Mello-Leitão, 1940. To date, only two other species have been included in this genus, *O. mutilata* Mello-Leitão, the type species, originally described from Argentina and redescribed by Platnick (1986); and *O. ribaslangei* Bonaldo & Brescovit, 1997 from Brazil. *Oltacloea beltraoae* sp. n. is more closely related to the type species, as indicated by the genital structures.

All measurements are in mm. The epigynum was submerged in clove oil in order to study internal structures. The style of the description follows Bonaldo & Brescovit (1997).

***Oltacloea beltraoae* sp. n. (Figs. 1–4)**

*Types*: Male holotype and female paratype from 1.5 km W of Toca da Esperança, 11°01’57.6”S, 42°04’13.4”W, Central, Bahia, Brazil, 13 July 1997, E. F. Ramos leg., deposited in collection of Instituto Butantan (IBSP 13360).

*Etymology*: The specific name is in honour of Dra Maria Beltrão, archaeologist of the Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro, who invited the authors and helped them during the trips.



Figs. 1–4: *Oltacloea beltraoae* sp. n. **1** Male palp, ventral view; **2** Ditto, retrolateral view; **3** Epigynum, ventral view; **4** Ditto, dorsal view (S=spermathecae). Scale lines=0.25 mm.

*Diagnosis:* *Oltacloea beltraoae* resembles *O. mutilata* Mello-Leitão in having a coiled embolus in the male palpal bulb and a median septum in the female epigynum (see Platnick, 1986: figs. 3 and 5), but differs by the single coil of the embolus (Fig. 1) and the larger retro-lateral tibial apophysis (Fig. 2) of the male palp and the inverted T-shaped median septum of the epigynum (Fig. 3).

*Male* (holotype): Carapace orange with narrow brownish lateral stripes; all eyes ringed with black. Chelicerae, labium, endites and legs orange. Sternum yellow with orange border. Abdomen pale grey, spinnerets white. Total length 3.00. Carapace 1.40 long, 1.10 wide. Eye diameters and interdistances: AME 0.04, ALE 0.10, PME 0.04, PLE 0.06; AME-AME 0.04, AME-ALE 0.06, PME-PME 0.10, PME-PLE 0.08, AME-PLE 0.06. Chelicerae with three promarginal teeth and one retromarginal denticle. Abdomen without scutum. Leg measurements: I: femur 1.07/patella 0.60/tibia 0.80/metatarsus 0.55/tarsus 0.45/total 3.47. II: 1.00/0.55/0.72/0.57/0.42/3.26. III: 0.77/0.47/0.52/0.47/0.40/2.63. IV: 0.77/0.47/0.52/0.80/0.57/3.13. Leg spination: tibiae III-IV p1-1-0, v2-2-2, r1-1-0; metatarsus III p1-1-0, v2-2-2, r1-1-0. Tarsi with smooth claws. Palpal tibia short, palpal bulb with flattened tegulum and elongated median apophysis (Figs. 1-2).

*Female* (paratype): Coloration as in male. Total length 3.00. Carapace 1.30 long, 1.00 wide. Eye diameters and interdistances: AME 0.06, ALE 0.10, PME 0.06, PLE 0.08; AME-AME 0.04, AME-ALE 0.06, PME-PME 0.10, PME-PLE 0.10, ALE-PLE 0.08. Chelicerae with four promarginal teeth and one retromarginal denticle. Abdomen without dorsal scutum. Leg measurements: I: femur 0.82/patella 0.55/tibia 0.60/metatarsus 0.47/tarsus 0.45/total 2.89. II: 0.80/0.52/0.55/0.42/0.42/2.71. III: 0.65/0.40/0.50/0.40/0.32/2.27. IV: 0.80/0.50/0.75/0.62/0.50/3.17. Leg spination: tibiae III-IV p1-1-0, v2-2-2, r1-1-0; metatarsus III p1-1-0, v2-2-2, r1-1-0; metatarsus IV p1-1-1, v2-2-2, r1-1-1. Claws as in male. Epigynum with narrow longitudinal atrium, internal ducts visible through integument. With small oval spermathecae, long highly coiled copulatory ducts, and short fertilisation ducts (Figs. 3-4).

*Natural history:* The specimens were collected in pitfall traps in a "caatinga" area 11 km from the city of Central, in the Serra da Pedra Calcareia. The region is described in detail in Lumley *et al.* (1987). This phyto-geographic area is usually very dry during six months of the year (Vivo, 1997).

*Distribution:* Known only from the type locality.

*Material examined:* Only the types.

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