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 the most

comprehensive phylogenomic treatment of the spider infraorder Mygalomorphae conducted to

date. 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 performed an extensive generic sampling of 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 Hermachidae (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 both interesting and 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. Despite the enormity of the task with respect to sheer number of taxa and

characters, the computational resources at the time (hardware and software) precluded a

"modern" analysis where characters were scored for terminal taxa and then analyzed using the

phylogenetic software and algorithms available today. That is, Raven relied on careful

examination of characters across genera followed by logic-based arguments of primary and

secondary homology on hand drawn trees. 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) but more

specifically has provided the data and consequently the 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 a broad sampling of taxa from all currently recognized

families, allowing us to rigorously assess the monophyly of a number of key families (e.g.,

Cyrtaucheniidae, Nemesiidae, Dipluridae, Ctenizidae) and in particular formally address some

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

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

We also explore questions regarding the timing and biogeographical context of mygalomorph

spider diversification. We 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. Past confusion in

mygalomorph phylogeny and classification raises important questions regarding the utility of

morphological characters in phylogenetic reconstruction, particularly in a group that was already

known to be replete with homoplasy and likely suffered considerable extinction over the last

300+ million years. For example, what roles did morphological conservation, homoplasy, and

shared ecology play in contributing a misleading phylogenetic signal? Although answers to some

of these questions will likely remain elusive, it is our hope that the newly derived phylogenetic

tree presented here provides an evolutionary framework for many future questions aimed at

understanding this often overlooked but remarkable group of spiders.

MATERIALS & METHODS

We sampled 111 specimens representing 88 genera from all 20 currently recognized

mygalomorph families (Table 1). 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. Two representatives of the

suborder Mesothelae (*Liphisthius* and *Vinathela,* family Liphistiidae) were used as outgroups to

root phylogenies. 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).

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.

As a part of exploratory analyses, two additional matrixes 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_matrix" (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. In the second instance, the

"All_taxa" matrix was reduced to contain only one/two individuals per lineage/clade

(Supplemental Table S2) and combined with pre-existing transcriptomic data (Garrison et al.

2016) to form the "DNAAA_matrix". Mygalomorph taxa were extracted from the "BCC-75"

matrix (Garrison et al. 2016) and parsed into individual loci using BIOPYTHON (Hamelryck

and Manderick 2003; Cock et al. 2009). Partitions containing only missing data were deleted and

the resulting 1675 loci were blasted (tblastn command) in Geneious (Biomatters 2017) against

the AHE locus database in order to eliminate duplicate loci. Amino acid loci that received an e-

value of $< 1e^{-10}$ were excluded from the analyses. The 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.

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). The "DNAAA_matrix" dataset was analyzed with 1367-partition

scheme under the "PROTGAMMAWAG" settings. 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 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 calibrations are as follows: 1) Mygalomorphae:

Due to the lack of relevant fossil calibration points for the Mygalomorphae – Mesothelae split,

we used the information available in the literature from recent phylogenomic studies based on

more 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) Avicularioidea: 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 Avicularioidea – Atypoidea split. The fossil

has been tentatively assigned to the family "Hexathelidae" (*sensu* Raven (Selden and Gall 1992))

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

Avicularioidea 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 currently the oldest known 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) based on more extensive outgroup fossil calibration; 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 in the past (Opatova et al. 2013).

245   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. 7b). 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:XXXXXXXXXXX) on XX XX 2019.

Guiding Principles for Taxonomic Changes

276   We acknowledge that the taxonomic changes we propose are unlikely to go without

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

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

279 order to minimize errors. Consequently, we followed these four guiding principles: 1) revise

280 higher-level mygalomorph classification and familial-level taxonomy such that it better reflects

281 the evolutionary relationships indicated by data available (i.e., the sum of collected to data, not

282 just this analysis); 2) further refine the classification, where possible, based on previous

283 morphological/molecular hypotheses in which subfamilial taxa are clearly defined and supported

284 by unambiguous synapomorphies (i.e., in some instances we transferred unsampled genera to

285 newly defined families in cases where their placement in said group appears to be well supported

286 by other studies); 3) minimize changes in family-level classification to the extent possible that

287 maintains a consistent phylogenetic level across the tree for the family-level rank; and 4)

288 instances where generic-level taxon sampling and criterion 2 above preclude an unambiguous

289 family-level assignment of a genus (for relimited families), we retain the original family

290 assignment but denote its placement as *incertae sedis* (operationally for the purposes of this

291 study).

294 RESULTS

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

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

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

datasets was 14.7% and 14.5%, respectively. The combined "DNAAA_matrix" included 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" was 305,860 characters; gaps and missing data represented 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 the same tree topology (Fig. 3; Supplemental Fig. 1, 2). Overall, the resulting trees were

highly supported (bootstrap > 90, posterior probability (PP) > 0.95), with the exception of a few

deeper nodes. The ML and BI analyses both recovered two main clades Atypoidea and

Avicularioidea with strong support. The relationships within Atypoidea were fully supported; the

family Atypidae was recovered as a sister to Antrodiaetidae inclusive of *Hexura*

(Mecicobothriidae).

Four mygalomorph families belonging to Avicularioidea were 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 was recovered in our analysis. The family Paratropididae was recovered as

sister to all the remaining Bipectina. The remaining taxa were 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), was

placed as sister to "Venom Clade", albeit with low support. Domiothelina formed a

monophyletic group with well resolved relationships in both ML and BI analyses. The family

Halonoproctidae was recovered as sister to all remaining lineages of Domiothelina. The family

Migidae was recovered as sister to Idiopidae, Ctenizidae (now comprising *Cteniza* and

Cyrtocarenum) and Euctenizidae. The unsupported clade corresponding to Crassitarsae (*sensu*

Bond et al. (2012)) was subdivided into two highly supported clades. The first one comprised the

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hermachidae/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 (Fig.

4; ML best tree –ln = 1702659.2948). The discordance, however, mostly affected nodes

unsupported in both analyses. In the "No_Paratropis" analyses the clade comprising Bemmeridae

+ Barychelidae + Theraphosidae was recovered with high support as sister to all the remaining

Bipectina families. The Stasimopidae + "Venom Clade" received moderate bootstrap support,

but its sister relationship to the Domiothelina clade was still 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. 5). The Domiothelina clade was recovered as sister to all the remaining diversity.

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

support as sister to Crassitarsae. The Crassitarsae clade was 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. 3) comprised 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 (Fig. 6). The analyses recovered

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, formed a

highly supported clade in the species tree approach. The topology of the Bipectina clade

(unsupported in ASTRAL) also somewhat differed from the concatenated analyses.

Bemmeridae/Barychelidae/Theraphosidae clade was recovered as sister to moderately supported

Domiothelina + Stasimopidae/"Venom Clade", rendering the Crassitarsae paraphyletic.

Molecular dating.—The resulting dated tree is depicted in Fig. 7; Supplemental Figure 4.

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

The split between Atypoidea and Avicularioidea was dated at ~ 315 Ma. The early branching

events within Avicularioidea dated between 240 and 173 Ma (Ischnothelidae through

Macrothelidae divergences). The first diversification of Bipectina is dated to 166 Ma (divergence

of Paratropididae) and continued at 160 Ma, 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. 8. The

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

lineages remain unresolved. The distribution of the Atypoidea ancestor was 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 were 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 Hermachidae likely evolved in Africa,

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

America and Ctenizidae in Europe. DEC analyses also inferred a large number of dispersal and

vicariance events across the mygalomorph phylogeny, however, most of the events received low

probabilities (<0.7), particularly those inferred for deeper nodes and nodes within families with

complex distribution patterns.

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

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

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

392 were unable to confirm from the literature a burrow type, although we would expect it to be a

393 typical open burrow. Because bemmerids and pycnothelids construct both trapdoors and open

394 burrows they were scored as polymorphic. Based on AICc values the equal rates model (ER)

395 produced the preferred reconstruction (AICc = 168.3399). Although the ER model was preferred,

396 ancestral state reconstructions for the other models were generally very similar.

397   The ancestral state reconstruction of mygalomorph foraging construct, summarized in

398 Fig. 9, shows a rather simple and concise pattern. Towards the root of the phylogeny there

399 appears to be an equal probability of an ancestor having either a sheet/funnel web or a burrow

400 with a trapdoor; both alternative hypotheses are explored in more detail in the discussion section

401 below. Atypoids likely had a most recent common ancestor (MRCA) with a sheet web, modified

402 as a purse web in atypids or as a collar, turret, or trapdoor in antrodiaetids. As discussed below,

403 atypoids demonstrate the full scope of variability in burrow construct modifications that can

404 evolve from a sheet web ancestral form. Avicularioidea have a MRCA that optimizes as having a

405 sheet web. The MRCA for the Bipectina clade likely had either a trapdoor or sheet web

406 (equivocal). A burrow with a trapdoor more definitively optimizes as the ancestral foraging

407 construct for Crassitarsae with subsequent losses of the trapdoor covering (optimized as the open

408 burrow state) four times in nemesiids, pycnothelids, theraphosids, and the euctenizid genus

409 *Apomastus*; some pycnothelid and anamid taxa independently lose the trapdoor and instead

410 forage from burrows with distinct turret or collar door constructs. Sheet webs are regained twice,

411 once in atracids and again in diplurids.

DISCUSSION

The systematics and evolutionary relationships among mygalomorph families have

remained an unresolved problem for many years, beginning in earnest with the first molecular

analyses (Hedin and Bond 2006) which identified significant issues with Raven's (1985)

morphology-based classification scheme and hypothesis of relationships. Despite the long and

protracted evolutionary history of mygalomorphs, dating back to the Carboniferous (Ayoub et al.

2007; Starrett et al. 2013; Garrison et al. 2016), the identification of morphological characters

necessary to build a stable classification scheme has proved to be challenging and clearly

suffered from a number of inconsistencies rendering many of the families para- or polyphletic.

Mygalomorph taxa often display homogenous external morphology (e.g. Hendrixson and Bond

2009), or possess an array of highly specialized morphological characteristics that could be

interpreted as synapomorphies (Raven 1985), or alternatively, as traits reflecting the ecology of

the taxa in question (Coyle 1971; Eskov and Zonshtein 1990). The interpretation of certain

morphological characters and the subsequent placement of families in higher-level groupings

thus seemingly fluctuated from one study to the next (Simon 1864; Raven 1985; Eskov and

Zonshtein 1990; Goloboff 1993; Bond and Opell 2002), often being a point of contention (Raven

1985; Eskov and Zonshtein 1990; Goloboff 1993). Based on these past studies, two points seem

clear. First, morphological data alone are unsuitable for confidently 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 use of phylogenomics in spiders (Bond et al. 2014; Fernández et al. 2014; Garrison

et al. 2016; Hamilton et al. 2016b; Godwin et al. 2018; Hedin et al. 2018; Wood et al. 2018) now

seemingly provides the framework needed to robustly and confidently resolve some of the long

standing taxonomic issues that have plagued mygalomorph spider systematics. We believe that

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

confidently 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. 10).

The Appendix to this paper (Bond et al. 2019) outlines the formal taxonomic changes proposed

herein.

Diversification and Biogeography of Mygalomorph Spiders

Taxa having disjunct distribution patterns, particularly those with poor dispersal abilities

and deep evolutionary histories, represent intriguing model systems that have captivated the

attention of biogeographers for decades (Cracraft 1988; Wiley 1988; Morrone and Crisci 1995).

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), are one such group. Historically, mygalomorph

distribution patterns were usually interpreted as a result of continental-level vicariance

accompanied by gradual over-land dispersal (e.g. Raven 1980). 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 ballooning) could be a plausible mechanism of dispersal for overcoming both short (Hedin et

al. 2013; Opatova and Arnedo 2014b) and long distances (Harrison et al. 2017) and might have

contributed to the current distribution of mygalomorphs more often than previously thought.

The results of our biogeographic analyses (Fig.8) 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). The analyses infer, with high probability, the African

origin of all Bipectina, minus Paratropididae. In our dating analyses, we recovered two repeated

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

the Southern hemisphere. The first set of divergences was observed up to seven times

independently across the mygalomorph tree of life, involving Australian taxa, as well as taxa

inhabiting either Africa or South America. The second and younger set of splits, involving South

American and African taxa, was observed in three instances. Although in plants and vertebrates

these patterns often result from dispersal (Procheş and Ramdhani 2013; Ruhfel et al. 2016), in

dispersal-limited invertebrate groups these instances 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 first repeated pattern of divergences observed in our results concordant with the East

– West Gondwana breakup was dated between 103 – 90 Ma, involving splits within the families

Euagridae, Migidae, Idiopidae (putatively also Barychelidae), and divergences between

Atracidae – Actinopodidae and Anamidae – Hermachidae/Microstigmatidae clade. The second

pattern, potentially corresponding to the South America – Africa separation dated to 77 – 61 Ma

involved divergences within Theraphosidae, Pycnothelidae and Cyrtaucheniidae. The divergence

times estimated in our analyses were comparatively 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). The initial phase of Gondwana breakup

(Fig 7), 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. West

Gondwana then subsequently fragmented into South America and Africa between 132 – 112 Ma

(Will and Frimmel 2018). The onset of continental drifting in both instances predates the

divergence time estimates inferred in our analyses 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). Recent

tectonic plate models suggest that the initial phase of drifting between East and West Gondwana

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 nod

calibration. For example, due to the inferred polyphyly of the Nemesiidae, 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 infer

confidence intervals that are often essential for connecting the age estimates and specific

geological events.

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

Many plant and vertebrate groups with cosmopolitan or pantropical distributions, formerly

perceived as a result of ancient vicariance, owe their current pattern to dispersal (Procheş and

Ramdhani 2013; Ruhfel et al. 2016). Long distance dispersal events have been detected even

among poorly dispersing groups of invertebrates such as euedaphic beetles (Andújar et al. 2016)

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

suggests that mygalomorph spiders are also 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 involved (Euagridae, Atracidae and

Actinopodidae, Migidae, Idiopidae, Barychelidae, Hermachidae and Anamidae) comprised

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

and Migidae (Africa and Australia) could potentially represent an artefact 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, and for most of

remaining divergences (occasionally with dispersal contribution), albeit with low probabilities.

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. Such patterns of divergence were observed within *Ummidia* and

Cyclocosmia (Halonoproctidae) and between *Sphodros* and *Atypus* (Atypidae), and were dated to

44, 34 and 30 Ma, 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). Our divergence time estimates 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) also represents a well-known biogeographic pattern linked to

continental vicariance, present in both plants and animals (Boufford and Spongberg 1983;

Bolotov et al. 2016). 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 events inferred in other organisms (Li et al. 2015;

Maguilla et al. 2018) postdates the divergences inferred the divergences inferred by our analyses.

The Laurasian origin of the taxa is further supported by their ancestral distributions projected to

the Northern hemisphere continents. Moreover, analyses support the vicariant origin of

Cyclocosmia and suggest that both vicariance and dispersal shaped *Atypus – Sphodros* and

Ummidia distribution (albeit the latter with low probability).

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 diversity, could

correspond to the disintegration of the supercontinent Pangea occurring in Lower Jurassic (190 –

180 Ma) (Beutel et al. 2005; Will and Frimmel 2018). The results of the biogeographic analyses

suggest a combination of dispersal and vicariant events, however similarly to other deeper nodes

in the tree, the probabilities for various event hypotheses are low. Given the long phylogenetic

history of mygalomorph spiders, we predict that large scale extinction events have likely shaped

and potentially blurred some of the older biogeographic patterns. Gondwana was formed in the

southern hemisphere during Cambrian approximately 520 – 510 Ma (Veevers 2004; Domeier

and Torsvik 2014; Will and Frimmel 2018) and large parts of the continent experienced repeated

glaciations into the Silurian, Devonian, and from the late Carboniferous to early Triassic. During

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),

substantial portions of both continents were glaciated as a result of continental scale orogeny,

and by the early Permian (approximately 300 Ma) the ice coverage reached to 30 ° S latitude

(Veevers 2004). 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. Interestingly, 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. For example,

the Australasian genus *Conothele* (Halonoproctidae), shows divergence between Australian and

Vietnamese species dating back to approximately 46 Ma. This event by far postdates their

vicariance during the East Gondwana breakup, when the Indian plate started drifting northwards

away from Australia and Antarctica around 135 Ma (Will and Frimmel 2018). In comparison to

its sister taxon *Ummidia*, ballooning has not been directly observed in *Conothele*. The genus

does however exhibits some behavioral traits associated with this particular manner of dispersal

(Main 1957), which along with its distribution from South East Asia to Australia suggest that

Conothele is also capable of aerial dispersal.

Another unusual pattern, that could potentially be attributed to long distance dispersal

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

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 in the

past to explain a similar distribution pattern recovered in Stag beetles (Kim and Farrell 2015).

Interestingly, the biogeographic analyses also inferred vicariance for the *Stanwellia* –

Acanthogonatus favoring South America – Australia connection over dispersal event. The two

remaining cases of potential long-distance dispersal both involved Australian and African taxa.

Poecilomigas (family Migidae) diverged from its Australia inhabiting sister taxon *Bertmanius*

approximately 74 Ma, and the split between *Kiama* and *Microstigmata* (both Microstigmatidae)

occurred around 70 Ma. Surprisingly, the biogeographic analyses inferred vicariance for both.

However, even when a possible bias in our dating analyses is considered, both divergences are

probably too young to reflect the East – West Gondwana split that started approximately 165 Ma,

making the vicariant event challenging to explain. Trans-oceanic dispersal has previously been

reported from the family Migidae (Harrison et al. 2017), which suggest that dispersal could

plausibly explain the disjunct distribution between *Bertmainius* and *Poecilomigas.* Close

association to tree trunks, a snugly fitting trapdoor and thick internal layer of silk, were

hypothesized to enable the dispersal and survival via rafting (Harrison et al. 2017). Although

microstigmatids belong among the few representatives of cursorial hunting mygalomorphs, they

are often found under rocks and large logs, which could have potentially placed them in a likely

position for rafting. However, South American microstigmatids were not sampled in our

analyses, therefore a potential vicariance via South America – Antarctica – Australia (Kim and

Farrell 2015) should not be discarded.

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 is often 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. 2018)).

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 9, the root mygalomorph node shows an ambiguous

optimization for sheet web versus trapdoor. Although the optimization of this character is

equivocal, 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 probably resolve as a sheet web. As noted by Vollrath and Selden (2007), there is a clear

link between body structure and behavior in extant spiders, whereas preserved morphology in

extinct taxa provides strong hints for inferring behavior. As such, that resolution requires some

inferred links about the foraging behavior of *Chimerarachne* and its morphology*,* a "spider"

whose proportionally long spinnerets suggest that they were 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 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 sheet webs are the plesiomorphic condition with

trapdoor burrows independently derived in Liphistiidae – a lineage that is morphologically

exceptionally unique among spiders (see below). Sheet webs, as most thoroughly documented by

Coyle (1986), definitively meet both criteria outlined above; 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; that is, one could

easily imagine silken threads extending from an eggsac that 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 sheet web optimization at the mygalomorph tree's root node inferred here

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

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

more detail below, it is not unrealistic that 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 likely 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 (as well as many other

typical trapdoor spiders) by extending the prey sensing surface of their burrow opening via silken

trip lines (also silken tabs, leaves, and other organic debris).

Nowhere across the Mygalomorphae is the evolutionary plasticity of the ancestral sheet

web better illustrated than in the Atypoidea. The antrodiaetid clade includes *Antrodiaetus* (plus

Atypoides), *Aliatypus*, and *Hexura* (Mecicobothriidae) – all of which construct collared burrows,

turreted burrows, trapdoors, and sheet webs, respectively. As demonstrated in a number of

elegant 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.

The Aviculariodea clade unequivocally has an MRCA that forages from a 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 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." 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 sheet webs

are highly modified from silken tubes (Gray 2010) and likely not homologous to the ancestral

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, it is well documented that 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: sheet web; Theraphosidae: open burrows (though trapdoors have

reappeared ≥3 times; Hamilton *persn. obsv.*); Pycnothelidae: open burrows, turrets; Dipluridae:

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, personal 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 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 reversion 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.

In closing, we would like to emphasize two major points. First, there is evidence from

both analysis of extant taxa (like the one conducted here) and the morphology of extinct taxa to

strongly infer a sheet web MRCA for mygalomorphs, if not all spiders. Second, it is our

supposition that most mygalomorphs build foraging webs; that is, the majority of species employ

silk either in a 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). We believe 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 question their analysis that

hypothesizes mygalomorphs (and spiders as whole) to have a non-web foraging MRCA. Their

interpretation stems primarily from limited taxon sampling and erroneous character state coding

(Coddington et al. 2018). 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 is contradictory to the

information available in the literature and direct observations in the field.

Mygalomorphae Systematics and Higher-level Classification

742   We discuss below each of the major mygalomorph groups and their constituent families.

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

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

745   2019).

747   *Atypoidea – Avicularioidea – Bipectina – Domiothelina – Crassitarsae*.—With a bit of a

hyperbole the composition of Atypoidea and the basal split of the mygalomorphs into the

Atypoidea and Avicularioidea, now solidified by molecular data since their first implementation

in mygalomorph phylogenies (Hedin and Bond 2006), could be considered the most

controversial topic in mygalomorph systematics. In particular, 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 group (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) insightfully 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 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). Although exercising caution while interpreting the results, the authors argued in

favor of the placement of mecicobothriids within Atypoidea (Hedin and Bond 2006), in

agreement with the seemingly correct hypothesis of Eskov and Zonshtein's (1990). 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. We recovered the reciprocal monophyly of both Atypoidea and

Avicularioidea, however, Atypoidea remains in need of a more thorough phylogenetic treatment,

as some mecicobothriid genera might be phylogenetically misplaced (see further detail below).

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. Interestingly, 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)). Interestingly, 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) (see below) 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 with low support in the concatenated analyses, 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). The only

analysis supporting the Crassitarsae was based on the combined genomic/transcriptomic dataset.

Interestingly, this analysis also recovered Paratropididae within the Crassitarsae clade. 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 confidently 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), Hermachidae (NEW

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

Atypidae.—The family Atypidae comprises three genera and 54 species distributed across

the Holarctic, Southeastern Asia, and Africa. The family is well-defined morphologically, with

enlarged maxillae being its most conspicuous synapomorphy (Raven 1985). Albeit highly

supported in molecular analyses (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012), the group's

monophyly has never been fully assessed due to incomplete taxon sampling. In our study, we

sampled all three genera and recovered the family as monophyletic with *Calommata* being sister

to *Atypus* and *Sphodros*. Due to ambiguities in putatively shared characters, the relationships

within the family have been challenging to decipher (Gertsch and Platnick 1980) based on

morphology alone. Our results support Raven's (1985) hypothesis which unites *Atypus* and

Sphodros based on the shape of cymbium and labidosternal suture rather than the alternative

placement of *Calommata* as sister to *Sphodros* which is based largely on similarities in

spermathecal morphology (*sensu* Gertsch and Platnick (1980)).

Antrodiaetidae – Mecicobothriidae.—Antrodiaetidae and Mecicobothriidae are among

the smaller mygalomorph families. Antrodiaetidae comprise two genera, *Aliatypus* and

Antrodiaetus (both included in our analysis) with predominantly Nearctic distributions. The

monophyly of antrodiaetids has not been called in to question (Coyle 1971; Raven 1985; Hedin

and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012), however, the generic composition of the family will likely

change in the future to include at least *some* mecicobothriid taxa. As already noted above,

placement of the family Mecicobothriidae has been highly controversial, fluctuating from

residing within the Atypoidea (Simon 1864; Chamberlin and Ivie 1946; Eskov and Zonshtein

1990), to being placed as sister to Dipluridae (Gertsch 1979), Microstigmatidae (Raven 1985), or

all mygalomorphs excluding Atypidae and Antrodiaetidae (Goloboff 1993). The family

comprises four genera, the North American *Hexura*, *Hexurella* and *Megahexura* and the South

American *Mecicobothrium*. The debate about its phylogenetic position aside, Mecicobothriidae

has received relatively little attention (Gertsch 1979). Although the placement of mecicobothriids

within Atypoidea has been substantiated by numerous molecular analyses (Hedin and Bond

2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; Bond et al. 2014; Garrison et al. 2016; Wheeler et al.

2017), the composition and monophyly remains unresolved due to these studies suffering from

incomplete taxon sampling. In our analyses, we only sampled the genus *Hexura* and, similarly to

previous results (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012; Wheeler et al. 2017), we also

recovered the genus embedded within the antrodiaetids, as opposed to *Megahexura* having close

affinities to atypids (Bond et al. 2012). Future work employing extensive sampling of both

Antrodiaetidae and Mecicobothriidae may thus result in relimitation of the family boundaries, or

in a more extreme case, the synonym of some mecicobothriids with antrodiaetids.

"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, distantly related lineages

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

(Simon 1889). The subsequent reassessment of morphological characters led to taxonomic

changes altering Dipluridae composition. Mecicobothriidae (Gertsch 1979) and Hexathelidae

(Raven 1980) were 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. 5). 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 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). Interestingly, some of these groups were originally placed

within Dipluridae (Simon 1889), demonstrating the perceived significance of the spinneret shape

in spider systematics that was still prominent in subsequent studies (Gertsch 1979; Raven 1985).

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).

Family Dipluridae (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.

Family Ischnothelidae (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).

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.

Family Euagridae (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 170 Ma, 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*.

Hexathelidae – Porrhothelidae – Macrothelidae.—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). Paralleling the situation occurring with

Dipluridae, Cyrtaucheniidae and Ctenizidae, families that are both widespread and notoriously

difficult to resolve with the traditionally Sanger-sequenced loci, formal taxonomic changes were

put on hold until Hedin et al. (2018). The implementation of UCEs alongside complete generic

sampling resulted in parceling of the family Hexathelidae (*sensu* Raven (1985)) into four distinct

families (Hedin et al. 2018), of which all are sampled in our analyses. 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).

Paratropididae.—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

confidently 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 (Fig. 4). Interestingly, 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)).

Atracidae – Actinopodidae (the "Venom Clade").—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). Interestingly, 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).

Family Ctenizidae (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.

Family Stasimopidae (NEW FAMILY).—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 forming a clade

with Atracidae and Actinopodidae. This relationship was also recovered by Hamilton et al.

(2016b), though in a much reduced AHE dataset, and similarly to our results, the

Stasimopidae/Atracidae/Actinopodidae clade was poorly supported. Interestingly, the support

values for this clade increased with the removal of the paratropidid terminals (Fig. 4) and with

addition of transcriptomic data (Fig. 5), 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 soundly 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.

Halonoproctidae.—The family currently comprises six genera and has a nearly

cosmopolitan distribution. It was recently removed from Ctenizidae (Godwin et al. 2018), whose

monophyly was doubted both on morphological (Raven 1985) and molecular grounds (Hedin

and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012; Opatova et al. 2013). Similar to Godwin et al. (2018), we

recovered Halonoproctidae as monophyletic in all analyses. Furthermore, the topology test

rejected the monophyly of the family Ctenizidae (*sensu* Raven (1985)) as well as the monophyly

of Halonoproctidae + Ctenizidae (*sensu* this study), verifying the status of the family within the

context of a wider taxonomic framework. It should be noted that we did not include the genus

Bothriocyrtum in our analyses, but given its stable position as sister to *Hebestatis* (Hedin and

Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012; Opatova et al. 2013; Godwin et al. 2018), we believe that it had

little to no effect on the resulting topology and support values.

Migidae.—The family Migidae currently comprises 11 genera with a classical

Gondwanan distribution (Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Madagascar and South America). The

family is well defined morphologically as taxa having longitudinal keels on cheliceral fangs and

lack a rastellum (Raven 1985; Griswold and Ledford 2001). Similar to previous studies (Hedin

and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012), our taxon sampling is rather limited. We only sampled four

genera, lacking a neotropical representative; therefore, we cannot assess the monophyly of the

group. The family has been recovered as sister to either *Stasimopus* (Hedin and Bond 2006) or

Halonoproctidae (Bond et al. 2012), as well as in close proximity to Idiopidae and Euctenizidae

(Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012), as we report here. In the concatenated analyses, the family

was recovered with high support as sister to all the remaining Domiothelina taxa, except for

Halonoproctidae. Interestingly, despite the congruent topology, this relationship was poorly

supported in the species tree analysis.

Idiopidae.—Idiopids are another family with predominantly Gondwanan distribution

(South America, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand), though some species are also known

from the Middle East and Central America. The family is well characterized by male palpal

synapomorphies (Raven 1985) and its monophyly has never been called into question by

previous studies (Goloboff 1993; Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012).

Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the family was recovered as monophyletic in our analyses.

Idiopids are among the most diverse of the mygalomorphs; the family comprises 22 genera and

three subfamilies: Arbanitinae, Genysinae and Idiopinae (Raven 1985; Rix et al. 2017c), of

which we did not sample Genysinae. The position of Idiopidae within the Domiothelina clade

was consistently recovered by both morphological (Goloboff 1993) and molecular approaches

(Bond et al. 2012), but given the incomplete sampling of the family Ctenizidae (*sensu* Raven

(1985)), the position within the clade varied. In our analyses, the family was placed as sister to

Ctenizidae and Euctenizidae with high support.

Euctenizidae.—The group was originally designated as a subfamily of Cyrtaucheniidae

(Raven 1985), but with increasing amount of evidence for a non-monophyletic Cyrtaucheniidae

(Bond and Opell 2002; Bond and Hedin 2006), Euctenizidae were elevated to family level (Bond

et al. 2012). The family comprises 76 species within seven genera across a North American

distribution (Bond 2017). We sampled all described genera and recovered the family as

monophyletic, as well as the sister group to Ctenizidae (*sensu* this study) and Idiopidae.

Although an argument could be made for collapsing Euctenizidae and Ctenizidae, aside from

differences in morphology, and biogeography, the divergence depth between the two groups

remains at a hierarchical level comparable to other families in the tree.

Barychelidae.—Barychelidae is a highly diverse family (42 genera, 495 species) with a

Gondwanan distribution spanning continental islands, and interestingly, 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 in order to assess

the taxa composition of each group and 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.

Theraphosidae.—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.

"Cyrtaucheniidae".—The family Cyrtaucheniidae, as currently defined, comprises 11

genera distributed across Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. The non-monophyletic nature

of the family has been recognized for over two decades (Goloboff 1993; Bond and Opell 2002;

Bond and Hedin 2006; Hedin and Bond 2006), however the incomplete taxon sampling and

ambiguous placement of some cyrtaucheniid taxa, did not allow for a definitive taxonomic

solution to the problem (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012). During the first major

relimitation of the family, the North American euctenizine lineages were raised to family level

and the taxonomically misplaced genus *Kiama* was transferred to Nemesiidae (Bond et al. 2012).

Despite these rearrangements, the family remained a "taxonomic dumping ground" (Bond et al.

2012) comprising a diverse assemblage of lineages spread across the mygalomorph tree. The

polyphyletic nature of the family is nearly paralleled in the status of *Cyrtauchenius*, the type

genus of the family. *Cyrtauchenius*, presumably a species-rich genus inhabiting the western

Mediterranean, was recently divided into two genera (Decae and Bosmans 2014).

Amblyocarenum was removed from the synonymy of *Cyrtauchenius* based on a revision of

morphological characters and its position within Cyrtaucheniidae was also questioned due to its

morphological affinities to the family Nemesiidae (Decae and Bosmans 2014). As in previous

analyses (Hedin and Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012), we did not recover the family as

monophyletic, instead, the five genera sampled in our study were placed within three different

clades (Supplemental Fig. 5). The first group, already recognized in the past as "Ancylotripines"

(Hedin and Bond 2006) or the "Homostolines" (Bond et al. 2012), was recovered within the

Theraphosoidina (*sensu* Bond et al. (2012)). The second group, comprising the genus

Cyrtauchenius, was placed as sister to Dipluridae, whereas the third group, the genus

Amblyocarenum, was embedded within Nemesiidae. Bond et al. (2012) stressed the necessity to

address the obvious polyphyly of the group, but at the same time recognized that obtaining a

complete generic sampling will be a major challenge, likely hindering the future efforts to

resolve Cyrtaucheniidae relationships. Conversely, our study provides crucial aspects that allows

us, at least partially, to overcome the prevailing sampling limitations. Both *Cyrtauchenius* and

Amblyocarenum, were analyzed here for the first time, enabling the identification of the

cyrtaucheniid lineage carrying the type genus of the family and subsequent status assessment of

the "non-cyrtaucheniid" lineages. Compared to the previous analyses (Hedin and Bond 2006;

Bond et al. 2012), our data provide a stronger phylogenetic signal resulting in high support

values for the placement of the individual groups. Moreover, our dataset offers a wider

taxonomic framework for testing Cyrtaucheniidae monophyly. Provided the rejection of

Cyrtaucheniidae monophyly by the statistical topology test, and following the line of reasoning

explained above, we therefore relimit the family Cyrtaucheniidae (new circumscription) and

establish the family Bemmeridae (NEW RANK), to accommodate the African genera *Homostola*

and *Spiroctenus*. We also formally propose the transfer of the genus *Amblyocarenum* to the

family Nemesiidae.

Family Cyrtaucheniidae (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*.

Family Bemmeridae (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.

"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

(Goloboff 1993; 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. 5). The South African genus

Sp, roctenus 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), suggesting that the some of the microstigmatid synapomorphies may be

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

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. Interestingly, 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 alluded to a different conclusion than presented in this paper.

Those authors analyzed five Nemesiidae genera and, based on previous results (Hedin and Bond

2006; Bond et al. 2012), presumed *Fufius* also likely to be a nemesiid. Consequently, recovering

"*Linothele*" (later identified as *Diplura*) embedded among the Nemesiidae, they understandably

dismissed its placement within Dipluridae, and considered it as taxonomically misplaced

nemesiid (Hamilton et al. 2016b). Given that many genera were transferred from Dipluridae to

Nemesiidae in the past (Raven 1985), and the placement of some taxa remained unstable (Main

1969; Raven 1985; Main 1993), taxonomic misplacement of the sample thus seemed plausible.

Arguably, the lack of broad geographic and taxonomic sampling across nemesiids,

cyrtaucheniids, and diplurids, particularly considering the hypothesized polyphyly of the latter

two (*sensu* Raven (1985)), would have significant impact on interpretation of the results and

subsequent proposed taxonomic changes in terms of taxon/generic composition of each family.

The situation is similar for Microstigmatidae, presumably another "candidate" nemesiid lineage

(Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012). As in our study, the sampling was

limited to the genus *Microstigmata*, and the monophyly of the family was never assessed using a

molecular framework (Hedin and Bond 2006; Ayoub et al. 2007; Bond et al. 2012; but see

Goloboff 1993). The genus 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). Interestingly, 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),

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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 116 – 83 Ma, roughly congruent with dated

divergences among other families (e.g., Theraphosidae and Barychelidae split around 106 Ma

and Actinopodidae diverged from Atracidae approximately 101 Ma). In agreement with the

results of our analyses, we therefore relimit the family Nemesiidae (new circumscription) as

outlined below.

Family Nemesiidae (new circumscription).—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

Hermacha and transfer them into newly erected families Pycnothelidae (NEW RANK) and

Hermachidae (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*.

Family Anamidae (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

Hermachidae/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).

Family Hermachidae (NEW FAMILY).—We establish the family Hermachidae to

accommodate the predominantly South African genus *Hermacha*, which currently comprises

over 20 species. The genus was originally placed within the nemesiid subfamily Anaminae

(Raven 1985), however this taxon has been shown to be polyphyletic (Goloboff 1993; Hedin and

Bond 2006; Bond et al. 2012; Wheeler et al. 2017). Despite the rather undesirable monogeneric

state of the family, we believe that establishing Hermachidae 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 83 Ma. We believe the monogeneric nature of the family is only

temporary and other genera (particularly fellow South African genera *Lepthercus* and *Entypesa*)

will eventually be transferred here following a thorough assessment of Nemesiidae phylogeny.

Family Microstigmatidae (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). Interestingly, similar characteristics are also found in the

genera *Ixamatus* and *Angka* (Bond et al. 2012) suggesting their close relationships to the

microstigmatids.

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). Interestingly, 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.

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1407 CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1408

To some extent the results reported here serve to further emphasize that the current

system for mygalomorph classification requires major restructuring. However, it is our hope that

this study represents a significant leap forward in stabilizing the group's taxonomy via a robust,

well-supported phylogenetic framework. Extensive taxon sampling combined with enhanced

phylogenetic resolution via 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.

Like Raven's (1985) classification, our 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). Although

Raven's (1985) task was heroic given its scope and lack of computational resources, the results

were in no small part afflicted by the rampant homoplasy that seemingly plagues this group of

spiders. It is important to acknowledge that some of Raven's hypotheses (1985) were only

"wrong" in the narrow sense - discrepancies between computational analyses of genomic data

and the earlier morphological work are simply a function of the temporal context. Given the data

and lack of computational resources available when the analyses were conducted, the results

Raven achieved were the strongest hypothesis at that time and provided a remarkably solid

foundation upon which to deliver and 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 (i.e., morphology seemed to

get it "right" some percentage of the time at a particular hierarchical level).

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 burrow has critical implications for how we might understand and interpret silk

across spiders as a whole (Fernández et al. 2018). Our results suggest that spiders likely foraged

primitively from a silken 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 confidently resolve several of

the deepest nodes; Paratropididae remains a difficult taxon to place as do the newly formed

Stasimopidae. Following 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 remarkable, and ancient group of spiders.

1463

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2118   Figure 1. Phylogenetic relationships of mygalomorph families reconstructed from morphological

2119   characters: (a) Raven's classification scheme (Raven 1985), (b) results of the first cladistic

2120   analyses performed by Goloboff (1993). Poly- and paraphyletic lineages are indicated by grey

2121   boxes.

2122

2123   Figure 2. Phylogenetic relationships of mygalomorph families: (a) inferred from ribosomal data

2124   (*18S*, *28S*) in the first molecular analyses of the infraorder (Hedin and Bond 2006), (b) inferred

2125   in the "total evidence" approach combining three loci (*18S*, *28S*, *EF-1g*) and morphological data

2126   (Bond et al. 2012). Poly- and paraphyletic lineages are indicated by grey boxes.

2127

Figure 3. Phylogenetic tree summarizing results from concatenated and species tree approaches.

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. Color coding of 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.

2134

2135   Figure 4. Phylogenetic tree inferred after removal of Paratropididae terminals ("No_Paratropis"

2136   dataset). Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted in RAxML.

2137   Boxes near the branches denote full bootstrap support values; numbers report bootstrap support

2138   values obtained in this analysis (black) and the analysis of the full "All_taxa" dataset (red).

2139   Asterisks mark differences in topology obtained from the "All_taxa" dataset.

2140

2141   Figure 5. Phylogenetic tree inferred from combined AHE loci and transcriptomic data

2142   ("DNAAA" matrix). Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted in

2143   RAxML. Asterisk marks placement of *Paratropis* within Crassitarsae. Boxes near the branches

2144   denote bootstrap support values; colors correspond to distinct support level categories depicted

2145   on left.

2146

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.

2154

Figure 7. Divergence time estimates inferred by treePL on a topology obtained in RAxML. The

x-axis is time in million years. Geologic time scale abbreviations: N: Neogene, Pg: Paleogene,

K: Cretaceous, J: Jurassic, Tr: Triassic, P: Permian, C: Carboniferous, D: Devonian. Light green

block marks time frame of Gondwana breakup. Symbols on the tree nodes denote vicariant or

dispersal events hypothesized for the divergences (left to right): inverted triangle=Pangea

breakup, star=East-West Gondwana breakup, triangle=West Gondwana breakup, dot=Laurasia

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

sampling locations depicted in the map as follows: yellow=South America, orange=Africa,

purple=Asia, red=Australia, light blue=North America, dark blue=Europe, lime

green=Antarctica (no taxa assigned).

2168

Figure 8. Ancestral areas of distribution inferred with DEC analyses implemented in RASP. Tree

topology obtained in ExaBayes. Terminal tree taxa are color coded according to the

biogeographic regions of their sampling locations depicted in the map (bottom left) as follows:

A=North America, B=Europe, C=Asia, D=South America, E=Africa, F=Australia. Color coding

of the inferred ancestral distributions corresponds to the assigned biogeographic regions, or

combination of thereof depicted in the combined area legend on the left. Biogeographic events

marked on the nodes: Di=dispersal, V=vicariance, Ex=extinction; black letters: events inferred

with probability > 0.7.

2177

2178   Figure 9. Ancestral state reconstruction of mygalomorph foraging constructs. Preferred ancestral

2179   state reconstruction of foraging type using an equal rates model in the R-package *corHMM* with

2180   cursorial hunting taxa treated as inapplicable (?); tree was modified as ultrametric; AICc =

2181   173.9083. Terminal tree taxa are color coded according the type of spinning structure depicted in

2182   the legend panel of the left.

2183

Figure 10. Cladogram summarizing the phylogenetic relationships of mygalomorph families

recovered in this paper. The topology corresponds to the arrangement obtained in the

concatenated analyses (RAxML, ExaBayes). The crossed boxes on the branches represent

unsupported relationships: left maximum likelihood bootstrap support < 70%, right Bayesian

inference Posterior Probability< 0.95,). Filled box=node supported only in Bayesian inference,

otherwise relationships supported in both analyses.

2190

2191   Table 1. Taxon counts obtained from the World Spider Catalog (2018), undescribed and undetermined genera marked with *.

2192

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

2193

2194

2195 Table 2. Maximum likelihood topology test results: obs, the observed log-likelihood difference to the best unconstraint topology (Fig.

2196 3), AU, p-value of the approximately unbiased test conducted in CONSEL; np, bootstrap probability calculated from the multiscale

2197 bootstrap; significant results (P<0.05) *

2198

2199

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, Chenistonia, Hermacha, Iberesia, Ixamatus, Kiama, Kwonkan, Mexentypesa, Namea, Nemesia, Pionothele, Pseudoteyl, Spiroctenus, Stanwellia, Stenterommata, Teyl*	18386.8	3e-73*	6e-20

2200

2201

2202 Table 3. Divergence time estimates obtained by treePL algorithm (Smith and O'Meara 2012) representing taxa origins (left) and the

2203 respective timeframe of their diversification (right) inferred for tree topology depicted in Fig. 7.

2204

Taxon origin	Age (Ma)	Crown Group diversification	Age (Ma)
Mygalomorphae/Mesothelae (Liphistiidae)	398	Antrodiaetidae + *Hexura*	65 – 34
Atypoidea/Avicularioidea	316	Atypidae	98 – 8
Ischnothelidae	240	Ischnothelidae	101
Microhexuridae	216	Euagridae	170 – 41
Hexathelidae/ Euagridae	189	Macrothelidae	36 – 23
Porrhothelidae	187	Atracidae	48
Macrothelidae/Bipectina	173	*Actinopus*	11
Paratropididae	167	Halonoproctidae	130 – 4
Crassitarsae	160	Migidae	94 – 74
Stasimopidae	153	Idiopidae	103 – 19
Domiothelina	158	Ctenizidae	82
Atypidae/ Antrodiaetidae + *Hexura*	146	Euctenizidae	127 – 34

Halonoproctidae	146	Bemmeridae	46 – 12
Migidae	143	Barychelidae	86 – 28
Idiopidae	137	Theraphosidae	78 – 9
Bemmeridae	136	Nemesiidae	104 – 6
Ctenizidae/ Euctenizidae	127	Pycnothelidae	80 – 28
Nemesiidae	116	Dipluridae	51 – 39
Barychelidae/ Theraphosidae	107	Cyrtaucheniidae	61 – 1
Atracidae/ Actinopodidae	101	Hermachidae	26
Pycnothelidae	103	Microstigmatidae	70
Dipluridae/ Cyrtaucheniidae	92	Anamidae	40 – 5
Anamidae	89		
Hermachidae/Microstigmatidae	83		

2205

2206

2207 Figure 1. Phylogenetic relationships of mygalomorph families reconstructed from morphological

2208 characters: (a) Raven's classification scheme (Raven 1985), (b) results of the first cladistic

2209 analyses performed by Goloboff (1993). Poly- and paraphyletic lineages are indicated by grey

2210 boxes.

2211

Figure 2. Phylogenetic relationships of mygalomorph families: (a) inferred from ribosomal data
(*18S*, *28S*) in the first molecular analyses of the infraorder (Hedin and Bond 2006), (b) inferred
in the "total evidence" approach combining three loci (*18S*, *28S*, *EF-1g*) and morphological data
(Bond et al. 2012). Poly- and paraphyletic lineages are indicated by grey boxes.

Figure 3. Phylogenetic tree summarizing results from concatenated and species tree approaches.

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. Color coding 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.

2223

2224

2225

2226

2227   Figure 4. Phylogenetic tree inferred after removal of Paratropididae terminals ("No_Paratropis"

2228   dataset). Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted in RAxML.

2229   Boxes near the branches denote full bootstrap support values; numbers report bootstrap support

2230   values obtained in this analysis (black) and the analysis of the full "All_taxa" dataset (red).

2231   Asterisks mark differences in topology obtained from the "All_taxa" dataset.

2232

2233

2234

2235   Figure 5. Phylogenetic tree of inferred combined AHE loci and transcriptomic data ("DNAAA"

2236   matrix). Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted in RAxML.

2237   Asterisk marks placement of *Paratropis* within Crassitarsae. Boxes near the branches denote

2238   bootstrap support values; colors correspond to distinct support level categories depicted on left.

2239

2240

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.

2248

Figure 7. Divergence time estimates inferred by treePL on a topology obtained in RAxML. The

x-axis is time in million years. Geologic time scale abbreviations: N: Neogene, Pg: Paleogene,

K: Cretaceous, J: Jurassic, Tr: Triassic, P: Permian, C: Carboniferous, D: Devonian. Light green

block marks time frame of Gondwana breakup. Symbols on the tree nodes denote vicariant or

dispersal events hypothesized for the divergences (left to right): inverted triangle=Pangea

breakup, star=East-West Gondwana breakup, triangle=West Gondwana breakup, dot=Laurasia

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

sampling locations depicted in the map as follows: yellow=South America, orange=Africa,

purple=Asia, red=Australia, light blue=North America, dark blue=Europe, lime

green=Antarctica (no taxa assigned).

2263

Figure 8. Ancestral areas of distribution inferred for mygalomorph spiders with DEC analyses

implemented in RASP. Tree topology obtained in ExaBayes. Terminal tree taxa are color coded

according to the biogeographic regions of their sampling locations depicted in the map (bottom

left) as follows: A=North America, B=Europe, C=Asia, D=South America, E=Africa,

F=Australia. Color coding of the inferred ancestral distributions corresponds to the assigned

biogeographic regions, or combination of thereof depicted in the combined area legend on the

left. Biogeographic events marked on the nodes: Di=dispersal, V=vicariance, Ex=extinction;

black letters: events inferred with probability > 0.7.

2273

2274   Figure 9. Ancestral state reconstruction of mygalomorph foraging constructs. Preferred ancestral

2275   state reconstruction of foraging type using an equal rates model in the R-package *corHMM* with

2276   cursorial hunting taxa treated as inapplicable (?); tree was modified as ultrametric; AICc =

2277   173.9083. Terminal tree taxa are color coded according the type of spinning structure depicted in

2278   the legend panel of the left.

2279

2280

2281

Figure 10. Cladogram summarizing the phylogenetic relationships of mygalomorph families

recovered in this paper. The topology corresponds to the arrangement obtained in the

concatenated analyses (RAxML, ExaBayes). The crossed boxes on the branches represent

unsupported relationships: left maximum likelihood bootstrap support < 70%, right Bayesian

inference Posterior Probability< 0.95,). Filled box=node supported only in Bayesian inference,

otherwise relationships supported in both analyses.

2288

2289   APPENDIX 1: Revised Taxonomy for some of the families of the Spider Infraorder

2290   Mygalomorphae (Araneae)

2291

2292   SUPPLEMENTAL FILES:

2293

2294   Data available from the Dryad Digital Repository: http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.[NNNN]

2295

2296   *Tables and Figures*

2297

2298   Table S1: Specimen locality data

2299

2300   Table S2: Specimens used in the combined analyses of genomic and transcriptomic data

2301   (DNAAA_matrix). AHE dataset: specimens sequenced in this study, AA dataset: data

2302   proceeding from Garrison et al. (2016) "BCC-75" matrix.

2303

2304   Table S3: Character coding for web type ancestral state reconstruction

2305

2306   Supplemental Figure 1. Tree topology obtained in maximum likelihood (ML) analyses conducted

2307   in RAxML. Values on the nodes correspond to bootstrap support.

2308

2309   Supplemental Figure 2. Tree topology obtained in Bayesian inference (BI) analyses conducted in

2310   ExaBayes. Values on the nodes correspond to the Bayesian posterior probability (PP).

2311

2312   Supplemental Figure 3. Tree topology obtained in species tree analysis conducted in ASTRAL.

2313   Values on the nodes correspond to the ASTRAL support values.

2314

2315   Supplemental Figure 4. Divergence time estimates of mygalomorph spiders inferred by treePL

2316   on a topology obtained in RAxML, values near the nodes correspond to the inferred timing of the

2317   divergences. The x-axis is time in million years.

2318

Supplemental Figure 5. 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. 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.

2327

2328   *Data Files*

2329

ASTRAL_all_taxa.tre

ASTRAL_all_taxa.trees

ExaBayes_all_taxa.tre

RASP_ingroup.tre_dis.csv

RAxML_DNAAA.nex

RAxML_DNAAA.tre

RAxML_DNAAA_partitions.txt

RAxML_ExaBayes_all_taxa.nex

RAxML_ExaBayes_all_taxa_partitions.txt

RAxML_No_Paratropis.nex

RAxML_No_Paratropis.tre

RAxML_No_Paratropis_partitions.txt

RAxML_all_taxa.tre

silkUseAncStateRecon.txt

treePL_dated.tre

Taxonomic Appendix: Revised Taxonomy for some of the families of the Spider Infraorder

Mygalomorphae (Araneae)

2347

2348 **Jason E. Bond[1], Marshal Hedin[2], and Vera Opatova[1]**

2349

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2352

2353 **Families remaining unchanged in their composition**

2354

Actinopodidae

Antrodiaetidae

Atracidae

Atypidae

Barychelidae

Euctenizidae

Halonoproctidae

Hexathelidae

Idiopidae

Macrothelidae

Mecicobothriidae

Migidae

Paratropididae

Porrhothelidae

Theraphosidae

2370

2371   *denotes genera included in analyses in the accompanying paper (Opatova et al. 2019); @

2372   denotes that the taxon was definitively placed by another study supporting the designated

2373   placement here

2374

2375   **Relimitation of the family Dipluridae Simon, 1889**

2376

2377   **Family Dipluridae Simon, 1889 (new circumscription)**

2378

2379   **Type genus: *Diplura*** C. L. Koch, 1850 (type species *Mygale macrura* Koch, 1841)

2380

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.

2392

2393   **List of included subfamilies and genera**

2394

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

2401

2402   **Masteriinae Simon, 1889**

2403   *Masteria* C. L. Koch, 1873

2404   *Siremata* Passanha and Brescovit, 2018

2405   *Striamea* Raven, 1981

2406

2407   **Family Ischnothelidae F.O.P Cambridge, 1897 NEW RANK**

2408

2409   **Type genus: *Ischnothele*** Ausserer, 1875 (type species *Ischnothele caudata* Ausserer, 1875)

2410

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.

2417

2418   *List of included genera*

2419

2420   **Ischnothele* Ausserer, 1875

2421   *Andethele* Coyle, 1995

2422   *Indothele* Coyle, 1995

2423   *Lathrothele* Benoit, 1965

2424   **Thelechoris* Karsch, 1881

2425

2426   **Family Euagridae Raven, 1979 NEW RANK**

2427

2428   **Type genus: *Euagrus*** Ausserer, 1875 (type species *Euagrus mexicanus* Ausserer, 1875)

2429

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).

2447

2448   *List of included Euagrinae genera*

2449

*Euagrus Ausserer, 1875

Caledothele Raven, 1991

Chilehexops Coyle, 1986

Leptothele Raven and Schwendinger, 1995

Phyxioschema Simon, 1889

Vilchura Ríos-Tamayo and Goloboff, 2017

2456

2457   **Australothelinae NEW SUBFAMILY Bond, Hedin, and Opatova**

2458

2459 **Type genus:** *Australothele* Raven, 1984 (type species *Australothele maculata* Raven, 1984)

2460

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).

2468

2469 *List of genera included*

2470

*Australothele Raven, 1984

*Allothele Tucker, 1920

Carrai Raven, 1984

*Cethegus Thorell, 1881

*Namirea Raven, 1984

Stenygrocercus Simon, 1892

2477

2478 **Microhexuridae NEW FAMILY Bond, Hedin, and Opatova**

2479

2480 **Type genus.** *Microhexura* Crosby and Bishop, 1925 (type species *Microhexura montivaga*

2481 Crosby and Bishop, 1925)

2482

2483   **Diagnosis**: Because the family is monogeneric, characters used to diagnose Microhexuridae are

2484   those that can be attributed to the genus by Coyle (1981). Among the smallest mygalomorph

2485   spiders known, the family is diagnosed on the basis of the following unique combination of

2486   characters: 1) longitudinal fovea; 2) four spinnerets – posterior lateral spinnerets long (nearly the

2487   length of the abdomen); 3) lacking abdominal tergites; and 4) male pedipalp lacking conductor.

2488

2489   *List of included genera*

2490

2491   *Microhexura* Crosby and Bishop, 1925

2492

2493   **Relimitation of the family Ctenizidae Thorell, 1887**

2494

2495   **Ctenizidae Thorell, 1887 (new circumscription)**

2496

2497   **Type genus**: *Cteniza* Latreille, 1829 (type species *Cteniza sauvagesi* (Rossi, 1788))

2498

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.

2507

2508   *List of included genera*

2509

2510   *Cteniza* Latreille, 1829

2511   *Cyrtocarenum* Ausserer, 1871

2512

2513

2514   **Stasimopidae NEW FAMILY Bond, Hedin, and Opatova**

2515

2516   **Type genus: *Stasimopus*** Simon, 1892 (type species *Stasimopus caffrus* (C. L. Koch, 1842)

2517

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 remarkable and

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.

2527

2528   *List of included genera*

2529

2530   **Stasimopus* Simon, 1892

2531

2532

2533   **Relimitation of the family Cyrtaucheniidae Simon, 1889**

2534

2535   **Cyrtaucheniidae Simon, 1889 (new circumscription)**

2536

2537   **Type genus: *Cyrtauchenius* Thorell, 1869 (type species *Cyrtauchenius terricola* (Lucas, 1846))**

2538

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.

2549

2550   *List of included genera*

2551

2552   *Cyrtauchenius* Thorell, 1869

2553   *Ancylotrypa* Simon, 1889

2554

2555   *Incertae sedis*

2556

Acontius Karsch, 1879

Anemesia Pocock, 1895

Bolostromoides Schiapelli and Gerschman, 1945

Bolostromus Ausserer, 1875

Fufius Simon, 1888

Rhytidicolus Simon, 1889

2563

2564   Transferred to other families (not included in the relimitation of Cyrtaucheniidae)

2565

2566   *Amblyocarenum* Simon, 1892 here transferred to Nemesiidae justified on the basis of

2567   phylogenetic placement.

2568

2569   [@]*Angka* Raven and Schwendinger, 1995 here transferred to Microstigmatidae on the basis of its

2570   putative sister relationship to *Kiama*.

2571

2572   *Homostola* Simon, 1892 here transferred to Bemmeridae justified on the basis of phylogenetic

2573   placement.

2574

Relimitation of the family Nemesiidae Simon, 1889

2576

Nemesiidae Simon, 1889 (new circumscription)

2578

Type genus: *Nemesia* Audouin, 1826 (type species *Nemesia cellicola* Audouin, 1826)

2580

Remarks. To a greater extent than Cyrtaucheniidae (above), what remains of the family

Nemesiidae is a likely para-polyphyletic assemblage of genera. As such we consider the

placement of a large number of genera in the family to be uncertain at best; many of which may

prove to be pycnothelids. Consequently, much work remains, particularly if we are able to

confidently place many of the South American genera.

2586

List of included genera

2588

*Nemesia Audouin, 1826

*Amblyocarenum Simon, 1892

*Calisoga Chamberlin, 1937

*Iberesia Decae and Cardoso, 2006

*Mexentypesa Raven, 1987

2594

Incertae sedis

2596

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

Entypesa Simon, 1902 – likely to be transferred to Hermachidae

Flamencopsis Goloboff, 1995

Gravelyia Mirza and Mondal, 2018

Hermachura Mello-Leitão, 1923

Lepthercus Purcell, 1902 – likely Hermachidae

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

Pycnothele Chamberlin, 1917

Rachias Simon, 1892; likely to be transferred to Pycnothelidae per Goloboff (1995)

Raveniola Zonstein, 1987

Sinopesa Raven and Schwendinger, 1995

2620

2621   Transferred to other families (not included in the relimitation of Nemesiidae)

2622

2623   *Xamiatus* Raven, 1981; here transferred to Microstigmatidae on the basis of its putative

2624   sister/close relationship with *Ixamatus* and *Kiama* (Raven 1981,1985)

2625   *Ixamatus* Simon, 1887 here transferred to Microstigmatidae on the basis of its putative

2626   phylogenetic position per Harvey et al. (2018).

2627

2628   **Anamidae Simon, 1889 NEW RANK**

2629

2630   **Type genus:** *Aname* L. Koch, 1873 (type species *Aname pallida* L. Koch, 1873)

2631

2632   **Remarks.** A detailed diagnosis for this new family rank taxon is provided by Harvey et al.

2633   (2018).

2634

2635   *List of included genera*

2636

*Aname L. Koch, 1873

*Chenistonia Hogg, 1901

[@]*Hesperonatalius* Castalanelli et al. 2017 per Harvey et al. (2018)

*Kwonkan Main, 1983 (=**Yilgarnia* Main, 1986)

*Namea Raven, 1984

[@]*Proshermacha* Simon 1908 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)

2647

2648   **Bemmeridae Simon, 1903 NEW RANK**

2649

2650   **Type genus**: ***Spiroctenus*** Simon, 1892 (type species *Homostola vulpecula* Simon, 1892)

2651

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.

2670

2671   *List of included genera*

2672

2673   **Homostola* Simon, 1892

2674   **Spiroctenus* Simon, 1889

2675

2676   **Pycnothelidae Chamberlin, 1917 NEW RANK**

2677

2678   **Type genus: *Pycnothele*** Chamberlin, 1917 (type species *Pycnothele perdita* Chamberlin, 1917)

2679

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.

2695

2696   *List of included genera*

2697

@*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

2704

2705   **Hermachidae NEW FAMILY Bond, Hedin, and Opatova**

2706

2707   **Type genus: *Hermacha* Simon, 1889 (type species *Hermacha caudata* Simon, 1889)**

2708

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), Hermachidae 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 *Lepthercus* and *Entypesa* in this family at

some point in the future.

2717

2718   *Included genus*

2719

2720   **Hermacha* Simon, 1889

2721

2722   **Relimitation of the family Microstigmatidae Roewer, 1942**

2723

2724   **Family Microstigmatidae Roewer, 1942 (new circumscription)**

2725

2726   **Type genus: *Microstigmata* Strand, 1932 (type species *Microstigmata geophila* (Hewitt, 1916))**

2727

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.

2736

2737   *List of included genera*

2738

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

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