Phylogenetic systematics and evolution of the spider infraorder Mygalomorphae using genomic

scale data

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ABSTRACT

The Infraorder Mygalomorphae is one of the three main lineages of spiders comprising over

3,000 nominal species. This ancient group has a world-wide distribution that includes among its

ranks large and charismatic taxa such as tarantulas, trapdoor spiders, and highly venomous

funnel web spiders. Based on past molecular studies using Sanger-sequencing approaches,

numerous mygalomorph families (e.g., Hexathelidae, Ctenizidae, Cyrtaucheniidae, Dipluridae

and Nemesiidae) have been identified as non-monophyletic. However, these data were unable to

sufficiently resolve the higher-level (intra- and interfamilial) relationships such that the

necessary changes in classification could be made with confidence. Here we present a

comprehensive phylogenomic treatment of the spider infraorder Mygalomorphae. We employ

472 loci obtained through Anchored Hybrid Enrichment to reconstruct relationships among all

the mygalomorph spider families and estimate the timeframe of their diversification. We

sampled all currently recognized families, which has allowed us to assess their status, and as a

result, propose a new classification scheme. Our generic-level sampling has also provided an

evolutionary framework for revisiting questions regarding silk use in mygalomorph spiders. The

first such analysis for the group within a strict phylogenetic framework shows that a sheet web is

likely the plesiomorphic condition for mygalomorphs, as well as providing hints to the ancestral

foraging behavior for all spiders. Our divergence time estimates, concomitant with detailed

biogeographic analysis, suggest that both ancient continental-level vicariance and more recent

dispersal events have played an important role in shaping modern day distributional patterns.

Based on our results, we relimit the generic composition of the Ctenizidae, Cyrtaucheniidae,

Dipluridae and Nemesiidae. We also elevate five subfamilies to family rank: Anamidae (NEW

RANK), Euagridae (NEW RANK), Ischnothelidae (NEW RANK), Pycnothelidae (NEW

RANK), and Bemmeridae (NEW RANK). The three families Entypesidae (NEW FAMILY),

Microhexuridae (NEW FAMILY), and Stasimopidae (NEW FAMILY) are newly proposed.

Such a major rearrangement in classification, recognizing eight newly established family-level

rank taxa, is the largest the group has seen in over three decades since Raven's (1985) taxonomic

treatment.

Keywords: Biogeography, Molecular clocks, Phylogenomics, Spider web foraging, Taxonomy

Spiders placed in the infraorder Mygalomorphae are a charismatic assemblage of taxa

that includes among its ranks the tarantulas, trapdoor spiders, and also some of the most

venomous species, like the Sydney funnel web spider and its close relatives (Hedin et al. 2018).

Today, the infraorder comprises 20 families, divided into 354 genera, with 3,006 species (World

Spider Catalog 2018; Table 1). The group is ancient, known to occur in the fossil record since

the Middle Triassic (Selden and Gall 1992), but with origins estimated further back into the

Carboniferous over 300 million years ago (Ayoub et al. 2007; Starrett et al. 2013; Garrison et al.

2016). Their ancient origins and concomitant sedentary nature provide a rich biogeographical

context for studying geological-scale continental vicariant events (Raven 1980; Hedin and Bond

2006; Opatova et al. 2013; Opatova and Arnedo 2014a). Not surprisingly for such an ancient

lineage, mygalomorph spider morphology is complicated; they have retained a number of

features considered primitive for spiders, such as a simple silk spinning system, two pairs of

book lungs and paraxial cheliceral arrangement, yet are also relatively homogenous when

compared to the overall morphological diversity observed among their araneomorph counterparts

(Hendrixson and Bond 2009). Although such striking homogeneity presents significant

challenges for morphology-based taxonomy, mygalomorphs have become a noteworthy system

for studying allopatric speciation and species crypsis (Bond et al. 2001; Bond and Stockman

2008; Satler et al. 2013; Hamilton et al. 2014; Opatova and Arnedo 2014b; Hedin et al. 2015;

Leavitt et al. 2015; Castalanelli et al. 2017; Rix et al. 2017b; Starrett et al. 2018).

For less than two decades, since the first application of molecular systematics to

questions regarding mygalomorph phylogeny (Hedin and Bond 2006), it has been generally

acknowledged that the current system of classification is replete with problems that include

numerous instances of family-level para and/or polyphyly. In short, much of today's

classification scheme dates back to Raven (1985) Fig. 1a, which first applied cladistic thinking

towards evaluating family-level relationships on the basis of morphological character

argumentation. Post Raven (1985), a number of authors continued to explore morphological

characters as evidence for broad scale familial-level relationships and identity (Eskov and

Zonshtein 1990), further facilitated by the availability of computational phylogenetic inference

(Goloboff 1993; Goloboff 1995; Bond and Opell 2002; Fig. 1b). These morphological studies

were followed shortly thereafter by a number of early molecular treatments (Hedin and Bond

2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Fig. 2a). The first major taxonomic changes to Raven's classification

followed in 2012 (Bond et al. 2012; Fig. 2b) with the elevation of the subfamily Euctenizinae to

family status. A number of subsequent studies employing Sanger-sequencing based approaches

continued to make progress in exploring relationships between closely related taxa (Hamilton et

al. 2014; Opatova et al. 2016; Mora et al. 2017; Rix et al. 2017a; Ortiz et al. 2018; Starrett et al.

2018) and within families (Opatova et al. 2013; Opatova and Arnedo 2014a; Harrison et al.

2017; Rix et al. 2017c; Harvey et al. 2018; Lüddecke et al. 2018; Turner et al. 2018). Although

Sanger approaches have been fruitful in terms of advancing our understanding of some

relationships, it has been long recognized that ribosomal RNA genes (e.g., 28S and 18S),

elongation factors, and mitochondrial genes, are often of limited utility in the context of deep

scale divergences of mygalomorph spiders (Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et

al. 2012).

Within the last several years, the application of phylogenomic approaches has helped to

transform spider systematics (Bond et al. 2014; Fernández et al. 2014; Garrison et al. 2016;

Hamilton et al. 2016b; Hedin et al. 2018; Kuntner et al. 2018; Wood et al. 2018; Hedin et al.

2019), by providing the data and impetus for making major changes in mygalomorph spider

classification. Specifically, targeted capture approaches using anchored hybrid enrichment

(AHE; Lemmon et al. 2012) and ultra-conserved elements (UCE; Faircloth et al. 2012) are now

being applied to questions at multiple hierarchical levels across the spider tree of life (Hamilton

et al. 2016a; Hamilton et al. 2016b; Maddison et al. 2017; Chamberland et al. 2018; Godwin et

al. 2018; Hedin et al. 2018) and other arachnids (Starrett et al. 2017; Sharma et al. 2018).

Implementation of genomic-based methods seemingly overcomes the perceived limitations of the

traditional Sanger loci, enabling mygalomorph systematists to formally address a number of

long-standing issues like the polyphyletic nature of ctenizids and hexathelids (Godwin et al.

2018; Hedin et al. 2018). In both cases, phylogenomic results stabilized the taxonomic position

of genera that were notoriously challenging to place and established new familial ranks

(Halonoproctidae (Godwin et al. 2018), Atracidae, Macrothelidae and Porrhothelidae (Hedin et

al. 2018)). Although these smaller scale studies have made important advances in our

understanding of mygalomorph phylogeny and classification, they have all thus far lacked the

broad scale phylogenetic context instrumental to understanding relationships spanning the entire

infraorder.

We present here the most comprehensive phylogenomic treatment of Mygalomorphae

conducted to date. Our analysis includes broad sampling of taxa from all currently recognized

families (88 genera, 111 species), allowing us to assess the monophyly of a number of key

families (e.g., Cyrtaucheniidae, Nemesiidae, Dipluridae, Ctenizidae) and address some long-

standing taxonomic problems. Our generic-level sampling also provides an evolutionary

framework for revisiting questions regarding silk use in non-araneomorph spiders. We explore

questions regarding the timing and biogeographical context of mygalomorph spider

diversification, and explicitly test a number of hypotheses related to the timing and origin of

major mygalomorph lineages, the use of silk in mygalomorph prey capture, and the monophyly

of the major mygalomorph higher-level groups and families.

MATERIALS & METHODS

We sampled a total of 113 taxa, 111 ingroup specimens representing 88 genera from all

20 currently recognized mygalomorph families (Table 1) and two representatives of the suborder

Mesothelae (*Liphisthius* and *Vinathela,* family Liphistiidae) as outgroups to root phylogenies.

Our sampling represents approximately 25% of the infraorder's known generic diversity and

about 47% if the two most diverse mygalomorph families, Barychelidae and Theraphosidae, are

excluded from the calculation. Approximately 60% of AHE sequence data was newly generated

for this study, additional sequences from Hamilton et al. (2016b) and Godwin et al. (2018) were

included. Taxon sampling is summarized in Supplemental Table S1; all statistics related to

family and generic-level species diversity are extracted from the World Spider Catalog

(https://wsc.nmbe.ch/) accessed November 2018.

Whole genomic DNA was extracted using the DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit (Qiagen),

following the manufacturer's guidelines; to ensure the complete digestion of RNA, RNase A was

added to the mix after the tissue lysis step. Library preparation, enrichment, and sequencing were

performed at the Center for Anchored Phylogenomics at Florida State University

(http://anchoredphylogeny.com/) following the methods described in Lemmon et al. (2012),

Hamilton et al. (2016b) and Godwin et al. (2018). During the development of the spider AHE

loci, a mixture of spider genome sequencing and transcriptomes were utilized to build scaffolds

from which probes were designed in conserved anchor regions neighboring variable flanking

regions, creating a set of probes that include exons, introns, intergenic, and conserved regions of

the genome. Initial probe design was based on the core arthropod orthologs and the targeted loci

were then found in the spider reference genomic datasets (both spider genomes and

transcriptomes). Loci that did not contain both *Aliatypus* (Antrodiaetidae) and *Aphonopelma*

(Theraphosidae) were not considered for further usage. After sequencing, all reads were

assembled into contigs following Prum et al. (2015), but using references derived from the

Ixodes (a tick), *Hypochilus* (araneomorph), *Aphonopelma*, and *Aliatypus* (mygalomorphs)

sequences used for probe design. Homologous nucleotide sequence sets were produced by

grouping filtered consensus sequences across individuals by target locus. Orthologous groups

were then determined for each target locus by a) employing a pairwise-distance measure

computed for pairs of homologs; b) a neighbor-joining clustering algorithm to cluster the

consensus sequences into orthologous sets; c) the identified sequences are then grouped into a

cluster; d) steps A-C are repeated, treating each cluster as a sequence by using the average

distance between the cluster and other clusters/sequence when assessing distance. This approach

efficiently divides the homologs into two or more orthologous sets, allowing us to identify

duplications occurring before the ancestor of the taxonomic group being analyzed. For

duplications occurring within the taxonomic group under investigation, this approach tends to

produce a single cluster containing one sequence per taxon and a second cluster containing

sequences from those taxa that are descendants from the ancestor in which the duplication

occurred.

169   Following the targeting of the 585 loci within the Spider Probe Kit v1 (Hamilton et al.

2016b), 472 loci were recovered and assembled. All loci were aligned with MAFFT 7.402

(Katoh and Standley 2013) using the L-INS-i algorithm (--localprior and --maxiterate 1000

flags). The alignments were scored for accuracy in ALISCORE (Misof and Misof 2009) and

ambiguously aligned positions were removed with ALICUT (Kück 2009). Individual loci were

concatenated with FASconCAT (Kück and Longo 2014) yielding a supermatrix of 93,410

nucleotides for 111 ingroup and two outgroup taxa (hereafter "All_taxa"); all alignments were

visually inspected in Geneious 10.1.3 (Biomatters 2017) prior to concatenation.

177   Two additional matrices were constructed to assess the effect of taxon removal or

sequence data addition on tree topology and support values. First, terminals representing the

family Paratropididae were removed from the "All_taxa" (hereafter referred to as

"No_Paratropis"). The family was recovered as a "stand-alone" lineage with unresolved and

unstable placement (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012), potentially causing conflict in

topology and lowering the support of deeper nodes. To test the effect of data addition on node

support and the unresolved placement of Stasimopidae, we combined our AHE loci with pre-

existing transcriptomic data (Garrison et al. 2016). To maximize the taxon sampling, we

extracted the mygalomorph terminals from "BCC-75" matrix (Garrison et al. 2016) and

combined them into the "DNAAA_matrix" with corresponding terminals represented in our

AHE dataset, in two instances, forming chimaeras at generic level (Supplemental Table S2). In

order to maintain a relevant phylogenetic framework, we also retained additional individuals

representing key lineages/clades that were only represented by AHE data. Terminals extracted

from the "BCC-75" matrix (Garrison et al. 2016) were parsed into individual loci using

BIOPYTHON (Hamelryck and Manderick 2003; Cock et al. 2009). Resulting 1675

transcriptomic loci were blasted (tblastn command) in Geneious (Biomatters 2017) against a

custom AHE locus database comprising nucleotide sequence data prior to ALICUT treatment.

Amino acid loci that received an e-value of $< 1e^{-10}$; that is, the loci already represented in AHE

dataset, were excluded from the analyses. Loci that did not contain all 20 amino acids were

further removed from the dataset (per Stamatakis 2014).

Phylogenetic analyses were run on the Hopper Community Cluster at Auburn University.

For the DNA matrices, partition schemes under the GTR substitution model were evaluated and

selected based on AICc criterion in PartionFinder 2 (Lanfear et al. 2016) using the rcluster

algorithm (Lanfear et al. 2014) with RAxML implementation (Stamatakis 2014). Partitioning by

codon was not considered in the analyses because ambiguously aligned positions were removed

with ALICUT. Partition schemes and models of protein evolution for the amino acid data were

inferred independently using PartionFinder 2 with rcluster algorithm prior to their concatenation

with the nucleotide AHE sequences into the "DNAAA_matrix".

Maximum likelihood analyses (ML) were conducted in RAxML v 8.2.9 (Stamatakis

2014). Both "All_taxa" and "No_Paratropis" datasets were analyzed using the 191-partition

scheme and an independent GTR+G model defined for each partition. The best ML tree for each

matrix was selected from 1000 iterations, each starting from an independently derived

parsimony-based tree. Bootstrap support was inferred from 50 replicates, determined as

sufficient by the automatic bootstopping criterion (- N autoMRE flag) for both datasets

(Pattengale et al. 2010). Additional ML analysis of "All_taxa" dataset was also conducted in IQ-

TREE (Nguyen et al. 2014), model selection for each partition was performed by with the

ModelFinder Plus; support values were inferred via SH-aLRT test (Anisimova et al. 2011) and

ultrafast bootstrapping (both 1000 replicates).

The "DNAAA_matrix" mixed dataset combining both nucleotide and amino acid data

was analyzed with 1367-partition scheme, applying an independent GTR+G model for each

AHE partition and a corresponding protein model inferred by PartionFinder to each

transcriptome partition. The best ML tree was selected from 1000 iterations and support was

assessed from 100 bootstrap replicates (autoMRE).

Statistical significance of alternative tree topologies; that is, different, or traditional,

family-level arrangements (Table 2) than those recovered in our analyses, was assessed with

Approximately Unbiased (AU) topology test (Shimodaira 2002) implemented in CONSEL

(Shimodaira and Hasegawa 2001). Alternative tree topologies were obtained from 1000

independent constrained searches conducted in RAxML implementing the same settings,

partition scheme, and nucleotide substitution model as described above.

Bayesian Inference (BI) analyses of the "All_taxa" dataset was conducted in ExaBayes v

1.4.1 (Aberer et al. 2014) implementing the same partition scheme and nucleotide substitution

model as in the ML analyses. Two independent runs of 4×10^7 generations with four coupled

chains each, starting from a parsimony tree with resampling every 1000 generations, were run

simultaneously. Standard deviation of split frequencies was monitored (<0.01), and the first 25%

were discarded as a *burn-in* for the analyses. An extended majority rule consensus tree was

obtained in the ExaBayes accompanying program consense (Aberer et al. 2014).

A species tree was inferred from 472 gene trees using ASTRAL v 4.11.2 (Mirarab and

Warnow 2015). Node support was assessed using ASTRAL's local posterior probabilities. Single

gene trees were inferred from AHE nucleotide alignments implementing GTR+G model in

RAxML; the best ML trees were selected from 1000 independent iterations for each locus

individually.

Divergence times were estimated in the penalized likelihood environment (Sanderson

2002) using the treePL algorithm (Smith and O'Meara 2012) on the tree topology obtained in

RAxML, and calibrated with six fossils. The optimal settings for the thorough analysis was

determined with the prime option in treePL; smoothing value = 1, determined by random

subsample and replicate cross-validation method (RSRCV), was used for both dating analysis

and bootstrapping (see below). The calibrations (shown in, Supplemental Fig.7) are as follows:

1) Mygalomorphae: Due to the lack of relevant fossil calibration points for the Mygalomorphae –

Mesothelae split, we used the information available from phylogenomic studies based on

extensive outgroup fossil calibrations (Garrison et al. 2016; Fernández et al. 2018) in order to

constrain the age of the root node. Namely, we used the 95% confidence intervals estimated for

this split as the minimum (287 Ma) and maximum bounds (398 Ma); 2) Aviculariodea: The age

of the oldest mygalomorph fossil *Rosamygale grauvogely* (Selden and Gall 1992) from Gres-a-

Voltzia Formation, Vosges, France dated to Middle Triassic (Anisian) 242 Million years ago

(Ma) was assigned as the minimum bound for the Aviculariodea – Atypoidea split. The fossil

has been tentatively assigned to the family "Hexathelidae" (*sensu* Raven) but given the

polyphyly of the family (Hedin et al. 2018), we rather interpret *Rosamygale* as an Aviculariodea

crown-group. The maximum bound for the Avicularioidea – Atypoidea split was assigned the

age of 323 Ma, corresponding to the oldest age of the Bashkirian stage (Pennsylvanian,

Carboniferous) that yielded the oldest spider fossil *Arthrolycosa* sp. putatively assigned as

Mesothelae stem-group (Selden et al. 2014; Garwood et al. 2016). This age also overlaps with

the oldest boundary of the 95% confidence intervals for the Avicularioidea – Atypoidea split

estimated by recent phylogenomic studies (Garrison et al. 2016; Fernández et al. 2018); 3)

"Nemesioidina" clade: The age of *Cretamygale chasei* 125 Ma (Selden 2002) from Cretaceous

(Barremian, Hughes and McDougall 1990) currently classified as Nemesiidae was

conservatively assigned as the minimum bound for the split between Bemmeridae/Theraphosidae

and "Nemesioidina" clades. The maximum bound was assigned 242 Ma, corresponding to the

age of *Rosamygale* fossil. 4) Atypoidea: Atypidae – Antrodiaetidae split was assigned minimum

bound of 100 Ma representing *Ambiortiphagus ponomarenkoi* (Eskov and Zonshtein 1990) from

the Lower Cretaceous (Albian) proceeding from Dund-Ula Mountain Ridge in Bayan-Khongor

Province, Central Mongolia. The age of *Rosamygale* (242 Ma) was assigned as a maximum

bound for the split; and 5) *Ummidia* fossils (44 Ma) from Baltic amber (Wunderlich 2011) were

used to calibrate the minimum bound for the split between the North American and European

species of *Ummidia*. Maximum bound of 90 Ma corresponds to the oldest boundary of the 95%

confidence interval estimated for this particular split (Opatova et al. 2013). The confidence

intervals for node ages were assessed by dating 100 ML bootstrap phylograms inferred in

PAUP* (Swofford 2003). The trees were dated in TreePL using the same settings as described

above; TreeAnnotator v. 2.4.5 (Bouckaert et al. 2018) was used for calculating the age statistics

for the nodes.

Biogeographic analyses were conducted in Reconstruct Ancestral State in Phylogenies

(RASP v 3.1, Yu et al. 2015) with the dispersal-extinction-cladogenesis (DEC) model (Ree and

Smith 2008) implemented in C++ version of Lagrange (Smith 2010). Analyses were run with no

dispersal constraints, assigning equal probabilities to dispersal events among all defined areas,

and allowing two unit areas in the ancestral distributions. The terminal taxa represented in the

tree were assigned to six distribution ranges: (A) North America; (B) Europe; (C) Asia; (D)

South America; (E) Africa; (F) Australia plus New Zealand (Fig. 5b). The consensus tree

obtained in ExaBayes was used as an input for the analyses.

For ancestral state reconstruction analyses of foraging construct, each terminal taxon was

scored using six character states: (0) burrow with trapdoor(s); (1) brush sheet/funnel web; (2)

burrow with collar door; (3) purse web; (4) open burrow; (5) turret. Character codings were

scored from personal observations and/or the primary literature as documented in Supplemental

Table S3. Taxa that forage as cursorial hunters were scored as unknown or missing (Coddington

et al. 2018); polymorphic character states were assigned to terminals for instances where species

build multiple/combination of constructs (e.g., some *Cyrtauchenius* terminals build turrets as

juveniles but cover those turrets with trapdoors as adults, Opatova *persn. obsv.*), or closely

related species build more than one construct e.g., both open burrows and trapdoors (some

bemmerids and pycnothelids) and both turrets and collars (e.g., some *Antrodiaetus*). Ancestral

character state reconstructions were conducted using the R package *corHMM* (Beaulieu et al.

2013) on an ultrametric scaled tree with node.states=marginal; *corHMM* was preferred over

other methods given its capacity to accommodate missing and polymorphic characters. The R

package *ape* was used to scale the preferred tree topology ('chronopl') with an assigned lambda

value of 0.1. Character optimizations using equal (ER), symmetric (SYR), and all rates different

(ARD) models were explored for these categorical data using 'rayDISC' (*corHMM*). The

preferred model was chosen by comparing AICc values calculated using *corHMM*.

All relevant data, DNA and amino acid sequence alignments, phylogenetic trees, and

miscellaneous data matrices, were deposited in the Dryad Data Repository

(doi:XXXXXXXXXX) on XX XX 2019.

RESULTS

Concatenated analyses, all taxa.—The complete dataset "All_taxa" supermatrix

comprises 472 loci (93,410 nucleotides) for 113 terminals (Supplemental Table S1), whereas the

reduced "No_Paratropis" dataset comprises 111 terminals. The proportion of missing data in the

datasets is 14.7% and 14.5%, respectively. The combined "DNAAA_matrix" includes 30

terminals, with 14 individuals represented by both genomic (472 AHE loci) and transcriptomic

data (1519 loci proceeding from Garrison et al. (2016)). The total length of the

"DNAAA_matrix" is 305,860 characters; gaps and missing data represent 54.5% of the dataset.

For details see Supplemental Table S2.

Both ML (-ln 1728131.7475) and BI analyses performed on the "All_taxa" dataset

yielded similar tree topologies (Fig. 3; Supplemental Fig. 1, 2, 3). Overall, the resulting trees are

highly supported (bootstrap > 90, posterior probability (PP) > 0.95, SH-aLRT > 95), with the

exception of a few deeper nodes. The ML and BI analyses both recover two main clades

Atypoidea and Avicularioidea with strong support. The relationships within Atypoidea are fully

supported; the family Atypidae is recovered as a sister to Antrodiaetidae inclusive of *Hexura*

(Mecicobothriidae).

Four mygalomorph families belonging to Avicularioidea are recovered as para- or

polyphyletic (namely Dipluridae, Ctenizidae, Cyrtaucheniidae and Nemesiidae), prompting

extensive higher-level changes to mygalomorph classification (see below). Several lineages

formerly belonging to the families Dipluridae and Hexathelidae (see Hedin et al. (2018))

successively branch off near the root node of Avicularioidea as follows: Ischnothelidae (NEW

RANK), Microhexuridae (NEW FAMILY), Hexathelidae, Euagridae (NEW RANK),

Porrhothelidae and Macrothelidae. The Bipectina clade (*sensu* Goloboff (1993)) inclusive of the

family Atracidae is recovered in our analysis. The family Paratropididae is recovered as sister to

all the remaining Bipectina. The remaining taxa are placed into a clade comprising Stasimopidae

and the "Venom Clade" (Atracidae + Actinopodidae) and two additional clades corresponding to

Domiothelina and Crassitarsae (*sensu* Bond et al. (2012), but excluding *Stasimopus*). The

monogeneric family Stasimopidae (NEW FAMILY, formerly Ctenizidae), is placed as sister to

"Venom Clade", albeit with low support. The ML analysis performed in IQ-TREE resulted in

different placement of Stasimopidae and the "Venom Clade". The "Venom Clade" is supported

as sister to all Bipectina minus Paratropididae, whereas the family Stasimopidae is recovered

with high SH-aLRT support as sister to Domiothelina. Domiothelina form a monophyletic group

with well resolved relationships in both ML and BI analyses. The family Halonoproctidae is

recovered as sister to all remaining lineages of Domiothelina. The family Migidae is recovered

as sister to Idiopidae, Ctenizidae (now comprising *Cteniza* and *Cyrtocarenum*) and Euctenizidae.

Crassitarsae (*sensu* Bond et al. (2012)), recovered with high SH-aLRT support in IQ-TREE ML

inference, is subdivided into two clades supported in all analyses. The first one comprises the

family Bemmeridae (NEW RANK, formerly Cyrtaucheniidae), recovered as sister to the

Barychelidae and Theraphosidae. The second clade, "Nemesioidina", comprises the Nemesiidae

plus three lineages formerly belonging to the Nemesiidae (Pycnothelidae (NEW RANK),

Entypesidae (NEW FAMILY) and Anamidae (NEW FAMILY)), as well as Dipluridae,

Cyrtaucheniidae and Microstigmatidae. Nemesiidae is recovered as sister to all the remaining

families; Pycnothelidae is recovered as sister to the Dipluridae/Cyrtaucheniidae clade and the

Entypesidae /Microstigmatidae/Anamidae clade.

No_Paratropis analysis.—Maximum likelihood analyses of the "No_Paratropis" dataset

recovered a moderately different Bipectina topology contra the analyses on the full dataset

(Supplemental Fig. 4; ML best tree –ln = 1702659.2948). The discordance, however, mostly

affects nodes unsupported in both analyses. In the "No_Paratropis" analyses the clade

comprising Bemmeridae + Barychelidae + Theraphosidae is recovered with high support as

sister to all the remaining Bipectina families. The Stasimopidae + "Venom Clade" receive

moderate bootstrap support, but its sister relationship to the Domiothelina clade remains

unsupported, albeit with increased support when compared to the analyses of the full dataset.

DNAAA analysis.—Similar to the "No_Paratropis" dataset, analyses of "DNAAA" (ML

best tree –ln = 2543315.0197) resulted in different topological arrangements within the Bipectina

clade (Fig. 4). The Domiothelina clade is recovered as sister to all the remaining diversity.

Stasimopidae + "Venom Clade" (moderately supported in this analysis) is recovered with low

support as sister to Crassitarsae. The Crassitarsae clade is highly supported and inclusive of

Paratropis.

Topology tests.—The AU topology test (Table 2) rejected the monophyly of all

alternative arrangements (i.e., alternatives using existing compositions of genera) of the families

Ctenizidae (*sensu* Raven (1985)), Cyrtaucheniidae (*sensu* Bond et al. (2012)), Dipluridae,

Hexathelidae (*sensu* Raven (1985)) and Nemesiidae in favor of the results of the unconstrained

search.

Species tree analysis.—Coalescence-based analysis produced a species tree from the

individual 472 input gene trees obtained in RAxML. The resulting quartet-based supertree

estimated in ASTRAL (Supplemental Fig. 5) comprises 1,228,051,216 induced quartet trees

from the input gene trees, representing 65.2% of all quartets present in the species tree. ASTRAL

yielded a different topology than the concatenated approach (Supplemental Fig. 6). The analyses

recover both Atypoidea and Avicularioidea clades. Ischnothelidae (NEW RANK),

Microhexuridae (NEW FAMILY), Hexathelidae, Euagridae (NEW RANK) and Porrhothelidae,

a grade of lineages branching at the base of the Avicularioidea clade in the concatenated

analyses, form a highly supported clade in the species tree approach. The topology of the

Bipectina clade (unsupported in ASTRAL) is also somewhat differed from the concatenated

analyses. Bemmeridae/Barychelidae/Theraphosidae clade is recovered as sister to moderately

supported Domiothelina + Stasimopidae/"Venom Clade", rendering the Crassitarsae

paraphyletic.

Molecular dating.—The resulting dated tree is depicted in Fig. 5; Supplemental Figures

7, 8. The age of the root (398 Ma) corresponds to the maximum age constraints assigned to this

split. The split between Atypoidea and Avicularioidea is dated at ~ 323 Ma. The early branching

events within Avicularioidea dated between 254 Ma [95% confidence interval (CI): 259 – 247]

and 174 Ma (179 – 162) (Ischnothelidae through Macrothelidae divergences). The first

diversification of Bipectina is dated to 166 Ma (171 – 155) (divergence of Paratropididae) and

continues at 158 Ma (163 – 147), with diversification into Domiothelina +

Stasimopidae/"Venom Clade" and Crassitarsae. The divergence time estimates for individual

families are reported in Table 3.

Historical biogeography.—The results of DEC analyses are summarized in Fig. 6. The

ancestral distributional area of the mygalomorph ancestor and the early branching Avicularioidea

lineages remain unresolved. The distribution of the Atypoidea ancestor is inferred to have

originated in the Northern hemisphere continents (North America and Asia); Bipectina likely

originated in Africa. The ancestral ranges of several Avicularioidea families are inferred to areas

spanning more than one continent, for example Africa and Australia (Migidae, Idiopidae,

Barychelidae, Microstigmatidae); Africa and South America (Cyrtaucheniidae, Pycnothelidae).

On the other hand, some Avicularioidea families experienced *in situ* diversification within a

single area. Stasimopidae, Bemmeridae, and Entypesidae likely evolved in Africa, Paratropididae

and Dipluridae in South America, Anamidae in Australia, Euctenizidae in North America and

Ctenizidae in Europe. DEC analyses also infers a large number of dispersal and vicariance events

across the mygalomorph phylogeny, however, most of the events receive low probabilities

(<0.7).

Evolution of foraging construct.—We scored foraging construct for 109 taxa. Taxa that

are cursorial hunters (three terminals), *Paratropis* and *Microstigmata*, were scored as

missing/inapplicable. The foraging construct of nemesiid *Mexentypesa* is unknown to us.

Because bemmerids and pycnothelids construct both trapdoors and open burrows they were

scored as polymorphic. Based on AICc values the equal rates model (ER) produced the preferred

reconstruction (AICc = 168.3399). Although the ER model was preferred, ancestral state

reconstructions for the other models were generally very similar.

The ancestral state reconstruction of mygalomorph foraging construct, summarized in

Fig. 7, shows a rather simple and concise pattern. Towards the root of the phylogeny there

appears to be an equal probability of an ancestor having either a funnel-and-sheet web or a

burrow with a trapdoor. Atypoids likely had a most recent common ancestor (MRCA) with a

funnel-and-sheet web, modified as a purse web in atypids or as a collar, turret, or trapdoor in

antrodiaetids. As discussed below, atypoids demonstrate the full scope of variability in burrow

construct modifications that can evolve from a sheet web ancestral form. Avicularioidea have a

MRCA that optimizes as having a sheet web. The MRCA for the Bipectina clade likely had

either a trapdoor or funnel-and-sheet web (equivocal). A burrow with a trapdoor more

definitively optimizes as the ancestral foraging construct for Crassitarsae with subsequent losses

of the trapdoor covering (optimized as the open burrow state) four times in nemesiids,

pycnothelids, theraphosids, and the euctenizid genus *Apomastus*; some pycnothelid and anamid

taxa independently lose the trapdoor and instead forage from burrows with distinct turret or

collar door constructs. Funnel-and-sheet webs are regained twice, once in atracids and again in

diplurids.

DISCUSSION

In light of the results reported herein and other past molecular based studies of

mygalomorph phylogeny, two points seem clear. First, morphological data *alone* are unsuitable

for resolving the evolutionary history of mygalomorphs. Second, if our aim is to have a

classification scheme that reflects evolutionary history, other characters are needed. The results

we discuss below allow us to assess the status of nearly all mygalomorph families and resolve

several long-standing questions in the group's phylogeny and higher-level classification. As a

consequence, we propose extensive taxonomic changes that better reflect the origins and

evolutionary relationships of the taxa. We discuss in detail 1) the temporal and biogeographical

context of mygalomorph family-level diversification; 2) revisit longstanding questions regarding

silk use in non-araneomorph spiders; and 3) provide a detailed account regarding the taxonomic

implications of our newly formed phylogenetic hypothesis (Fig. 8). The Appendix to this paper

(Bond et al. 2019) outlines the formal taxonomic changes proposed herein and discusses in more

detail the systematics of each mygalomorph family.

Diversification and Biogeography of Mygalomorph Spiders

Mygalomorph spiders with nearly a cosmopolitan distribution, highly sedentary nature

(Raven 1985; Bond et al. 2001) and evolutionary history dating back to Carboniferous (Ayoub et

al. 2007; Starrett et al. 2013; Garrison et al. 2016), represent the type of group that has captivated

the attention of biogeographers for decades (Cracraft 1988; Wiley 1988; Morrone and Crisci

1995). By implementing divergence time estimation methods, many distribution patterns

observed in mygalomorphs could be linked to specific geologic events such as continental

breakups (Opatova et al. 2013; Opatova and Arnedo 2014a), Mediterranean tectonics (Opatova et

al. 2016; Mora et al. 2017) and opening of the Okinawa Trough (Su et al. 2016). However, recent

findings suggest that dispersal via rafting or could be a plausible mechanism for overcoming

both short (Hedin et al. 2013; Opatova and Arnedo 2014b) and long distances (Harrison et al.

2017).

The results of our biogeographic analyses (Fig. 6) place the ancestral area of distribution

of Atypoidea within the Northern hemisphere (across North America and Asia), whereas the

ancestor of Porrhothelidae, Macrothelidae and Bipectina most likely evolved in the Southern

hemisphere (across Africa and Australia). In our dating analyses, we recovered two repeated

patterns of divergences occurring among taxa with present day distributions confined mostly to

the Southern hemisphere that in dispersal-limited invertebrate groups have been repeatedly

linked to vicariant events related to the different phases of Gondwana breakup (Wood et al.

2012; Frazão et al. 2015; Kim and Farrell 2015; Xu et al. 2015; Andújar et al. 2016; Toussaint et

al. 2017).

The initial phase of Gondwana breakup (Fig 5), i.e., the formation of East and West

Gondwana, began approximately 165 Ma with South America and Africa drifting away from

India, Madagascar, Antarctica and Australia. The pattern concordant with the East – West

Gondwana breakup observed in our results involved splits within the families Euagridae,

Migidae, Idiopidae (putatively also Barychelidae), and divergence between Atracidae –

Actinopodidae and Anamidae – Entypesidae /Microstigmatidae clade (marked with stars on the

chronogram in Fig. 5) was dated between 101 – 88 Ma. The second pattern, concordant with

West Gondwana fragmentation into South America and Africa occurring between 132 – 112 Ma

(Will and Frimmel 2018) involved divergences within Theraphosidae, Pycnothelidae and

Cyrtaucheniidae (marked as triangles) was dated to 81 – 61 Ma. The divergence times estimated

in our analyses were considerably younger than the ages estimated for other sedentary taxa with

former Gondwanan distribution, such as velvet worms or bothriurid scorpions (Murienne et al.

2014; Sharma et al. 2018). Our inferred divergences also postdate the onset of continental

drifting in both instances by approximately 50 My, however, the initial phases of different

Gondwana breakup stages were often characterized by slow tectonic movement, or even

quiescence (Boger 2011; Will and Frimmel 2018; Young et al. 2018). In case of East and West

Gondwana, the drifting was occurring at an extremely slow rate for at least the first ten million

years (Young et al. 2018). A connection between South America and Australia also likely

persisted via Antarctica until late Eocene, approximately 35 Ma (Sanmartín and Ronquist 2004),

which links the divergence time estimates between Neotropical and Australasian groups of

Darwin's stag beetles dated to 47 and 58 Ma, respectively, to Gondwana breakup (Kim and

Farrell 2015).

Conversely, the divergence time estimates inferred in our analyses could also be affected

by the limited fossil record for mygalomorphs, and our conservative approach towards node

calibration. For example, the *Cretamygale chasei* fossil, formerly interpreted as Nemesiidae, was

used to set a minimum bound for the whole "Nemesioidina" clade (see methods), rather than

arbitrarily assigning the fossil to the family Nemesiidae (*sensu* this study). Despite the apparent

advantages in the ability of handling genomic data, the dating analyses used in this study (Smith

and O'Meara 2012), does not allow to assign probability distribution priors to the calibration

points or infer confidence intervals for the divergences. Confidence intervals are often essential

for connecting the age estimates and specific geological events and while assessing them via

bootstrapping potentially informs our analyses, this approach likely does not capture the full span

of variation as accurately as when node calibration priors are taken into account.

Alternatively, the observed patterns could be explained by long-distance dispersal events

as in case of other poorly dispersing groups such as euedaphic beetles (Andújar et al. 2016) or

short-tailed whip-scorpion order Schizomida (Clouse et al. 2017). Although evidence suggests

that mygalomorph spiders are capable of trans-oceanic dispersal (Harrison et al. 2017), repeated

divergence patterns imply multiple long-distance dispersal events occurring independently

among unrelated taxa during the same timeframe. Continental-level vicariance thus provides a

more plausible explanation for the observed pattern.

The East – West Gondwana vicariant origin of the taxa is also supported by the results of

the ancestral range reconstruction analyses. The inferred ranges for all the taxon groups

displaying a distribution pattern concordant with the vicariance (Euagridae, Atracidae and

Actinopodidae, Migidae, Idiopidae, Barychelidae, Entypesidae and Anamidae) comprised former

Gondwana continents, although the ancestral range inferred for Idiopidae, Barychelidae and

Migidae (Africa and Australia) could potentially represent an artifact stemming from a

geographical bias in our sampling (i.e. lacking their South American representatives in our

analyses). Vicariance was also inferred with high probability in the divergences between

Allothele and Australian euagrids, *Atrophothele* and remaining barychelids. The West Gondwana

vicariant split between Africa and South America can likely be attributed to the structure within

Pycnothelidae (*Pionothele* – remaining pycnothelids) and South American and African

Cyrtaucheniids which also optimizes as an ancestral distribution spanning across both continents

in both groups.

Another repeated pattern observed across our tree includes taxa with currently disjunct

amphi-Atlantic distributions (marked as dots on the chronogram). Such patterns of divergence

were observed within *Ummidia* and *Cyclocosmia* (Halonoproctidae) and between *Sphodros* and

Atypus (Atypidae), and were dated to 44 Ma, 33 Ma (35 – 29) and 39 Ma (41 – 37), respectively.

This pattern has previously been connected with the breakup of Laurasia (Opatova et al. 2013;

Godwin et al. 2018) dating to the end of Paleocene, approximately 60 – 55 Ma (Sanmartín et al.

2001) and it is supported by the ancestral distributions of the taxa projected to the Northern

hemisphere continents in our analyses. Our divergences postdate both the geological event and

previous dating results (Opatova et al. 2013). The discrepancy between these time estimates and

the Laurasian breakup could be explained by either an artefact of the analyses (discussed above),

or alternatively by a persistent connection of North America and Europe via a North American

land bridge. This connection existed to some extent until 25 Ma and is hypothesized to have

played an important role in plant dispersal (Tiffney and Manchester 2001; Milne 2006),

suggesting also a suitable dispersal route for ballooning spiders like *Atypus*, *Sphodros*, *Ummidia*

(Opatova et al. 2013). The current distribution of *Cyclocosmia* (East Asia and South East of

North America), represents a well-known biogeographic pattern linked to continental vicariance

(Boufford and Spongberg 1983; Bolotov et al. 2016), which is further supported by the inferred

vicariant origin of the genus. Alternatively, similar distribution patterns could have resulted from

dispersal events between Palearctic and Nearctic regions via Beringia (Li et al. 2015; Bolotov et

al. 2016). However, the timing of the dispersal in other organisms postdates the results of our

analyses (Li et al. 2015; Maguilla et al. 2018).

Older divergences recovered in our analyses are more challenging to explain within a

biogeographic context. If we follow the same line of reasoning as explained above, and assume

that the actual ages of the splits are older than indicated by the results, the splits between the

Idiopidae and Ctenizidae/Euctenizidae clade, and Nemesiidae and the remaining "Nemesioidina"

diversity (marked as inverted triangles), could correspond to the disintegration of the

supercontinent Pangea occurring in Lower Jurassic (190 – 180 Ma) (Beutel et al. 2005; Will and

Frimmel 2018). Divergences proceeding the breakup of Pangea could be potentially linked to

paleoclimatic events. Since its formation around 520 – 510 Ma (Veevers 2004; Domeier and

Torsvik 2014; Will and Frimmel 2018), large parts of Gondwana experienced repeated

glaciations in the Silurian, Devonian, late Carboniferous and early Triassic. Additional

glaciations were caused by the orogenic processes prompted by the collision of Gondwana with

Laurussia and subsequent formation of Pangea ~320 Ma (Golonka 2007; Nance et al. 2014;

Matthews et al. 2016) in the Permian. Suitable habitats were thus repeatedly fragmented, likely

causing taxon distributional shifts and large-scale extinction events (Coccioni and Galeotti 1994;

Zachos et al. 2001; Chen and Benton 2012). The consequences of these events could be

potentially reflected in the mygalomorph phylogeny by the existence of many early-branching

monogeneric lineages such as Microhexuridae, Porrhothelidae, Macrothelidae, Paratropididae

and Stasimopidae, that do not seem to have any close relatives among extant taxa. Deep

divergences far preceding the breakup of Pangea have also been observed for a similarly ancient

and sedentary group – the velvet worms (Boyer et al. 2007; Murienne et al. 2014), indicating that

paleoclimatic events and habitat heterogeneity played an important role in the evolution of these

ancient groups.

We also detected potential long-distance dispersal events across the tree (denoted with

"*"). The Australasian genus *Conothele* (Halonoproctidae), shows divergence between

Australian and Vietnamese species dating back to approximately 46 Ma (47 – 44), which

postdates their vicariance during the northward drifting of India ~ 135 Ma (Will and Frimmel

2018). The genus exhibits some behavioral traits associated with ballooning (Main 1957), and it

is possible that aerial dispersal played a role in *Conothele* distribution. Other cases involve

Australian and African taxa. *Poecilomigas* (family Migidae) diverged from its Australia

inhabiting sister taxon *Bertmainius* approximately 66 Ma (72 – 57), and *Kiama* and

Microstigmata (both Microstigmatidae) split around 64 Ma (70 – 54). Both divergences are

likely too young to reflect the East – West Gondwana vicariance (inferred by the biogeographic

analyses) that started approximately 165 Ma, even when a possible bias in our dating analyses is

considered. Trans-oceanic dispersal has previously been reported from the family Migidae

(Harrison et al. 2017), which suggests that dispersal could plausibly explain the disjunct

distribution between *Bertmainius* and *Poecilomigas.*

Another unusual pattern occurs within the family Pycnothelidae, where the closest

relatives of the Australian genus *Stanwellia* have South American distributions. The split dates

back to approximately 28 Ma (30 - 26) which by far postdates the East – West Gondwana

vicariance but might actually reflect a connection between South America and Australia via

Antarctica that presumably persisted until 35 Ma (Sanmartín and Ronquist 2004). The same

vicariant scenario has been postulated to explain a similar distribution pattern recovered in Stag

beetles (Kim and Farrell 2015). The biogeographic analyses also inferred vicariance for the

Stanwellia – Acanthogonatus favoring South America – Australia connection over dispersal

event.

The Role of Silk in Prey Capture by Non-Araneomorph Spiders Revisited

As noted by Coyle (1986), progress in our understanding of the role silk plays in non-

araneomorph spiders lags far behind what is known about araneomorphs; this was an accurate

statement in 1986, and largely remains true today. As we discuss below, a prevailing perception

considered by us misleading, if not erroneous, is that mygalomorph spiders do not use silk

directly in foraging for prey; that is, it has been perceived that they do not spin webs defined in

either a restricted or broad sense. For the purposes of our discussion we consider two

characteristics as fundamental to 'qualifying' silk as playing a role in prey capture: 1) silk is

employed by the spider in a sensory capacity to transmit information and extend prey sensing

space outward to localize prey; and/or 2) silks can also be used by the spider to slow, impede, or

restrain prey items. These two criteria are not mutually exclusive, particularly in mygalomorphs

where visual clues are not known to play a significant role in prey capture; simply put silk is

employed to increase predator speed (fast predator and/or slower prey (Coddington et al. 2019)).

Note that Vollrath and Selden (2007) had a much broader definition of a web that included any

spider structure made of silk. Because the question we address here is specifically related to the

use of silk in prey capture, our working definition is narrower than theirs. It is our hypothesis,

forwarded herein, that mygalomorphs, and consequently all spiders, plesiomorphically used silk

to both localize and impede prey for capture. Whereas not all mygalomorphs use silken

constructs to impede prey (criterion 2), nearly all employ it in some fashion to transmit

vibrations to facilitate prey localization (criterion 1).

As documented in Figure 7, the MRCA for all mygalomorphs shows an unambiguous

optimization for a funnel-and-sheet web versus trapdoor. Although the optimization of this

character is equivocal at the root node (the MRCA of liphistiids and mygalomorphs), we would

contend that the likely character state at this node, if araneomorphs and uraraneids (e.g.,

Chimerarachne yingi, (Wang et al. 2018)) were to be included in the analysis, would likely

resolve as a funnel-and-sheet web. As noted by Vollrath and Selden (2007), there is a clear link

between body structure and behavior in extant spiders. As such, the proportionally long

spinnerets of spider sister taxon *Chimerarachne* suggest that they were funnel-and-sheet web

builders (mygalomorph sheet web builders have proportionally longer spinnerets than their

counterparts – see Ischnothelidae). Eskov and Selden (2005) hypothesized that *Permarachne* (at

the time considered an extinct mesothele – now placed in the Uraraneida) constructed a funnel-

and-sheet web but likely evolved *from* a protypical mesothele ancestor that constructed a

trapdoor burrow with radiating lines. Alternatively, the uraraneid placement as the sister group to

all spiders (Wang et al. 2018) likely requires the optimization that funnel-and-sheet webs are the

plesiomorphic condition with trapdoor burrows independently derived in Liphistiidae – a lineage

that is morphologically unique among spiders (see below). Funnel-and-sheet webs meet both

criteria outlined above (Coyle 1986); that is, they transmit and extend prey localization from a

tubular retreat (typically) and serve to entangle prey. Although silk may not have initially

evolved for this function in the group's common ancestor (that is, the common ancestor of

Uraraneida + Araneae), these results strongly suggest that early silk use likely played a role in

prey capture. Some authors have hypothesized that silk was initially used in reproduction (e.g.,

protecting eggsacs, sperm webs, etc. (Shultz 1987) or played a sensory role (Bond 1994)).

However, these early functions may not be mutually exclusive; silken threads extending from an

eggsac could have allowed a spider to care for her young while still able to sense prey (or

predators) from a distance.

Irrespective of the uraraneid sheet web hypothesis originally proposed by Eskov and

Selden (2005), the funnel-and-sheet web optimization at the mygalomorph node inferred here

may be considered by some to be surprising given that the sister group to all other spiders

(Opisthothelae), Mesothelae, build burrows covered by trapdoors. As we discuss in more detail

below, a trapdoor covered burrow may have evolved from a sheet web (certainly the case among

more derived mygalomorph taxa). The Mygalomorphae MRCA with high probability spun a

sheet web from which trapdoor burrows were derived independently twice across the tree (once

in the Atypoidea and a second time in the Bipectina). Nevertheless, we consider trapdoor burrow

entrances to play a role in prey localization (discussed in more detail below), further enhanced in

some liphistiids and other trapdoor spiders by extending the prey sensing surface of their burrow

opening via silken trip lines or leaves, and other organic debris.

The evolutionary plasticity of the ancestral funnel-and-sheet web is best illustrated in the

Atypoidea. The antrodiaetid clade includes *Antrodiaetus* (plus *Atypoides*), *Aliatypus*, and *Hexura*

– all of which construct collared burrows, turreted burrows, trapdoors, and sheet webs,

respectively. As demonstrated in a number of experiments conducted by Coyle (1986), the

trapdoor spider *Aliatypus* likely suffers from reduced foraging efficiency relative to its more

open burrow (collared door) and sheet web related genera. The sister group, Atypidae, builds

purse webs, which are silken tubes that typically extend vertically up trees or horizontally along

a substrate. As discussed by Coyle (1986), these spiders respond rapidly to vibrations along the

tube surface; atypid purse webs definitively extend the spider's prey sensory environment. An

optimization of web constructs across the Atypoidea conducted by Hedin et al. (2019) recovered

a similar pattern.

The Avicularioidea clade unequivocally has an MRCA that forages from a funnel-and-

sheet web. As discussed in the classification section below, diplurids are polyphyletic, with most

genera forming a grade of lineages that are sister to the remaining mygalomorphs. The

characteristics of the ischnothelid, euagrid, etc. and hexathelid funnel-and-sheet webs are well

documented for their abilities to aid in sensing/localizing prey, and in many taxa also impeding

and/or entangling prey items. These silken constructs play a significant role in prey capture and

are by any definition a "foraging web." Funnel-and-sheet webs are independently derived twice

in atracids (formerly hexathelids) and much further up the tree in the clade that includes "true"

diplurids. The atracid funnel-and-sheet webs are highly modified from silken tubes (Gray 2010)

and likely not homologous to the ancestral funnel-and-sheet web.

The Bipectina clade resolves as having an MRCA with a trapdoor. This clade includes

typical trapdoor spiders like idiopids, migids, euctenizids, and nemesiids. As already discussed

above, and in a number of papers (Coyle 1986; Coyle et al. 1992; Bond and Coyle 1995),

trapdoor spiders employ silk in prey detection at the burrow entrance and in the door directly.

Moreover, many trapdoor spider species included in this clade add additional silk lines, plant

material, and tabs to the burrow entrance further emphasizing the role that the silken lined

burrow entrance plays in detecting and localizing prey. Although trapdoor covered burrows do

not seemingly serve to entangle or impede prey (criterion 2, above), aspects of the burrow do

serve to enhance the sensory capacity of the spider. Trapdoors are independently lost in a number

of Bipectina families in favor of other burrow constructs and foraging methods – Atracidae:

funnel-and-sheet web; Theraphosidae: open burrows (though trapdoors have reappeared $\geq$3

times; Hamilton *persn. obsv.*); Pycnothelidae: open burrows, turrets; Dipluridae: funnel-and-

sheet webs; Anamidae: open burrows and collar doors; Microstigmatidae: cursorial hunters,

scored as inapplicable (*sensu* paratropidids). Additionally, species of one euctenizid genus,

Apomastus, forages from an open burrow. In a number of these taxa, extensive field observations

demonstrate that vibrations at the silken burrow entrance can be used to coax the spider to the

surface, illustrating the functional role that silk plays in prey detection for these taxa.

As mentioned above, Coyle (1986) demonstrated that trapdoors appear to reduce foraging

efficiency in some taxa. As such it begs the question as to why some mygalomorph spiders have

abandoned funnel-and-sheet webs in favor of a foraging construct that appears to be less

effective at detecting prey and clearly lacks the ability to impede or entangle prey items.

Although this remains an open question, trapdoor spiders likely required additional protection

from predators (e.g., parasitoid insects like pompilid wasps), desiccation, or even flooding. The

reversal to an open burrow, often with an expanded collar for prey sensing (e.g., *Apomastus*

burrows, (Bond 2004)), suggests that once environmental conditions or predator selective

pressures change, the trapdoor can be easily lost.

It is our supposition that most mygalomorphs build foraging webs; that is, the majority of

species employ silk either in a funnel-and-sheet web or at a burrow entrance to detect and

localize prey and that a large number of taxa use silk to impede or entangle prey (the latter

considered to be the plesiomorphic condition). These points are important to make particularly in

light of a recent study by Fernández et al. (2018) that scored most mygalomorph taxa as having a

non-foraging burrow. Based on the results and data discussed here, not surprisingly, we would

question any analysis that hypothesizes mygalomorphs (and spiders as whole) to have a non-web

foraging MRCA. Such an interpretation likely stems from limited taxon sampling and major

differences in character state coding (Coddington et al. 2019). The latter in particular includes an

interpretation that a spider foraging from a burrow is not employing silk in the process of prey

capture, which, in our opinion contradicts the information available in the literature and direct

observations in the field.

Mygalomorphae Systematics and Higher-level Classification

The criterion of diagnosability, dictated by the ICZN, that all nominal taxa be

diagnosable (morphologically or otherwise) presents some problems for higher level

classification schemes based on these genomic data. Although one may recognize a molecularly

defined lineage as a family rank taxon (with respect to other previously defined lineages at that

equivalent rank), it is unreasonable to necessarily expect that some set of morphological features

will reveal themselves as diagnostic for this newly identified lineage/taxon. A process of

reciprocal illumination may lead to the discovery of such diagnostic characteristics, but that there

are no guarantees. One might infer (based on character homoplasy) that the overriding notion of

taxic homology, that diagnostic characters are used to unite groups (Panchen 1992), was an

implicit driving force in previous attempts delineate mygalomorph families and other higher-

level taxa (*sensu* Raven (1985)); an approach that at times seemingly interpreted diagnosability

as synapomorphy. A diagnostic character(s) for a family does not necessarily infer

synapomorphy any more than characters in a taxonomic key. A lineage that is hierarchically

located at the same level among other family rank taxa should potentially be viewed as a family

rank taxon regardless of whether or not it is morphologically diagnosable.

Taxonomic changes referenced herein are formally documented and new family-level

taxa diagnosed in Appendix 1 (authorship to be formally attributed as Bond, Opatova, and Hedin

2019). We acknowledge that the taxonomic changes we propose are unlikely to go without

criticism and will most likely require future revision and refinement. The four guiding principles

we used attempted to realign family-level limits as clearly as possible but remain conservative in

order to minimize errors: 1) revise higher-level mygalomorph classification and familial-level

taxonomy such that it better reflects the evolutionary relationships indicated by data available

(i.e., the sum of collected to data, not just this analysis); 2) further refine the classification, where

possible, based on previous morphological/molecular hypotheses in which subfamilial taxa are

clearly defined and supported by unambiguous synapomorphies; in some instances we

transferred unsampled genera to newly defined families in cases where their placement in said

group appears to be well supported in other studies; 3) minimize changes in family-level

classification to the extent possible that maintains a consistent phylogenetic level across the tree

for the family-level rank; and 4) instances where generic-level taxon sampling and criterion 2

above preclude an unambiguous family-level assignment of a genus (for relimited families), we

retain the original family assignment but denote its placement as *incertae sedis* (operationally for

the purposes of this study). We discuss below the restructuring of the major mygalomorph

groups and their constituent families with a particular emphasis on longstanding problems in the

families Dipluridae, Cyrtaucheniidae, and Nemesiidae.

739   *Higher Level Groupings: Atypoidea – Avicularioidea – Bipectina – Domiothelina*

Crassitarsae.—The interpretation of the significance of similarities in spinneret morphology,

constituted one of the center pieces in the debate revolving around the higher-level classification

of the Mygalomorphae (Platnick and Gertsch 1976; Raven 1985; Eskov and Zonshtein 1990;

Goloboff 1993) and taxon composition of some families (Raven 1985). Traditionally,

mygalomorph spiders were divided into two families: Atypidae and Aviculariidae

(=Theraphosidae; Simon 1864), later established as superfamilies Atypoidea and Ctenizoidea

(Chamberlin and Ivie 1946). Atypoidea, a sister group to all the remaining mygalomorph

families, consisted of Atypidae, Antrodiaetidae, and Mecicobothriidae. However, the external

similarities of mecicobothriids and diplurids motivated some authors to reject the placement of

Mecicobothriidae within Atypoidea (Platnick and Gertsch 1976), and subsequently even the

concept of Atypoidina (Atypidae + Antrodiaetidae; Raven 1985) being a sister group to all

remaining mygalomorphs was abandoned in favor of an alternative arrangement (Fig. 1a; Raven

1985). Eskov and Zonshtein (1990) disagreed with some of Raven's character assessments and

alternatively supported Atypoidea (*sensu* Chamberlin and Ivie (1946)), arguing that the shared

traits in mecicobothriids and the diplurids, for example the elongation of spinnerets, constitute an

ecological convergence related to a construction of a funnel-and-sheet web (Coyle 1986).

However, their alternative hypothesis was rejected in what was the first computer-based cladistic

treatment of mygalomorph relationships (Goloboff 1993), on the basis of different interpretation

of Atypoidea unifying characters presented by Eskov and Zonshtein (1990).

Contrary to the prevailing morphology-based hypothesis (Raven 1985; Goloboff 1993),

the first studies using molecular data strongly supported the classic Atypoidea hypothesis (Hedin

and Bond 2006). The root node bifurcation of Mygalomorphae into Atypoidea and

Avicularioidea was further established after adding additional molecular data (Ayoub et al. 2007;

Bond et al. 2012). Although with limited taxon sampling, the same arrangement has been

consistently recovered in subsequent studies employing transcriptome data (Bond et al. 2014;

Garrison et al. 2016) and is also supported in our analyses. A recent study by Hedin et al. (2019);

published while this study was in review, provided a much needed overhaul of the Atypoidea,

recognizing two additional families (Hexurellidae and Megahexuridae).

The Avicularioidea clade was recovered in all the analyses with high support and a

degree of internal resolution never achieved in past comprehensive mygalomorph phylogenetic

studies. Similarly, to the results obtained in the past (Goloboff 1993; Hedin and Bond 2006;

Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012), the concatenated analyses recovered a grade of early

branching Avicularioidea lineages representing the so-called "non-diplurine diplurids" (Goloboff

1993), the Hexathelidae, Porrhothelidae and Macrothelidae. Alternatively, the species tree

analysis performed in ASTRAL recovered these lineages, excluding Macrothelidae, in a single

highly supported clade. We statistically explored alternative tree topologies (Table 2) to: 1)

assess the monophyly of the family Dipluridae (*sensu* Raven (1985)), 2) test the species tree

arrangement and 3) further test the monophyly of the family Hexathelidae (*sensu* Raven (1985))

within a wider outgroup sampling framework than in Hedin et al. (2018). The rejection of the

alternative topologies by the AU topology tests, the reciprocal monophyly of the "non-diplurine

diplurid" lineages correlated with a unique combination of morphological characters present in

each taxon, provides strong support for taxonomic and nomenclatural changes proposed here and

by other authors (Hedin et al. 2018).

As in the previous analyses (Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012),

all Avicularioidea families, with exception of the grade of "diplurid" and former "hexathelid"

lineages, were recovered in a single clade, close in taxon composition to the original delineation

of Bipectina (*sensu* Goloboff (1993)). We recovered Paratropididae and Actinopodidae (removed

from Bipectina by Bond et al. (2012)) alongside the Atracidae as part of that clade. The

Bipectina including these three families represent the most inclusive monophyletic arrangement

that is consistently recovered in all the analyses. For this reason, we choose to relimit the

Bipectina clade (*sensu* Bond et al. (2012)) to include Actinopodidae, Atracidae, Stasimopidae,

and Paratropididae alongside the Crassitarsae and Domiothelina.

A monophyletic group roughly consistent with Domiothelina (*sensu* Bond et al. (2012))

was recovered in all of our analyses. However, given the recent taxonomic relimitation of the

family Ctenizidae (Godwin et al. 2018) and further taxonomic changes made in this paper, we

formally recircumscribe the Domiothelina to include the following families: Halonoproctidae,

Migidae, Idiopidae, Ctenizidae and Euctenizidae. We also relimit the family Ctenizidae to

include only the genera *Cteniza* and *Cyrtocarenum* and establish a new family Stasimopidae

(NEW FAMILY) to accommodate *Stasimopus* herein removed from Ctenizidae.

Albeit generally accepted as a monophyletic group (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al.

2012), Crassitarsae (Raven 1985; Goloboff 1993) is an unstable clade in our analyses. The group

was recovered in the concatenated analyses (supported in IQ-TREE ML inference and

genomic/transcriptomic dataset), whereas other analyses supported an alternative placement for

the Theraphosoidina clade (*sensu* Bond et al. (2012)), namely as sister to Domiothelina and the

Stasimopidae/Atracinae/Actinopodidae clade (species tree analysis) or as the sister group to all

Bipectina lineages (No_Paratropis dataset). Despite the uncertain status of Crassitarsae, both

Theraphosoidina and the clade comprising Cyrtaucheniidae, Dipluridae, Microstigmatidae and

former "Nemesiidae" lineages (the "Nemesioidina", see below), were highly supported and

mostly resolved at internal levels in all analyses. With the results at hand, we can now address

the long-standing taxonomic issues involving the non-monophyly of the families Dipluridae,

Cyrtaucheniidae and Nemesiidae. As a result, we recircumscribe the families Cyrtaucheniidae,

Dipluridae and Nemesiidae and establish the new families Anamidae (NEW RANK),

Entypesidae (NEW FAMILY), Bemmeridae (NEW RANK), and Pycnothelidae (NEW RANK).

"Dipluridae".—The monophyly of the diplurids was first questioned by Goloboff (1993)

relatively soon after the last relimitation of the family (Raven 1985), which without a formal

change being made remains still reflected in the current classification scheme. Diplurids in their

original composition comprised a variety of, now in retrospect, *very* distantly related lineages

possessing to some extent widely spaced "lower" spinnerets and elongated "upper" spinnerets

(Simon 1889); which typifies the pitfalls of establishing groups of the basis of homoplastic,

convergently evolved characteristics. Mecicobothriidae (Gertsch 1979) and Hexathelidae (Raven

1980) were subsequently removed from Dipluridae and established as independent families and a

large number of taxa was then transferred to the family Nemesiidae (Raven 1985). Despite that,

the elongation of posterior lateral spinnerets and the wide separation of posterior median

spinnerets remained among characters uniting the family Dipluridae (Raven 1985). Goloboff

(1993) debated the character state scoring of the spinneret elongation in diplurids, hexathelids,

and mecicobothriids, alluding that the character definition was ambiguous, even within

Dipluridae. Goloboff (1993) recovered the Dipluridae (*sensu* Raven (1985)) as four independent

lineages which portended the future relimitation of diplurids to the subfamily Diplurinae (*sensu*

Raven (1985)). The non-monophyly of the diplurids was also cautiously echoed by Coyle (1995)

who, while conducting a taxonomic revision of the subfamily Ischnothelinae, did not find any

strong synapomorphies establishing a sister relationship between ischnothelines and any other

diplurid taxa (Coyle 1995). Diplurids have been recovered both as monophyletic (Ayoub et al.

2007; Bond et al. 2012) and paraphyletic (Hedin and Bond 2006; Wheeler et al. 2017; Hedin et

al. 2018). However, with exception of Hedin et al. (2018), the taxon sampling was restricted to

members of the subfamily Euagrinae and the seemingly contradictory outcome was likely a

result of a lack of strong phylogenetic signal in the sequenced markers. In our analyses, we

sampled representatives from three diplurid subfamilies (Diplurinae, Ischnothelinae, Euagrinae)

plus *Microhexura*, a genus with uncertain placement (Raven 1985); Masteriinae was not

included in this study. Our results are congruent with Goloboff's (1993) hypothesis that

Dipluridae constitutes an assemblage of distantly related lineages that do not share a common

ancestor. The subfamilies Ischnothelinae, Euagrinae + *Microhexura* were recovered as three

independent lineages at the base of the Avicularioidea clade ("non-diplurine diplurids" (Goloboff

1993; Hedin et al. 2018)), whereas Diplurinae taxa were placed as sister to cyrtaucheniids within

proximity to nemesiids (Supplemental figure Fig. 9). The presumed synapomorphy of diplurids

(*sensu* Raven (1985)), elongated and widely spaced spinnerets, could thus be an example of a

retention of plesiomorphic condition (see discussion on silk use) of the "non-diplurine diplurids"

that evolved convergently in Diplurinae – the genomic architecture likely already in place (see

Uraraneida: *Chimerarachne yingi* (Wang et al. 2018)). As already pointed out by Coyle (1971)

and Eskov and Zonshtein (1990), the traits related to the morphology of the spinnerets are likely

correlated to the type of foraging structure produced by the spiders. "Diplurids" generally build

conspicuous three-dimensional sheet-like webs with a funnel-like retreat (Coyle 1988; Coyle and

Ketner 1990; Coyle 1995; Eberhard and Hazzi 2013; Passanha and Brescovit 2018), a trait

present in many other mygalomorph taxa that have little to no evolutionary proximity to

diplurids (e.g., Mecicobothriidae (Gertsch 1979), Macrothelidae (Snazell and Allison 1989;

Shimojana and Haupt 1998), Atracidae (Gray 2010), and is also paralleled in araneomorph

funnel-web spider family Agelenidae (Nentwig 1983). With the results of our phylogenetic

analyses, it seems safe to assume that spinneret morphology is a plastic trait that has little to no

informative value for *higher-level* classification in mygalomorph spiders. This observation is

further supported by the results of the topology test rejecting the monophyly of Dipluridae (*sensu*

Raven (1985)) as well as the monophyly of a clade consisting of the "non-diplurine diplurids"

(Goloboff 1993), Hexathelidae and Porrhothelidae. We therefore substantially relimit the

boundaries of the family Dipluridae (new circumscription). We elevate the subfamily

Ischnothelidae (NEW RANK) and Euagridae (NEW RANK) to family-level and establish the

new family Microhexuridae (NEW FAMILY).

"Nemesiidae".—The cosmopolitan family Nemesiidae belongs among the most speciose

mygalomorph groups. As currently defined, it comprises over 400 nominal species that are

placed in 45 genera. The family was diagnosed by Raven (1985) as those taxa possessing two

rows of teeth on the paired tarsal claws and having scopulate tarsi (Raven 1985); a set of

characters found in other groups and thus likely homoplasious, and later reinterpreted as

plesiomorphic (Goloboff 1993). Not surprisingly, the monophyly of the family Nemesiidae has

never been recovered in any broad scale molecular phylogenetic analyses of mygalomorphs

(Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012). Moreover, even for analyses based

solely on morphological characters, the family was seemingly split into five different lineages

(Goloboff 1993). Paralleling the non-monophyletic nature of the family, the subfamilies

established by Raven (1985) were also typically recovered as para- or polyphyletic (Goloboff

1993; Goloboff 1995; Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012). For this current study, we

sampled five out of six nemesiid subfamilies (Raven 1985) and about 40% of the generic

diversity to more thoroughly assess the composition of the family, particularly with an emphasis

on resolving the position of the family Microstigmatidae and several difficult to place

"cyrtaucheniid" genera (Goloboff 1993; Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al.

2012; Wheeler et al. 2017). Like all other studies conducted to date (Goloboff 1993; Hedin and

Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; Garrison et al. 2016; Wheeler et al. 2017), we

did not recover the Nemesiidae as monophyletic (Supplemental Fig. 9). The South African genus

Spiroctenus was placed within Bemmeridae, whereas the remaining nemesiids were parceled

among five reciprocally monophyletic lineages forming a clade with the cyrtaucheniids,

diplurids, and microstigmatids (the "Nemesioidina" clade). Both microstigmatids and some

"cyrtaucheniids" have been recovered as lineages embedded within Nemesiidae in the past

(Goloboff 1993; Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; Wheeler et al.

2017). Goloboff (1993), suggested that the some of the microstigmatid synapomorphies may be

of neotenic nature (as proposed previously by Raven (1985) and Griswold (1985)),

foreshadowing the eventual synonymy of microstigmatids with the nemesiids, or alternatively,

splintering Nemesiidae into multiple families. Similar alternatives were also proposed for

Cyrtaucheniidae (*sensu* Raven (1985)) based on the position of *Acontius*, "*Cyrtauchenius*", and

Fufius (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012). Unfortunately, we cannot assess the position of

Acontius and *Fufius* in this study. However, the sample representing "*Cyrtauchenius*" in Bond et

al. (2012), in fact, corresponds to *Amblyocarenum*, later removed from its synonymy (Decae and

Bosmans 2014). Although the phylogenetic placement of both genera could be conservatively

interpreted as "embedded within Nemesiidae *sensu lato*, the placement of *Amblyocarenum* along

with other genera likely has more severe taxonomic implications. *Amblyocarenum* is placed as a

sole "cyrtaucheniid" within a monophyletic clade comprising the genus *Nemesia*, the type genus

of the family. The affinities between *Amblyocarenum* and other nemesiids were also noted when

the genus was removed from synonymy with *Cyrtauchenius* (Decae and Bosmans 2014). On the

other hand, *Cyrtauchenius* forms a well-supported clade with two other cyrtaucheniid genera and

is placed as sister to another monophyletic and morphologically distinguishable clade, the

Dipluridae (*sensu* this study). The Dipluridae – Cyrtaucheniidae relationship and their placement

within Nemesiidae was previously recovered in the pilot assessment of mygalomorph phylogeny

with AHE data (Hamilton et al. 2016b), however, the sampling limitations of the study and the

interpretation of *Fufius* and "*Linothele*" (later identified as *Diplura*) as taxonomically misplaced

nemesiids alluded to a different conclusion than presented in this paper. The situation is similar

for Microstigmatidae, presumably another "candidate" nemesiid lineage (Hedin and Bond 2006;

Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012). The genus *Microstigmata* has been recovered in proximity

to *Ixamatus* and another Australian nemesiid genus *Kiama* (Bond et al. 2012), which is

congruent with our results. *Kiama* presents a unique combination of morphological features that,

to some extent, overlaps with diagnostic characters for a handful of families, and as a result, the

placement of the genus vacillated among Dipluridae (Main and Mascord 1969), Cyrtaucheniidae

(Raven 1985) and Nemesiidae (Bond et al. 2012). Both *Kiama* and *Microstigmata* possess a

uniquely modified cuticle and share a similar tarsal organ morphology (Raven 1985; Bond and

Opell 2002), however these similarities were dismissed as convergent or plesiomorphic by others

(Raven 1985; Goloboff 1993). The homology of these characters consequently needs to be

reassessed in a framework using other lines of evidence other than just morphology (Bond et al.

2012; Hedin et al. 2018).

The dilemma of whether to dissolve the Nemesiidae, or redefine the family boundaries to

include microstigmatids and cyrtaucheniids has been repeatedly discussed in the literature

(Goloboff 1993; Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012), with tendencies gravitating towards

the later solution (e.g. Bond et al. 2012; Fig. 1C in Hedin et al. (2018)). However, there were

several factors at play reinforcing the argument for the "inclusive" Nemesiidae. First and

foremost, the limited taxon sampling in the previous analyses (Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et

al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; Hamilton et al. 2016b) partially skewed the interpretation of the

results. The polyphyly of the family Cyrtaucheniidae (*sensu* Raven (1985)), misplacement of

Cyrtauchenius (see above) and lack of adequate representation of the diplurines (*sensu* Raven

(1985)) presented major hurdles for accurately interpreting nemesiid relationships. Recovering

Microstigmata or a few genera of an apparently polyphyletic family embedded within an

enlarged "nemesiid" construct understandably supported the notion that a broad synonymization

(lumping rather than splitting) might be the more stable and thus preferable taxonomic solution.

Adding to the overall ambiguity of the results, large sections of the recovered trees often lacked

support (Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; Wheeler et al. 2017),

adding uncertainty to the monophyly of the groups in question. We would suggest that our

improved sampling and high support values brings long-needed insight and resolution to the

"nemesiid" problem, which is essential for ultimately answering the question of whether or not

the Nemesiidae should be fragmented into independent families or not. The family Nemesiidae

(*sensu* Raven (1985)) has lacked a well-supported synapomorphy, a widely recognized fact

(Goloboff 1993; Goloboff 1995; Bond et al. 2012; Harvey et al. 2018), since the family was first

delimited (Raven 1985). On the other hand, some groups (e.g., subfamilies) currently recognized

within the family, do possess diagnostic synapomorphic characters (Harvey et al. 2018), which is

also the case for the diplurids and cyrtaucheniids (*sensu* this study) that were recovered as

mutually exclusive lineages within the larger more inclusive "Nemesioidina" clade. We thus

argue that the original concept of the family (*sensu* Raven (1985)) must be abandoned in favor of

establishing multiple monophyletic families that can also be ultimately clearly defined

morphologically. Another fact in favor of such an arrangement is the relatively deep divergences

separating the lineages (Kuntner et al. 2018). Major lineages across the entire clade diversified

into their respective individual groups between 115 – 79 Ma, roughly congruent with dated

divergences among other families (e.g., Theraphosidae and Barychelidae split around 107 Ma

and Actinopodidae diverged from Atracidae approximately 98 Ma). In agreement with the results

of our analyses, we therefore relimit the family Nemesiidae (new circumscription) as outlined in

the Appendix 1.

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

It is our hope that this study represents a significant leap forward in stabilizing

mygalomorph spider classification via a robust, well-supported phylogenetic framework.

Extensive taxon sampling combined with enhanced phylogenetic resolution using genomic-scale

data facilitates the proposal of an alternative classification scheme that more accurately reflects

the evolutionary relationships of the infraorder. Consequently, these results brought to their

logical fruition require extensive changes to existing familial composition as well as the

establishment of a number of new family-rank taxa. Understandably, such changes require

considerable downstream scrutiny and criticism. This newly derived framework is a hypothesis

that begs further testing through additional data and increased taxon sampling.

One observation in particular from this study that seems clear is that morphological data

are not uniformly suitable for reconstructing mygalomorph higher-level relationships, and to a

slightly lesser degree for delimiting family rank taxa (e.g., subfamily relationships seem to be

relatively stable as evidenced by the number of subfamilies elevated to family rank). Raven's

(1985) results were in no small part afflicted by the rampant homoplasy that seemingly plagues

this group of spiders. Given the data and lack of computational resources available when the

analyses were conducted, the results Raven achieved represented the strongest prevailing

hypothesis at that time and provided a framework upon which to test new hypotheses. In 1985

and shortly thereafter (Eskov and Zonshtein 1990) disagreement regarding morphological

evidence for various clades and familial-level relationships and identity were in retrospect

matters of subjective opinion and consequently difficult to test (likely explaining why some

seemingly correct hypotheses, e.g., Atypoidea, were ignored). Alternatively though, it is

important to recognize that a relatively large percentage of the new family rank taxa were once

morphologically defined subfamilies – a number of which predate Raven (1985) – and thus

relatively correct.

Issues regarding spider classification notwithstanding, phylogenomics provides an

exciting new framework for considering broad scale questions related to spider evolution. Our

biogeographic and dating analyses suggest that ancient vicariance and dispersal shaped the

currently observed biogeographic patterns. Much of the deep phylogenetic structure across the

infraorder may be attributable to climatic heterogeneity and oscillation prior to the breakup of

Gondwana/Pangea. Such deep phylogenetic and ancient divergence, coupled with low vagility,

makes these spiders ideal candidates to test biogeographic hypotheses.

Furthermore, the recently held notion that most mygalomorph spiders capture prey from

non-foraging burrows (Fernández et al. 2018) has critical implications for how we might

understand and interpret silk across spiders as a whole. The reformulated hypothesis posits that

spiders likely foraged primitively from a silken funnel-and-sheet web that served classically-held

web functions like increasing predator speed and enhancing prey capture success. How

mygalomorph spiders build their webs and retreats, employ silk in prey capture, and the nature of

their spinning apparatus remains a rich area of study that has received little attention since

Coyle's (1986) treatment.

Considerable work remains in achieving final resolution of mygalomorph relationships

and stable fully-resolved familial composition. Despite our best efforts, which included a

combination of transcriptomic and AHE data, we are still unable to resolve several of the deepest

nodes; Paratropididae remains a difficult taxon to place as do the newly formed Stasimopidae.

Despite our best efforts and major relimitation, many nemesiid, diplurid, and cyrtaucheniid

genera remain in an uncertain taxonomic state. Although we could speculate about placement of

many taxa (e.g., Aporoptychinae cyrtaucheniids, Masteriinae diplurids, as well as numerous

South American nemesiids), such questions will have to be left to future studies. At the very

least, it is our hope that this study facilitates further interest and provides a solid foundation for

future work in this intriguing, and ancient group of spiders.

1007

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1703   Figure 4. Phylogenetic tree inferred from combined AHE loci and transcriptomic data

1704   ("DNAAA" matrix). Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted in

1705   RAxML. Asterisk marks placement of *Paratropis* within Crassitarsae. Boxes near the branches

1706   denote bootstrap support values; colors correspond to distinct support level categories depicted

1707   on left.

1708

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sampling locations depicted in the map as follows: yellow=South America, orange=Africa,

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1722

Figure 6. Ancestral areas of distribution inferred with DEC analyses implemented in RASP. Tree

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combination of thereof depicted in the combined area legend on the left. Biogeographic events

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1731

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1733   state reconstruction of foraging type using an equal rates model in the R-package *corHMM* with

1734   cursorial hunting taxa treated as inapplicable (?); tree was modified as ultrametric; AICc =

1735   173.9083. Terminal tree taxa are color coded according the type of spinning structure depicted in

1736   the legend panel of the left.

1737

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recovered in this paper. The topology corresponds to the arrangement obtained in the

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represent unsupported relationships: left ML bootstrap support < 70%, right Bayesian inference

Posterior Probability< 0.95, SH-aLRT < 95). Filled box=node supported only in Bayesian

inference, otherwise relationships supported in both analyses.

1744

1745   Table 1. Taxon counts obtained from the World Spider Catalog (2018), undescribed and undetermined genera marked with *.

1746

Taxon	# genera	# species	# genera sampled in this study
Actinopodidae	3	69	1
Antrodiaetidae	2	35	2
Atracidae	3	35	2
Atypidae	3	54	3
Barychelidae	42	295	3
Ctenizidae	3	54	3
Cyrtaucheniidae	11	109	4 + 1*
Dipluridae	26	199	11
Euctenizidae	7	76	7 + 1*
Hexathelidae	7	45	1
Halonoproctidae	6	84	5
Idiopidae	22	374	9

Macrothelidae	1	29	1
Mecicobothriidae	4	9	1
Microstigmatidae	7	17	1
Migidae	11	97	4
Nemesiidae	45	420	18
Paratropididae	4	11	1
Porrhothelidae	1	5	1
Theraphosidae	146	989	7 + 1*
Mygalomorphae	354	3006	88

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1749   Table 2. Maximum likelihood topology test results: obs, the observed log-likelihood difference to the best unconstraint topology (Fig.

1750   3), AU, p-value of the approximately unbiased test conducted in CONSEL; np, bootstrap probability calculated from the multiscale

1751   bootstrap; significant results (P<0.05) *

1752

1753

Family/Grouping	Constraint hypothesis	Included taxa	obs	AU	np
Ctenizidae	Ctenizidae_h1	*Conothele, Cteniza, Cyclocosmia, Cyrtocarenum, Hebestatis, Latouchia, Stasimopus, Ummidia*	2049.1	2e-05*	3e-05
	Ctenizidae_h2	*Conothele, Cteniza, Cyclocosmia, Cyrtocarenum, Hebestatis, Latouchia, Ummidia*	874.9	3e-44*	4e-16
	Ctenizidae_h3	*Cteniza, Cyrtocarenum, Stasimopus*	1906.6	6e-05*	1e-06
Cyrtaucheniidae	Cyrtaucheniidae_h1	*Amblyocarenum, Ancylotrypa, Cyrtaucheniidae sp., Cyrtauchenius, Homostola*	15966.1	3e-40*	6e-15
	Cyrtaucheniidae_h2	*Amblyocarenum, Ancylotrypa, Cyrtauchenius*	3487.7	6e-05*	2e-05
Dipluridae	Dipluridae_h1	*Allothele, Australothele, Cethegus, Diplura, Euagrus, Harmonicon, Ischnothele, Linothele, Microhexura, Namirea, Thelechoris*	7064.5	2e-07*	2e-07
	Dipluridae_h2	*Allothele, Australothele, Cethegus, Euagrus, Ischnothele, Microhexura, Namirea, Thelechoris*	156.8	0.007*	0.006

	Dipluridae_h3	*Bymainiella, Allothele, Australothele, Cethegus, Euagrus, Ischnothele, Microhexura, Namirea, Thelechoris*	157.0	0.006*	0.006
	Dipluridae_h4_astral	*Porrhothele, Bymainiella, Allothele, Australothele, Cethegus, Euagrus, Ischnothele, Microhexura, Namirea, Thelechoris*	157.1	0.007*	0.006
Hexathelidae	Hexathelidae_h1	*Atrax, Bymainiella, Hadronyche, Macrothele, Porrhothele*	4719.6	1e-58*	1e-17
	Hexathelidae_h2	*Bymainiella, Macrothele, Porrhothele*	1281.5	8e-43*	6e-16
	Hexathelidae_h3	*Macrothele, Porrhothele*	523.1	1e-40*	6e-15
Nemesiidae	Nemesiidae_h1	*Acanthogonatus, Aname, Bayana, Calisoga, Entypesa, Iberesia, Ixamatus, Kiama, Kwonkan, Mexentypesa, Namea, Nemesia, Pionothele, Proshermacha, Pseudoteyl, Spiroctenus, Stanwellia, Stenoterommata, Teyl*	18386.8	3e-73*	6e-20

1754

1755

1756 Table 3. Divergence time estimates obtained by treePL algorithm (Smith and O'Meara 2012) representing taxa origins and the

1757 respective timeframe of their diversification inferred for tree topology depicted in Fig. 5. Confidence intervals (CI) for the highest

1758 posterior density (HDP) were inferred from 100 bootstrap replicates.

Taxon origin	Age (Ma)	HDP 95% CI (Ma)	Taxon diversification	HDP 95% CI (Ma)
Mygalomorphae/Liphistiomorphae	398	397-398	Antrodiaetidae + Mecicobothriidae	83 – 38
Atypoidea/Avicularoidea	323	323	Atypidae	123 – 10
Ischnothelidae	254	259 – 247	Ischnothelidae	125 – 118
Microhexuridae	225	232 – 216	Euagridae	174 – 41
Hexathelidae/ Euagridae	202	209 – 192	Macrothelidae	42 – 31
Porrhothelidae	187	194 – 176	Paratropididae	19 – 16
Macrothelidae/Bipectina	174	179 – 162	Atracidae	12 – 11
Paratropididae	166	171 – 155	Actinopodidae	50 – 36
Crassitarsae	158	163 – 147	Stasimopidae	20 – 12
Stasimopidae	146	152 – 135	Halonoproctidae	131– 4
Domiothelina	155	161– 145	Migidae	95 – 57

Atypidae/ Antrodiaetidae + Mecicobothriidae	172	176 – 167	Idiopidae	105 – 18
Halonoproctidae	143	148 – 133	Ctenizidae	83 – 64
Migidae	140	145 – 129	Euctenizidae	89 – 31
Idiopidae	133	138 – 123	Bemmeridae	49 – 9
Bemmeridae	134	139 – 126	Barychelidae	94 – 27
Ctenizidae/ Euctenizidae	121	127 – 109	Theraphosidae	95 – 9
Nemesiidae	115	120 – 107	Nemesiidae	106 – 6
Barychelidae/ Theraphosidae	107	118 – 103	Pycnothelidae	84 – 26
Atracidae/ Actinopodidae	98	102 – 89	Dipluridae	57 – 37
Pycnothelidae	102	109 – 96	Cyrtaucheniidae	70 – 1
Dipluridae/ Cyrtaucheniidae	90	98 – 85	Entypesidae	28 – 21
Anaminidae	88	92 – 81	Microstigmatidae	70 – 54
Entypesidae/Microstigmatidae	79	84 – 70	Anaminidae	47 – 5

1759

1760

1761   Figure 1. Phylogenetic relationships of mygalomorph families reconstructed from morphological

1762   characters: (a) Raven's classification scheme (Raven 1985), (b) results of the first cladistic

1763   analyses performed by Goloboff (1993). Poly- and paraphyletic lineages are indicated by grey

1764   boxes.

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(*18S*, *28S*) in the first molecular analyses of the infraorder (Hedin and Bond 2006), (b) inferred

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corner. One filled box indicates full support in all analyses; white box=topology not recovered in

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1778

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Figure 4. Phylogenetic tree of inferred combined AHE loci and transcriptomic data ("DNAAA"

matrix). Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted in RAxML.

Asterisk marks placement of *Paratropis* within Crassitarsae. Boxes near the branches denote

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breakup, asterisk=long distance dispersal. Left corner: Map showing the position of the

continents (a) prior to Gondwana breakup (adapted from (Will and Frimmel 2018), thick black

lines mark the zones of continental drifting, times indicate the initiation of drifting in each zone;

(b) present day. Terminal tree taxa are color coded according to geographic areas of their

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green=Antarctica (no taxa assigned).

1799

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implemented in RASP. Tree topology obtained in ExaBayes. Terminal tree taxa are color coded

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1824

1825   APPENDIX 1: Revised Taxonomy for some of the families of the Spider Infraorder

1826   Mygalomorphae (Araneae)

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1828   SUPPLEMENTAL FILES:

1829

1830   Data available from the Dryad Digital Repository: http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.[NNNN]

1831

1832   *Tables and Figures*

1833

1834   Table S1: Specimen locality data

1835

1836   Table S2: Specimens used in the combined analyses of genomic and transcriptomic data

1837   (DNAAA_matrix). AHE dataset: specimens sequenced in this study, AA dataset: data

1838   proceeding from Garrison et al. (2016) "BCC-75" matrix.

1839

1840   Table S3: Character coding for web type ancestral state reconstruction

1841

1842   Supplemental Figure 1. Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted

1843   in RAxML. Values on the nodes correspond to bootstrap support.

1844

1845   Supplemental Figure 2. Tree topology obtained in Bayesian inference (BI) analyses conducted in

1846   ExaBayes. Values on the nodes correspond to the Bayesian posterior probability (PP).

1847

1848   Supplemental Figure 3. Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted

1849   in IQ-TREE. Values on the nodes correspond to SH-aLRT support.

1850

Supplemental Figure 4. Phylogenetic tree inferred after removal of Paratropididae terminals

("No_Paratropis" dataset). Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses

conducted in RAxML. Boxes near the branches denote full bootstrap support values; numbers

report bootstrap support values obtained in this analysis (black) and the analysis of the full

"All_taxa" dataset (red). Asterisks mark differences in topology obtained from the "All_taxa"

dataset.

1857

1858   Supplemental Figure 5. Tree topology obtained in species tree analysis conducted in ASTRAL.

1859   Values on the nodes correspond to the ASTRAL support values.

1860

Supplemental Figure 6. Comparison of resulting tree topologies obtained by concatenated

analyses conducted in RAxML and ExaBayes (left) and species tree approach conducted in

ASTRAL (right). Asterisks mark differences in topologies. Doted grey line denote array of

lineages forming a highly supported clade in species tree analysis. Boxes on nodes denote

support values obtained in each approach, color coded according to distinct support level

categories depicted in bottom left corner in following order (left to right): RAxML bootstrap

support, ExaBayes Bayesian posterior probabilities, ASTRAL support values.

1868

1869

Supplemental Figure 7. Divergence time estimates of mygalomorph spiders inferred by treePL

on a topology obtained in RAxML, values near the nodes correspond to the inferred timing of the

divergences. Numbered nodes represent placement of the calibrations and their minimum and

maximum ages (in brackets), 1) Mygalomorphae (Garrison et al. 2016; Fernández et al. 2018), 2)

Avicularoidea: *Rosamygale grauvogely* (Selden and Gall 1992), 3) "Nemesioidea": *Cretamygale*

chasei (Selden 2002), 4) Atypoidea: *Ambiortiphagus ponomarenkoi* (Eskov and Zonshtein

1990), 5) *Ummidia* (Wunderlich 2011). The x-axis is time in million years.

1877

1878   Supplemental Figure 8. Divergence time estimates of mygalomorph spiders inferred by treePL

1879   on a topology obtained in RAxML, values near the nodes correspond to the confidence intervals

1880   (CI) for the highest posterior density (HDP) inferred from 100 bootstrap replicates. The x-axis is

1881   time in million years.

1882

Supplemental Figure 9. Phylogenetic tree of Mygalomorphae summarizing results from

concatenated and species tree approaches within a framework of a current classification scheme

(World Spider Catalog 2018). Topology obtained in the Maximum Likelihood analyses. Boxes

on nodes denote support values obtained in each approach (left to right): RAxML bootstrap

support, ExaBayes Bayesian posterior probabilities (PP), ASTRAL support values, IQ-Tree SH-

aLRT support values. Colour of the boxes corresponds to distinct support level categories

depicted in bottom left corner. One filled box indicates full support in all analyses; white

box=topology not recovered in species tree analysis.

1891

1892   *Data Files*

1893

1894 ASTRAL_all_taxa.tre

1895 ASTRAL_all_taxa.trees

1896 ExaBayes_all_taxa.tre

1897 RASP_ingroup.tre_dis.csv

1898 RAxML_DNAAA.nex

1899 RAxML_DNAAA.tre

1900 RAxML_DNAAA_partitions.txt

1901 RAxML_ExaBayes_all_taxa.nex

1902 RAxML_ExaBayes_all_taxa_partitions.txt

1903 RAxML_No_Paratropis.nex

1904 RAxML_No_Paratropis.tre

1905 RAxML_No_Paratropis_partitions.txt

1906 RAxML_all_taxa.tre

1907 silkUseAncStateRecon.txt

1908 treePL_dated.tre

1909 **Taxonomic Appendix: Revised Taxonomy for some of the families of the Spider Infraorder**

1910 **Mygalomorphae (Araneae)**

1911

1912 **Jason E. Bond[1], Vera Opatova[1], and Marshal Hedin[2]**

1913

1914 [1]*Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, USA*

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1916

1917 **Families remaining unchanged in their composition**

1918

Actinopodidae – Atracidae (The Venom Clade)

Remarks. The family Atracidae comprises three genera endemic to eastern Australia. Formerly

designated as the "hexathelid" subfamily Atracinae (Gray 2010), the group was recently elevated

to family level by Hedin et al. (2018) and supported by the topology test performed on our

dataset. Contrary to the hypothesis based on morphological characters (Raven 1985; Goloboff

1993), Atracidae has consistently been recovered as sister to Actinopodidae (Hedin and Bond

2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; Hamilton et al. 2016b; Hedin et al. 2018), further

corroborated by our results. Actinopodidae comprises three genera with a disjunct South

American – Australian distribution and on the basis of morphological characters (eyes widely

spread across the carapace), was placed as sister to Migidae (Raven 1985; Goloboff 1993).

However, this relationship has never been supported in any molecular phylogenetic study.

Despite the differences in the morphology of the families, the phylogenetic proximity of

Atracidae/Actinopodidae is supported not only by the overwhelming amount of evidence

proceeding from molecular data, but also by similarities in venom composition (for details see

Hedin et al. (2018). Certain members of both families are medically important; the bites of the

Sydney funnel-web spider, *Atrax robustus*, cause lethal or life-threatening conditions, and other

taxa can also be dangerous to humans (Isbister et al. 2005, 2015). The Atracidae/Actinopodidae

clade was recovered within the Bipectina, which contradicts the results of a number of previous

analyses (Goloboff 1993; Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012). Unfortunately, the exact

relationships of the Atracidae/Actinopodidae with other taxa remain uncertain. The group was

consistently placed in all analyses as sister to the Stasimopidae, although with varying degrees of

support (see below). In our analyses, both families were represented by two out of three genera;

Atrax and *Hadronyche* for Atracidae, and *Actinopus* and *Missulena* for Actinopodidae, however,

the monophyly of both families, based on complete generic sampling, appears to be strong

(Hedin et al. 2018).

1944

1945   Antrodiaetidae – Megahexuridae – Atypidae – Mecicobothriidae - Hexurellidae

1946   Remarks. Atypoid spider classification has recently undergone major revision with the

1947   designation of new families and phylogenetic structure; see Hedin et al. (2019).

1948

Barychelidae

Remarks. Barychelidae is a highly diverse family (42 genera, 495 species) with a Gondwanan

distribution spanning continental islands and also remote islands of volcanic origin (Raven 1994)

indicating the ability to disperse. Like Theraphosidae, Barychelidae possess well developed

scopulae and dense claw tufts, but differs in the number of cuspules, clavate trichobothria, and

the shape of the maxillary anterior lobe (Raven 1985; Dippenaar-Schoeman 2002). Due to the

potential ambiguity of these characters (Raven 1985; Goloboff 1993; Bond et al. 2012) some

authors have considered Barychelidae, at least in part, a paraphyletic lineage of Theraphosidae

(Goloboff 1993). Stemming from differences in character state interpretations, taxa tend to

vacillate between the two families, with proposed membership by some authors in one family

(Raven 1985; Guadanucci 2014) to be later rejected by others (Gallon 2002; Schmidt 2002; Ríos

Tamayo 2017). One example of this problem, the family placement of *Brachionopus* (Raven

1985; Gallon 2002; Schmidt 2002) was not successfully resolved until the implementation of a

molecular approach (Lüddecke et al. 2018). With our limited sampling, we recovered the

reciprocal monophyly of both Barychelidae and Theraphosidae. However, a thorough sampling

of both families will be needed to stabilize the family boundaries. Barychelidae (as currently

defined) is composed of two common and divergent "phenotypes" (a "naked" group that is much

less setose and resemble most mygalomorph groups, and a "hairy" group that resemble small

theraphosids. These two "phenotypes" have been the major drivers of taxa historically bouncing

back and forth between the two families.

1969

1970   Euctenizidae

1971   Remarks. The group was originally designated as a subfamily of Cyrtaucheniidae (Raven 1985),

1972   but with increasing amount of evidence for a non-monophyletic Cyrtaucheniidae (Bond and

1973   Opell 2002; Bond and Hedin 2006), Euctenizidae were elevated to family level (Bond et al.

1974   2012). The family comprises 76 species within seven genera across a North American

1975   distribution (Bond 2017). We sampled all described genera and recovered the family as

1976   monophyletic, as well as the sister group to Ctenizidae (*sensu* this study) and Idiopidae.

1977

1978   Halonoproctidae

1979   Remarks. The family currently comprises six genera and has a nearly cosmopolitan distribution.

1980   It was recently removed from Ctenizidae (Godwin et al. 2018), whose monophyly was doubted

1981   both on morphological (Raven 1985) and molecular grounds (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al.

1982   2012; Opatova et al. 2013). Similar to Godwin et al. (2018), we recovered Halonoproctidae as

1983   monophyletic in all analyses. Furthermore, the topology test rejected the monophyly of the

1984   family Ctenizidae (*sensu* Raven (1985)) as well as the monophyly of Halonoproctidae +

1985   Ctenizidae (*sensu* this study), verifying the status of the family within the context of a wider

1986   taxonomic framework. It should be noted that we did not include the genus *Bothriocyrtum* in our

1987   analyses, but given its stable position as sister to *Hebestatis* (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al.

1988   2012; Opatova et al. 2013; Godwin et al. 2018), we believe that it had little to no effect on the

1989   resulting topology and support values.

1990

Hexathelidae – Porrhothelidae – Macrothelidae

Remarks. The monophyly of the family Hexathelidae in its original composition (*sensu* Raven

(1985)) has been challenged on molecular grounds on numerous occasions (Hedin and Bond

2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; Opatova and Arnedo 2014a; Hamilton et al. 2016b).

Formal taxonomic changes were put on hold until the implementation of UCEs alongside

complete generic sampling which resulted in parceling of the family Hexathelidae (*sensu* Raven

(1985)) into four distinct families (Hedin et al. 2018). We sampled all the families in our

analyses and similar to the results of Hedin et al. (2018), we recovered the families Hexathelidae,

Porrhothelidae and Macrothelidae among the early branching lineages near the Avicularioidea

root; though Atracidae, was recovered within the Bipectina clade sister to Actinopodidae. The

family Hexathelidae now comprises nine genera with a disjunct distribution (Australia, New

Zealand, South America), of which we only sampled the Australian *Bymainiella*. It was

recovered as sister to the family Euagridae with high support, which was previously indicated by

EF-1g data (Ayoub et al. 2007), albeit the support for this relationship was low. Both

Porrhothelidae and Macrothelidae were recovered as stand-alone lineages placed near the

Avicularioidea root node. Both lineages are monogeneric and were previously considered sister

taxa (Raven 1985), but this relationship was statistically rejected in the past (Opatova and

Arnedo 2014a) and their unique position appears stable even in light of considerable genomic

data ((Hedin et al. 2018); this study). Given the wide taxonomic framework of our analyses, we

tested the monophyly of the family Hexathelidae, in its original composition (*sensu* Raven

(1985)), as well the alternative arrangement recovered in the species tree analysis (Table 2); both

were statistically rejected, confirming Hedin et al. (2018).

Note. Because the new family Porrhothelidae was electronically published but not registered in

ZooBank, the online registration system for the ICZN it is redscribed here.

2015

2016   Family Porrhothelidae (NEW FAMILY) Hedin and Bond

2017

2018   **Type genus:** *Porrhothele* Simon, 1892 [urn:lsid:nmbe.ch:spidergen:00021] (type species

2019   *Porrhothele antipodiana* (Walkenaer, 1837).

2020

2021   **Diagnosis:** As a consequence of its monotypy, characters used to diagnose the family

2022   Porrhothelidae are those characters attributed to the type genus. *Porrhothele* was thoroughly

2023   diagnosed and described by Forster (1968) with additions by Raven (1980). Members of this

2024   family can be diagnosed on the basis of the following unique combination of characters: 1) small

2025   posterior sternal sigilla; 2) single row of promarginal cheliceral teeth; 3) male tibia swollen with

2026   dense pattern of strong promarginal spines (illustrated in Forster (1968) e.g., p. 170, figs. 543–

2027   548). This monotypic family is found in New Zealand.

2028

2029   Idiopidae

2030   Remarks. Idiopids are another family with predominantly Gondwanan distribution (South

2031   America, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand), though some species are also known from

2032   the Middle East and Central America. The family is well characterized by male palpal

2033   synapomorphies (Raven 1985) and its monophyly has never been called into question by

2034   previous studies (Goloboff 1993; Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012).

2035   Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the family was recovered as monophyletic in our analyses.

2036   Idiopids are among the most diverse of the mygalomorphs; the family comprises 22 genera and

2037   three subfamilies: Arbanitinae, Genysinae and Idiopinae (Raven 1985; Rix et al. 2017c), of

2038   which we did not sample Genysinae. The position of Idiopidae within the Domiothelina clade

2039   was consistently recovered by both morphological (Goloboff 1993) and molecular approaches

2040   (Bond et al. 2012), but given the incomplete sampling of the family Ctenizidae (*sensu* Raven

2041   (1985)), the position within the clade varied. In our analyses, the family was placed as sister to

2042   Ctenizidae and Euctenizidae with high support.

2043

2044   Migidae

2045   Remarks. The family Migidae currently comprises 11 genera with a classical Gondwanan

2046   distribution (Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Madagascar and South America). The family is

2047   well defined morphologically as taxa having longitudinal keels on cheliceral fangs and lack a

2048   rastellum (Raven 1985; Griswold and Ledford 2001). Similar to previous studies (Hedin and

2049   Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012), our taxon sampling is rather limited. We only sampled four

2050   genera, lacking a neotropical representative; therefore, we cannot assess the monophyly of the

2051   group. The family has been recovered as sister to either *Stasimopus* (Hedin and Bond 2006) or

2052   Halonoproctidae (Bond et al. 2012), as well as in close proximity to Idiopidae and Euctenizidae

2053   (Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012), as we report here. In the concatenated analyses, the family

2054   was recovered with high support as sister to all the remaining Domiothelina taxa, except for

2055   Halonoproctidae. Despite the congruent topology, this relationship was poorly supported in the

2056   species tree analysis.

2057

Paratropididae

Remarks. Paratropididae is a poorly known, and highly distinct family comprising four genera

known from Central and South America. Its phylogenetic placement has been regarded as

"difficult" (Bond et al. 2012), given the conflict between the morphology-based hypotheses and

the results of molecular analyses. The family was originally placed within a clade

"Theraphosoidina", alongside the Theraphosidae and Barychelidae (Raven 1985; Goloboff

1993), however this relationship has never been recovered in any molecular analyses (Hedin and

Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012; Hamilton et al. 2016b) and, in fact, a close relationship between

Paratropididae and any other mygalomorph taxon has never been supported. Instead, the

paratropidids were placed among the grade of early branching Avicularioidea (Hedin and Bond

2006; Bond et al. 2012). In our analyses, the paratropidids represent a stand-alone lineage

diverging at the root of Bipectina, however, similar to previous studies (Hedin and Bond 2006;

Bond et al. 2012), we only sampled representatives of the genus *Paratropis*. This not only

precludes the evaluation of the family's monophyly, but may also be a mitigating factor in

placing it on the tree. Moreover, the stand-alone status of the lineage may also have an impact on

the inferred tree topology as a whole, a fact demonstrated by the improved support values at

particular nodes and the topology changes in the unsupported nodes after paratropidids were

removed from the dataset (Supplemental Fig. 4). Our exploratory analysis combining AHE and

transcriptomic data recovered paratropidids with high support as sister to the "Nemesioidina"

clade (Fig. 5). However, the sampling in this analysis was limited both in terms of taxa and data

occupancy. Despite the equivocal nature of the placement of *Paratropis* within the Bipectina, it

seems clear that there is no support for its placement within Theraphosoidina (*sensu* Raven

(1985)).

2081

Theraphosidae

Remarks. The family Theraphosidae is the most diverse family of mygalomorphs with a nearly

cosmopolitan distribution. Currently comprising 144 genera and over 970 species, the family is

well-defined (aside from Barychelidae) by dense claw tufts and leg scopulae (Raven 1985). The

monophyly is generally undoubted (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012; Lüddecke et al.

2018; Turner et al. 2018), although paraphyly with respect to Barychelidae has occurred due to

taxon misplacement (Goloboff 1993; Bond et al. 2012). Until recent molecular phylogenetics

work (Lüddecke et al. 2018; Turner et al. 2018), attempts to reconstruct the internal relationships

of Theraphosidae mostly relied on the analysis of morphological characters (Pérez-Miles 1994;

Pérez-Miles et al. 1996; Pérez-Miles 2002; Guadanucci 2005, 2011; Guadanucci 2014).

Molecular approaches have become more common to resolve taxonomic issues at shallow levels,

such as species delimitation or uncovering species-specific phylogeographic patterns (Hamilton

et al. 2011; Hendrixson et al. 2013; Hamilton et al. 2014; Graham et al. 2015; Montes de Oca et

al. 2016; Ortiz et al. 2018). In our analyses, we sampled eight genera from North and South

America, Africa, and Asia, recovering the family as monophyletic in all the analyses. The

subfamily Theraphosinae, here represented by the tribe Theraphosini (*Aphonopelma*,

Cyrthopholis, *Sericopelma* and *Stichoplastoris*) (Turner et al. 2018), was also recovered with

high support. On the other hand, our results substantiate the para- or polyphyletic status of the

subfamily Ischnocolinae, already debated on the basis of morphological characters (Raven 1985;

Guadanucci 2005; Guadanucci 2014; Guadanucci and Wendt 2014) and karyotype structure

(Král et al. 2013). The genus *Catumiri* (Ischnocolinae) was recovered as sister to the rest of the

theraphosid lineages, whereas *Ischnocolus*, regarded as the most "basal group" of the family

(Raven 1985), appears to be related to Ornitoctoninae and Harpactirinae (here represented by

Brachionopus). The non-monophyletic status of higher-level taxonomic units, and apparent

polyphyly of some wide spread genera arises from high levels of homoplasy in the

morphological characters traditionally used in Theraphosidae taxonomy (Guadanucci and Wendt

2014; Gabriel and Longhorn 2015; Hamilton et al. 2016a; Turner et al. 2018). Molecular

approaches and more thorough taxonomic sampling will be essential to establishing an accurate

classification scheme reflecting the evolutionary relationships within the family.

2111

2112

2113 *denotes genera included in analyses in the accompanying paper (Opatova et al. 2019); @*

2114 *denotes that the taxon was definitively placed by another study supporting the designated*

2115 *placement here*

2116

2117 **Relimitation of the family Dipluridae Simon, 1889**

2118

Family Dipluridae Simon, 1889 (new circumscription)

In our analyses, the family Dipluridae is represented by three South American genera *Diplura*,

Linothele and *Harmonicon* belonging to the diplurid subfamily Diplurinae (Raven 1985). We

recovered the Dipluridae as sister to Cyrtaucheniidae placed within the same clade alongside

Nemesiidae. These results are roughly congruent with Goloboff (Goloboff 1993), who analyzed

four genera of diplurids (*sensu* Raven (1985)) and recovered *Diplura* as the sister to the rest of

the Bipectina clade. As in Raven (1985), Goloboff (1993) also noted shared characters in

Diplura and the Crassitarsae, and hypothesized that the diplurids would be restricted to the

subfamily Diplurinae in the future. Unfortunately, we did not conduct an exhaustive sampling of

the "diplurid" genera and acknowledge that even after removing the Euagridae, Ischnothelidae

and Microhexuridae the family likely remains non-monophyletic. Given the rough congruence

between Raven's diplurid subfamilies (Raven 1985) and the lineages removed from the

Dipluridae in this study, it is possible that the distinct subfamily Masteriinae (Raven 1985;

Passanha and Brescovit 2018) will be elevated to family status as well.

2133

2134 **Type genus: *Diplura*** C. L. Koch, 1850 (type species *Mygale macrura* Koch, 1841)

2135

Remarks. The family Dipluridae is relimited here to include members of the subfamilies

Diplurinae Simon, 1889 and Masteriinae Simon, 1889. Of the Diplurinae genera, *Trechona* C. L.

Koch, 1850 and *Troglodiplura* Main, 1969 were not included in our analysis but are nevertheless

retained, at least until such time that they are included in a molecular study; *Trechona's* inclusion

appears justified based on stridulatory and palpal endite characters (Raven 1985), whereas Main

(1993) justifies the placement of *Troglodiplura* in Diplurinae contra Raven (1985). The relimited

family herein conservatively also includes Masteriinae which we predict is likely to be

recognized as a standalone family, closely related to Microhexuridae at some point in the future;

the subfamily was recently reviewed by Passanha and Brescovit (2018), however, the authors

provide no insight regarding affinities to other mygalomorph taxa. The relimited Dipluridae will

require a significantly revised diagnosis at some point in the future.

2147

2148 **List of included subfamilies and genera**

2149

Diplurinae Simon, 1889

*Diplura C. L. Koch, 1850

*Harmonicon F. O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1896

*Linothele Karsch, 1879

Trechona C. L. Koch, 1850

Troglodiplura Main, 1969

2156

2157 **Masteriinae Simon, 1889**

2158 *Masteria* C. L. Koch, 1873

2159   *Siremata* Passanha and Brescovit, 2018

2160   *Striamea* Raven, 1981

2161

Family Ischnothelidae F.O.P Cambridge, 1897 NEW RANK

The family corresponds to the former diplurid subfamily Ischnothelinae, defined by six

morphological synapomorphies (Raven 1985; Coyle 1995). In our analyses, we sampled the

genera *Ischnothele* (South America) and *Thelechoris* (Africa) and recovered these together in all

analyses. In previous analyses based on morphological characters, *Ischnothele* was placed as a

sister group to Bipectina (Goloboff 1993), but our results suggest that ischnothelids belong

among the first groups that diverged within the Avicularioidea clade. Given the morphological

cohesiveness of the group, and the fact that it was thoroughly revised in the past (Coyle 1995),

we retain all the genera of the subfamily Ischnothelinae (Raven 1985; Coyle 1995) despite our

incomplete sampling. The family Ischnothelidae comprises five genera (*Andethele*, *Indothele*,

Ischnothele, *Latrothele*, *Thelechoris*) with a disjunct distribution spanning across Central and

South America, the Antilles, Africa, Madagascar, India and Sri Lanka. All genera build

conspicuous three-dimensional webs and often exhibit subsocial behavioral (Coyle 1995).

2175

2176   **Type genus: *Ischnothele*** Ausserer, 1875 (type species *Ischnothele caudata* Ausserer, 1875)

2177

Remarks. Our sampling of ischonothelines comprised two genera that span the taxonomic

breadth of the subfamily (Coyle 1995, Figures 21, 22) but omit three others. As discussed by

Coyle (1995) in his revision of the subfamily, the group is supported by a number of unique

morphological characters that taken in combination can be used for diagnosis. Distinguishing

characteristics for this newly elevated family are: 1) an elongate cymbial apophysis; 2)

collariform trichobothrial bases; and 3) fused silk spigots.

2184

2185 *List of included genera*

2186

2187 *Ischnothele* Ausserer, 1875

2188 *Andethele* Coyle, 1995

2189 *Indothele* Coyle, 1995

2190 *Lathrothele* Benoit, 1965

2191 *Thelechoris* Karsch, 1881

2192

Family Euagridae Raven, 1979 NEW RANK

The family roughly corresponds to the former subfamily Euagrinae (Raven 1985) that currently

comprises 11 genera with distribution spanning across Australia, Asia, Africa, and South and

North America. Euagrinae differ from other "diplurids" by a combined lack of cuspules and

broad and short serrula. In our analyses, we only sampled five Euagrinae genera: *Allothele*,

Australothele, *Cethegus*, *Euagrus* and *Namirea*, which were all recovered forming a

monophyletic group towards the root node of Avicularioidea. Similar results were obtained in

previous analyses (Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012), though with limited taxon sampling.

The internal relationships of these taxa resemble their morphological affinities (Raven 1985).

The "austral genera" possess a crescent of hirsute cuticle at the base of the posterior median

spinnerets ("australothelinae crescent") and were recovered as a monophyletic group sister to

Euagrus that lacks this character (Raven 1985; Coyle 1988). The lack of a strong synapomorphy

uniting the "austral" genera and *Euagrus + Phyxioschema* (Raven 1985; Coyle 1988) alongside

deep divergence dating back to nearly 169 Ma (174 – 161), would provide the support for the

division of Euagrinae in two different families. However, the decision would be premature given

our taxon sampling, which represents less than half of the described generic diversity of

Diplurinae, and in particular, lacks representatives of the subfamily Masteriinae (Raven 1985) –

a group that overlaps in some characters with Euagrinae. We therefore prefer to elevate the

subfamily Euagrinae to family rank, retaining its current generic composition – i.e., the taxa

sampled in this paper along with the genera *Caledothele*, *Carrai*, *Chilehexops*, *Leptothele*,

Phyxioschema, *Stenygrocercus* and *Vilchura.*

2214

2215   **Type genus: *Euagrus*** Ausserer, 1875 (type species *Euagrus mexicanus* Ausserer, 1875)

2216

Remarks and revised diagnosis. Unfortunately, our sampling of Euagrinae diplurids is

depauperate (and should include other *Euagrus* species, see below) and thus our placement of the

remaining diplurids in the subfamily Euagrinae follows authors subsequent to Raven's (1985)

establishment of the family (i.e., inclusion in the subfamily is maintained per Raven (1991),

Coyle (1986), Raven and Schwendinger (1995), and Ríos-Tamayo and Goloboff (2017)). Note

that *Euagrus*, was considered by Coyle (1988) to be largely central/south American with the two

species, *Euagrus atropurpureus* (S. Africa) and *Euagrus formosanus* (Taiwan) as misplaced. It is

important to recognize that some of these taxa may be allocated to other formerly "diplurid"

families at some point in the future (e.g., *Chilehexops, Caledothele, Vilchura*). Although

morphological evidence (*sensu* Coyle (1988)) seems strong that *Phyxioschema* is the sister group

to *Euagrus*, the morphological cladistic analysis conducted by Ríos-Tamayo and Goloboff

(2017) provides little encouragement that the subfamily is monophyletic and should indicate that

any morphological diagnosis of this remaining assemblage of taxa is likely without substance.

Following Raven (1985), the family can be diagnosed as those taxa having a distinct spur on the

second male tibia and a centrally raised tarsal organ (also following from Ríos-Tamayo and

Goloboff (2017)); Euagrinae taxa differ from australothelines by lacking an australotheline

crescent (see details in the diagnosis below).

2234

2235   *List of included Euagrinae genera*

2236

**Euagrus* Ausserer, 1875

Caledothele Raven, 1991

Chilehexops Coyle, 1986

Leptothele Raven and Schwendinger, 1995

Phyxioschema Simon, 1889

Vilchura Ríos-Tamayo and Goloboff, 2017

2243

2244   **Australothelinae NEW SUBFAMILY Bond, Opatova, and Hedin**

2245

2246   **Type genus: *Australothele* Raven, 1984 (type species *Australothele maculata* Raven, 1984)**

2247

Diagnosis: Per Raven (1985), australothelines can be diagnosed from other euagrids as those

taxa having an "australotheline crescent" on the posterior median spinnerets – which comprises a

"crescent of hirsute cuticle isolated by pallid glabrous anterior to bases" and lacking cymbial

spines (the latter character is shared by numerous other mygalomorph taxa (mentioned by Ríos-

Tamayo and Goloboff (2017)). As noted by Raven (1985), a similar such crescent is also found

in the putatively true diplurid genus *Masteria*. The subfamily is also supported as monophyletic

in the analysis conducted by Ríos-Tamayo and Goloboff (2017) and Hedin et al. (2018).

2255

2256   *List of genera included*

2257

*Australothele Raven, 1984

*Allothele Tucker, 1920

Carrai Raven, 1984

*Cethegus Thorell, 1881

*Namirea Raven, 1984

Stenygrocercus Simon, 1892

2264

Microhexuridae NEW FAMILY Bond, Opatova, and Hedin

Family Microhexuridae (NEW FAMILY).—Microhexuridae is a monogeneric family comprising

two nominal species endemic to North America. Both species are very small (> 6 mm) and have

allopatric distributions restricted to the high-elevation peaks in the Appalachian Mountains and

Pacific Northwest Cascade Range (Coyle 1981; Hedin et al. 2015). Despite being recognized as a

diplurid (*sensu* Raven (1985)), *Microhexura* exhibits a combination of characters not present in

other diplurid genera. Most notably *Microhexura* possess a longitudinal fovea and spinnerets

somewhat shorter than in other diplurids, which made the genus difficult to place (Coyle 1981;

Raven 1985). The unique position of the genus noted in the previous studies (Coyle 1981; Raven

1985) is further supported by our results that recovered the genus *Microhexura* as a stand-alone

lineage among other "non-diplurine diplurids" at the base of the Avicularioidea clade. The

topology test results reject both its placement within the Dipluridae (*sensu* Raven (1985)), but

also within the "non-diplurine diplurids"/Hexathelidae/Porrhothelidae clade recovered in the

species tree analyses.

2279

2280   **Type genus.** *Microhexura* Crosby and Bishop, 1925 (type species *Microhexura montivaga*

2281   Crosby and Bishop, 1925)

2282

2283   **Diagnosis**: Because the family is monogeneric, characters used to diagnose Microhexuridae are

2284   those that can be attributed to the genus by Coyle (1981). Among the smallest mygalomorph

2285   spiders known, the family is diagnosed on the basis of the following unique combination of

2286   characters: 1) longitudinal fovea; 2) four spinnerets – posterior lateral spinnerets long (nearly the

2287   length of the abdomen); 3) lacking abdominal tergites; and 4) male pedipalp lacking conductor.

2288

2289   *List of included genera*

2290

2291   **Microhexura* Crosby and Bishop, 1925

2292

2293   **Relimitation of the family Ctenizidae Thorell, 1887**

2294

Ctenizidae Thorell, 1887 (new circumscription)

The generic composition of the family Ctenizidae was dramatically altered by Raven's (1985)

morphology-based cladistic analysis, but it became apparent that the family most likely

comprised an assemblage of diverse lineages that do not share a common ancestor (Hedin and

Bond 2006). This observation was repeatedly confirmed by subsequent molecular-based studies

(Bond et al. 2012; Opatova et al. 2013; Wheeler et al. 2017). However, a lack of perceived

phylogenetic signal, incomplete sampling, or a combination thereof precluded previous authors

from making taxonomic changes that would rectify the problem. The polyphyletic nature of the

family was partially resolved by Godwin et al. (2018) when six genera were transferred to the

family Halonoproctidae, circumscribing Ctenizidae to *Cteniza*, *Cyrtocarenum* and *Stasimopus*.

Godwin et al. (2018) recognized that *Stasimopus* did not share a common ancestor with the

remaining genera, but incomplete outgroup sampling limited their ability to definitively address

the phylogenetic placement of the taxon. In our analyses, we recovered *Cteniza* and

Cyrtocarenum as sister taxa, which agrees with previous findings (Opatova et al. 2013; Godwin

et al. 2018). *Cteniza* and *Cyrtocarenum* were placed as sister to the family Euctenizidae, whereas

Stasimopus was recovered outside of Domiothelina in a weakly supported clade as the sister

lineage to Atracidae and Actinopodidae. Given the distant phylogenetic position of *Stasimopus*,

with regards to the remaining ctenizids, and considering that the topology test rejected the

monophyly of the three genera, we remove *Stasimopus* from the family Ctenizidae and designate

it to the family Stasimopidae (NEW FAMILY). Ctenizidae is circumscribed to contain only the

genera *Cteniza* and *Cyrtocarenum*. The family Ctenizidae thus now constitutes a much smaller

family comprising six species with a predominantly Mediterranean distribution.

2317

2318   **Type genus**: ***Cteniza*** Latreille, 1829 (type species *Cteniza sauvagesi* (Rossi, 1788))

2319

Remarks and revised diagnosis. As discussed by others (e.g., Decae 1996; Godwin et al. 2018),

Cteniza and *Cyrtocarenum* are virtually indistinguishable from each other and are very similar to

other taxa like halonoproctids and stasimopids, save some questionable eye group characteristics.

As outlined by Godwin et al. (2018), Ctenizidae, as delimited herein, can be distinguished from

other similar taxa by lacking curved spines on the anterior legs, having a more arched and

rounded caput and flatter ventral posterior carapace, and having a more oblong abdomen (rather

than ovoid); legs tend to be less stocky. Ctenizids differ from their sister group, Euctenizidae, by

lacking scopulae.

2328

2329 *List of included genera*

2330

2331 **Cteniza* Latreille, 1829

2332 **Cyrtocarenum* Ausserer, 1871

2333

2334

Stasimopidae NEW FAMILY Bond, Opatova, and Hedin

Although the placement of *Stasimopus* within the family Ctenizidae (Raven 1985) was

repeatedly called into question based on earlier molecular studies (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond

et al. 2012; Opatova et al. 2013; Godwin et al. 2018), establishing its exact phylogenetic position

has been difficult. In previous phylogenetic studies of the entire infraorder, *Stasimopus* was

recovered as sister to Migidae (Hedin and Bond 2006), or as the sister group to the entire

Domiothelina, albeit with low support (Bond et al. 2012). Importantly, when morphological

characters were added to the analyses, *Stasimopus* was recovered within the Ctenizidae (Bond et

al. 2012), confirming the homoplasious nature of some morphological characters. Our results

place *Stasimopus* as a stand-alone lineage either forming a clade with Atracidae and

Actinopodidae or as sister to Domiothelina. The sister relationship with the "Venom Clade" was

also recovered by Hamilton et al. (2016b), though in a much reduced AHE dataset, and similarly

to our results, the clade was poorly supported. The support values for this clade increased with

the removal of the paratropidid terminals (Supplemental Fig. 4) and with addition of

transcriptomic data (Fig. 4), suggesting that adding more data to the matrix could be instrumental

for stabilizing Stasimopidae placement. Despite the partial positional uncertainty of *Stasimopus*,

the topology test rejects its inclusion within Ctenizidae. Considering the results of our analyses,

alongside the genus' restricted distribution to southern Africa – a biodiversity hotspot with high

levels of endemicity (Myers et al. 2000; Mittermeier et al. 2011), it seems that there is sufficient

evidence to support the hypothesis that *Stasimopus* represents a unique lineage within the

Mygalomorphae and deserves family-level status.

2356

2357   **Type genus: *Stasimopus*** Simon, 1892 (type species *Stasimopus caffrus* (C. L. Koch, 1842)

2358

Diagnosis: At this time, the family Stasimopidae is monogeneric, thus characteristics used to

diagnose the genus are the distinguishing characters for the family. Per Raven (1985) and

summarized by Engelbrecht and Prendini (2012), stasimopids can be distinguished from other

ctenizid-like taxa on the basis of the following combination of unique characters: 1) lacking a

saddle-like depression on tibia III; 2) having a very wide eye group (twice as wide as it is long);

and 3) palpal endites with a modified anterior lobe (described as "produced"). Based on the

breadth of morphological diversity contained within the genus, which includes somewhat bizarre

carapace modifications (Engelbrecht and Prendini 2012), it is possible that *Stasimopus* could be

split in to multiple genera at some point in the future.

2368

2369   *List of included genera*

2370

2371   **Stasimopus* Simon, 1892

2372

2373

2374   **Relimitation of the family Cyrtaucheniidae Simon, 1889**

2375

Cyrtaucheniidae Simon, 1889 (new circumscription)

Following the results of our phylogenetic analyses, we transfer the genus *Homostola* to the

newly established family Bemmeridae (NEW RANK, see below). We also formally transfer the

Mediterranean genus *Amblyocarenum* to the family Nemesiidae. The family Cyrtaucheniidae is

thus relimited to nine genera (three of them monotypic) distributed across Africa, Asia and South

America. In this study, we analyzed two African genera: *Ancylotrypa*, *Cyrtauchenius* and one

South American lineage that is morphologically proximate to *Acontius*. As a result,

Cyrtaucheniidae were recovered as monophyletic in all analyses and placed as sister to

Dipluridae. At present, we retain the genera *Acontius*, *Anemesia*, *Angka*, *Bolostromoides,*

Bolostromus, *Fufius*, and *Rhytidicolus* (not included in this study), within Cyrtaucheniidae. We

acknowledge that the family still likely remains poly- or paraphyletic, because *Fufius* is known

to have affinities with the Nemesiidae (Bond et al. 2012), however, we argue that even the partial

Cyrtaucheniidae taxon pruning performed in this study is preferable to retaining the high level of

polyphyly. This is particularly true when obtaining fresh samples may be exceptionally difficult,

especially for the African and South American representatives of the genera *Acontius* and

Bolostromus.

2392

2393

2394   **Type genus: *Cyrtauchenius*** Thorell, 1869 (type species *Cyrtauchenius terricola* (Lucas, 1846))

2395

Remarks. Long recognized as a polyphyletic assemblage of genera, we herein relimit

Cyrtaucheniidae to the Aporoptychinae minus *Kiama* and *Angka* based on Raven's (1985)

original composition of the subfamily. Given the diversity of the taxa left remaining in the

family, it is unlikely that a revised diagnosis will have any lasting value (if even possible to

formulate, given the diverse array of taxa remaining) and as such we decline to provide one. We

anticipate significant changes to the composition of the family as additional aporoptychines are

added to the tree. We justify our transfer of *Angka* to Microstigmatidae based on the original

description of the genus by Raven and Schwendinger (1995), where they considered it as a clear

sister taxon to *Kiama* (also transferred, by us below, to the family Microstigmatidae); the transfer

of *Amblyocarenum* to Nemesiidae is justified on the basis of its phylogenetic position.

2406

2407   *List of included genera*

2408

2409   **Cyrtauchenius* Thorell, 1869

2410   **Ancylotrypa* Simon, 1889

2411

2412   *Incertae sedis*

2413

Acontius Karsch, 1879

Anemesia Pocock, 1895

Bolostromoides Schiapelli and Gerschman, 1945

Bolostromus Ausserer, 1875

Fufius Simon, 1888

Rhytidicolus Simon, 1889

2420

2421   Transferred to other families (not included in the relimitation of Cyrtaucheniidae)

2422

2423   **Amblyocarenum* Simon, 1892 here transferred to Nemesiidae justified on the basis of

2424   phylogenetic placement.

2425

2426   [@]*Angka* Raven and Schwendinger, 1995 here transferred to Microstigmatidae on the basis of its

2427   putative sister relationship to *Kiama.*

2428

2429   **Homostola* Simon, 1892 here transferred to Bemmeridae justified on the basis of phylogenetic

2430   placement.

2431

2432   **Relimitation of the family Nemesiidae Simon, 1889**

2433

2434   **Nemesiidae Simon, 1889 (new circumscription)**

2435

The family Nemesiidae is a cosmopolitan group. Our sampling comprised five genera, including

the type genus *Nemesia*, spanning species sampled from three continents (Africa, Europe and

North America). These genera form a single lineage and are placed in a clade that is sister to all

the former "nemesiid" lineages plus Cyrtaucheniidae, Dipluridae and Microstigmatidae. In

agreement with our results, we transfer the genus *Spiroctenus* to the newly established family

Bemmeridae and transfer *Amblyocarenum* here from Cyrtaucheniidae (see discussion on

Cyrtaucheniidae for justification). We remove the genera *Pionothele*, *Bayana*, *Stenoterommata*,

Stanwellia, *Acanthogonatus, Pycnothele* and *Entypesa* and transfer them into newly erected

families Pycnothelidae (NEW RANK) and Entypesidae (NEW FAMILY). We further remove

the taxa included in the Anamini tribe (Harvey et al. 2018) and elevate it to the rank of family:

Anamidae (NEW RANK). We also transfer the genera *Kiama, Angka,* and *Xamiatus* to the

family Microstigmatidae (see details below). We acknowledge that many taxa, particularly those

inhabiting South America and Asia, remain severely under-sampled in our study and therefore

we cannot speak to their definitive placement at this time; as such they remain for time being

assigned to Nemesiidae *incertae sedis*.

2451

2452   **Type genus:** *Nemesia* Audouin, 1826 (type species *Nemesia cellicola* Audouin, 1826)

2453

2454   **Remarks.** To a greater extent than Cyrtaucheniidae (above), what remains of the family

2455   Nemesiidae is a likely para-polyphyletic assemblage of genera. As such we consider the

2456   placement of a large number of genera in the family to be uncertain at best; many of which may

2457   prove to be pycnothelids. Consequently, much work remains, particularly if we are able to place

2458   many of the South American genera.

2459

2460   *List of included genera*

2461

2462   *Nemesia* Audouin, 1826

2463   *Amblyocarenum* Simon, 1892

2464   *Calisoga* Chamberlin, 1937

2465   *Iberesia* Decae and Cardoso, 2006

2466   *Mexentypesa* Raven, 1987

2467

2468   *Incertae sedis*

2469

Atmetochilus Simon, 1887

Brachythele Ausserer, 1871

Chaco Tullgren, 1905

Chilelopsis Goloboff, 1995 – most likely Pycnothelidae

Damarchilus Siliwal, Molur, and Raven, 2015

Damarchus Thorell, 1891

Diplothelopsis Tullgren, 1905

Flamencopsis Goloboff, 1995

Gravelyia Mirza and Mondal, 2018

Hermacha Simon, 1902 – likely to be transferred to Entypesidae

Hermachura Mello-Leitão, 1923

Lepthercus Purcell, 1902 – likely Entypesidae

Longistylus Indicatti and Lucas, 2005; removed from Anamidae *contra* Indicatti and Lucas

(2005)

Lycinus Thorell, 1894

Neostothis Vellard, 1925

Prorachias Mello-Leitão, 1924

Psalistopoides Mello-Leitão, 1934

Pselligmus Simon, 1892

Rachias Simon, 1892; likely to be transferred to Pycnothelidae per Goloboff (1995)

Raveniola Zonshtein, 1987

Sinopesa Raven and Schwendinger, 1995

2492

2493   Transferred to other families (not included in the relimitation of Nemesiidae)

2494

2495   *Xamiatus* Raven, 1981; here transferred to Microstigmatidae on the basis of its putative

2496   sister/close relationship with *Ixamatus* and *Kiama* (Raven 1981,1985)

2497   *Ixamatus* Simon, 1887 here transferred to Microstigmatidae on the basis of its putative

2498   phylogenetic position per Harvey et al. (2018).

2499

Anamidae Simon, 1889 NEW RANK

The family Anamidae corresponds to the Australian endemic tribe Anamini (Raven 1985;

Harvey et al. 2018) formerly placed within the "nemesiid" subfamily Anaminae (Raven 1985).

The family comprises genera *Aname*, *Chenistonia*, *Hesperonatalius*, *Kwonkan*, *Namea*,

Proshermacha, *Teyl*, *Teyloides* and *Swolnpes*, of which we analyzed six (including *Pseudoteyl*

currently synonymized with *Teyl*). The family formed a monophyletic lineage in all analyses and

was recovered as sister to Entypesidae/Microstigmatidae clade. The phylogenetic relationships of

the group were recently evaluated, employing both extensive taxonomic sampling and multilocus

data (Harvey et al. 2018). Harvey et al. (2018) performed a complete generic sampling of the

Australian Anamini and recovered the group as a well-supported clade, also including genera not

sampled in our analyses. Following the results of our study and Harvey et al. (2018), we

therefore transfer all the genera listed above into the family Anamidae. Morphology and

biogeography do not support the inclusion of *Longistylus* Indicatti and Lucas, 2005 in the

Anamidae contra the tentative hypothesis proposed by Indicatti and Lucas (2005).

2514

2515   **Type genus:** *Aname* L. Koch, 1873 (type species *Aname pallida* L. Koch, 1873)

2516

2517   **Remarks.** A detailed diagnosis for this new family rank taxon is provided by Harvey et al.

2518   (2018).

2519

2520   *List of included genera*

2521

*Aname L. Koch, 1873

*Proshermacha Simon, 1908

[@]*Hesperonatalius* Castalanelli et al. 2017 per Harvey et al. (2018)

*Kwonkan Main, 1983 (=**Yilgarnia* Main, 1986)

Namea Raven, 1984

[@]*Chenistonia* Hogg 1901 per Harvey et al. (2018)

[@]*Swolnpes* Main and Framenau, 2009 per Harvey et al. (2018)

Teyl Main, 1975

[@]*Teyloides* Main, 1985 but check Bond et al. (2012) and Hedin and Bond (2006) – may be able

to place elsewhere) Harvey et al. (2018)

2532

Bemmeridae Simon, 1903 NEW RANK

The family Bemmeridae comprises 35 species classified in the genera *Homostola* and

Spiroctenus, both endemic to South Africa. The group was repeatedly recovered as sister to

Theraphosoidina (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012), which is further substantiated by our

analyses. Previous analyses also suggested the inclusion of the genus *Ancylotrypa* (Hedin and

Bond 2006), an assumption that was unfortunately based on sample misidentification. The genus

Homostola is being transferred to this family from Cyrtaucheniidae, the genus *Spiroctenus* from

Nemesiidae. Both genera comprise medium-size spiders, constructing underground burrows with

or without a trapdoor.

2542

2543   **Type genus**: ***Spiroctenus*** Simon, 1892 (type species *Spiroctenus personatus,* Simon, 1888)

2544

Remarks and Diagnosis. The family name is derived from the available family-level taxon

Bemmereae Simon, 1903; *Bemmeris* Simon, 1903 is a junior synonym of *Spiroctenus*. The

identity and consequently family-level placement of *Spiroctenus* and *Homostola* is contentious

and likely to remain so. Raven (1985) considered the two genera unrelated and placed in separate

families (Nemesiidae and Cyrtaucheniidae respectively), attributing Hewitt's (1915)

hypothesized synonym of the two to a misidentification. To date, it would seem that a male

Homostola specimen has never been described in detail, further complicating the situation (but

see Hewitt (1916)). Based on careful specimen identification and locality data, we are confident

that our sample comprises both genera. The *Spiroctenus* exemplar represents an identical male

and female sequence of *Spiroctenus flavopunctatus* (Purcell, 1903); *Homostola* terminals are

likely *H. pardalina affin.* (Hewitt, 1913) and *H. vulpecula* Simon, 1892. Based on our

examination of specimens, Bemmeridae females can be diagnosed on the basis of the following

unique combination of characters: 1) eyes on a low tubercle; 2) metatarsus and tarsus with

moderate to thick scopula; 3) preening combs on leg III; 4) labium with relatively dense patch of

cuspules; and 5) a rastellum comprising a row of thickened, blunt spines not borne on an

apophysis. Male *Spiroctenus* species have a very distinct mating clasper on leg I comprising a

number of large spines and an apophysis at the tibia/metatarsus junction; we would predict a

similar morphology for *Homostola* males.

2563

2564   *List of included genera*

2565

2566   **Homostola* Simon, 1892

2567   **Spiroctenus* Simon, 1889

2568

Pycnothelidae Chamberlin, 1917 NEW RANK

Family Pycnothelidae (NEW RANK).—The family Pycnothelidae is newly established here in

order to accommodate taxa formerly belonging to a diverse mix of "nemesiid" subfamilies

(Raven 1985). Some of the close relationships are not entirely novel. For example the sister

relationship between *Stanwellia* and *Acanthogonatus* was previously recovered by Hedin and

Bond (2006). We recovered the African genus *Pionothele*, formerly placed within the subfamily

Bemerinnae, as sister to *Spiroctenus*, and sister to all pycnothelid diversity. The family

distribution spans across Africa, Australia, South America and New Zealand, therefore it could

be expected that more genera will be eventually transferred here following a thorough

assessment, particularly of African and South American lineages.

2579

2580 **Type genus: *Pycnothele*** Chamberlin, 1917 (type species *Pycnothele perdita* Chamberlin, 1917)

2581

Remarks and Diagnosis: The genus *Pycnothele* was not included in our analysis but

hypothesized morphological affinities (Goloboff 1995), have attributed it to be closely aligned

with *Stanwellia*, *Acanthogonatus*, and *Stenoterommata*. Harvey et al. (2018) stated: "If a close

relationship between *Stanwellia*, *Acanthogonatus*, *Stenoterommata* and *Pycnothele* is

maintained, as proposed by Goloboff (1995), the subfamily-group name Pycnothelinae

Chamberlin, 1917 is available for this clade (Chamberlin 1917)." In the interests of taxonomic

stability, we believe the conservative decision is to transfer *Pycnothele* from Nemesiidae and

include it in our newly defined clade (justified on the basis of morphological similarity). The

alternative would be to propose a new family rank name (e.g., "Stanwellidae") which will be

inevitably deprecated at a later time. At this time, the family Pycnothelidae can be diagnosed on

the basis of the following unique combination of characters: 1) rastellum absent; 2) aspinose

tarsi; 3) preening combs absent, although reduced in some *Stanwellia* and *Acanthogonatus*; 4)

labium lacks cuspules; 5) tibial spur on male leg I absent; and 6) most taxa have a reduced or

absent inferior tarsal claw. We anticipate that this diagnosis might change as other nemesiids

(noted as *incertae sedis* above) are added to the tree.

2597

2598   *List of included genera*

2599

[@]*Pycnothele* Chamberlin, 1917

**Stanwellia* Rainbow and Pulleine, 1918

**Acanthogonatus* Karsch, 1880 (note: most likely polyphyletic)

**Bayana* Pérez-Miles, Costa and Montes de Oca, 2014

**Pionothele* Purcell, 1902

**Stenoterommata* Holmberg, 1881

2606

2607   **Entypesidae NEW FAMILY Bond, Opatova, and Hedin**

2608

We establish the family Entypesidae to accommodate the genus *Entypesa*, which currently

comprises 7 species known from Madagascar and South Africa. The genus was originally placed

within the nemesiid subfamily Anaminae (Raven 1985), however this taxon has been shown to

be polyphyletic (Bond et al. 2012). Despite the rather undesirable monogeneric state of the

family, we believe that establishing Entypesidae as a family is justified by both its reciprocal

monophyly in relation to its sister taxon Microstigmatidae and the deep divergence between

them, dating back to 79 Ma. We believe the monogeneric nature of the family is only temporary

and other genera (particularly fellow South African genera *Lepthercus* and *Hermacha*) will

eventually be transferred here following a thorough assessment of Nemesiidae phylogeny.

2618

2619 **Type genus: *Entypesa*** Simon, 1902 (type species *Entypesa nebulosa* Simon, 1902)

2620

Diagnosis: Because the family is monogeneric, characters used to distinguish it are those that

can be attributed to diagnosing the genus. Based on examination of specimens, Raven's (1985)

description and Dippenaar-Shoeman (2002), Entypesidae may be diagnosed on the basis of the

following unique combination of characters: 1) narrow straight thoracic groove; 2) distinctly

raised eye tubercle; 3) labium lacks cuspules; 4) weak rastellum comprising numerous short,

stout bristles; 5) dense scopula on tarsi I-III; 6) leg III preening comb, present; and 7) long,

digitiform spinnerets. We anticipate the inclusion of *Hermacha* and *Lepthercus* in this family at

some point in the future.

2629

2630 *Included genus*

2631

2632 * ***Entypesa*** Simon, 1902

2633

2634 **Relimitation of the family Microstigmatidae Roewer, 1942**

2635

Family Microstigmatidae Roewer, 1942 (new circumscription)

The family Microstigmatidae is well defined by morphological characters, such as small, round

booklung openings and pustulose cuticle (Raven 1985; Hedin and Bond 2006). The monophyly

of the family has never been assessed within a robust molecular framework because all previous

studies exclusively included the South African genus *Microstigmata* (Hedin and Bond 2006;

Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; Wheeler et al. 2017); but see (Goloboff 1993). Following

the results of our analyses we relimit the family Microstigmatidae to include the genus *Kiama*.

The morphological similarities in tarsal organ and cuticle structure linking *Kiama* to

microstigmatids are well documented (Raven 1985; Bond and Opell 2002). Similar

characteristics are also found in the genera *Ixamatus* and *Angka* (Bond et al. 2012) suggesting

their close relationships to the microstigmatids.

2647

2648 **Type genus: *Microstigmata*** Strand, 1932 (type species *Microstigmata geophila* (Hewitt, 1916))

2649

Remarks: The family Microstigmatidae was traditionally diagnosed as taxa have possessing,

circular booklung openings. With Goloboff's (1995) inclusion of *Pseudonemesia* and

Spelocteniza in the family, as well as *Envia* (*sensu* Ott and Höfer (2003)), that feature now only

serves to diagnose a subset of these relatively unique genera. Although a scaly or pustulose

cuticle may be a diagnostic character uniting all microstigmatids (Bond and Opell 2002), future

SEM study of all genera will be necessary to confirm. As noted above, the transfer of *Angka* to

the Microstigmatidae is based on its affinities with *Kiama* whose phylogenetic position clearly

aligns here.

2658

2659 *List of included genera*

2660

*Microstigmata Strand, 1932

[@]*Angka* Raven and Schwendinger, 1995

Envia Ott and Höfer, 2003

[@]*Ixamatus* Simon, 1887 transferred here per Harvey et al. 2018; as noted by Raven (1985), the

genus has a pustulose cuticle, a potentially diagnostic character of the family.

*Kiama Main and Mascord, 1969

Micromygale Platnick and Forster, 1982

Ministigmata Raven and Platnick, 1981

Pseudonemesia Caporiacco, 1955

Spelocteniza Gertsch, 1982

[@]*Xamiatus* Raven, 1981 transferred here on the basis of morphological similarity with *Ixamatus*

and its putative sister group relationship with *Kiama*; as noted by Raven (1985), the genus has a

pustulose cuticle, a potentially diagnostic character of the family.

Xenonemesia Goloboff, 1989