SPIXIANA	41	1	26	München, Oktober 2018	ISSN 0341–8391

Scientific note

First record of neotropical genus *Semeiochernes* Beier, 1932 in Ecuador

(Pseudoscorpiones, Chernetidae)

Jana Christophoryová, L'ubomír Vidlička, Václav Kautman & Katarína Krajčovičová

Genus *Semeiochernes* Beier, 1932, established for *Semeiochernes militaris* Beier, 1932, is represented in Central and South America by three species: *S. armiger* (Balzan, 1892) (Brazil, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago), *S. militaris* Beier, 1932 (Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico) and *S. extraordinarius* Beier, 1954 (Venezuela) (Harvey 2013). The genus is characterized by robust and granulated palps that are highly sexually dimorphic (Fig. 1). Males possess greatly enlarged chelae and chelal peg-like processes, that are absent in females (Beier 1932, Zeh & Zeh 1992b).

The original descriptions of the species were based on chelal size and presence or absence of lateral process on palpal chela. However, rearing experiments from Panama have demonstrated that intrapopulation variability encompasses the full range of *Semeiochernes* "interspecific" chelal morphology (from small chelae without lateral processes to greatly enlarged chelae with pronounced lateral processes) and that the species status cannot be established using these male characters (Zeh & Zeh 1992b). Since then all specimens were described as *S. armiger* (Harvey 2013).

During the research performed in Ecuador, invertebrates were collected using sweeping method and light traps. Two males and two females of *S. armiger* (Fig. 1) were found phoretic on unspecified insect (01.03.–06.03.2014) in secondary tropical forest near the river Toachi at locality Otongachi, Union del Toachi env., Prov. Santo Domingo in Ecuador (−00.3208333, −078.9516667; 900 m a.s.l.). The material is deposited in the zoological collections on Department of Zoology, Comenius University, Bratislava.

The neotropical pseudoscorpion *S. armiger* inhabits decaying *Ficus* trees and disperses phoretically by attachment to the giant wood-boring fly, *Pantophthalmus tabaninus* Thunberg, 1819 (Pantophtalmidae, Diptera) (Zeh & Zeh 1992a, Santos et al. 2005). Our record corresponds with the known ecological requirements of the species and represents the first record of the genus in Ecuador.

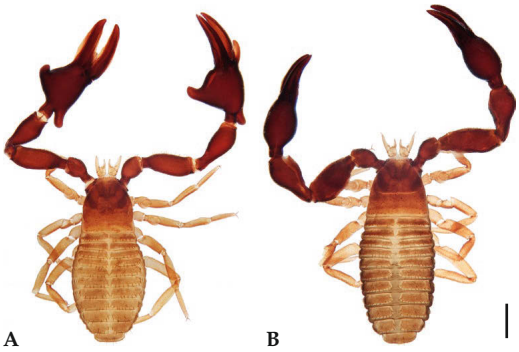

Fig. 1. Adults of *Semeiochernes armiger*. **A.** Male. **B.** Female. Scale bar: 1 mm.

Acknowledgements. We are grateful to Christoph Hörweg and Mark Harvey for their help with literature. The study was financially supported by the project VEGA 1/0191/15.

References

Beier, M. 1932. Pseudoscorpionidea II. Subord. C. Cheliferinea. Das Tierreich 58: i–xxi, 1–294.

Harvey, M. S. 2013. Pseudoscorpions of the World, Version 3.0. Western Australian Museum, Perth. http://museum.wa.gov.au/catalogues-beta/pseudoscorpions/ [accessed 05-Apr-2017]

Santos, J. C., Tizo-Pedroso, E. & Wilson-Fernandes, G. 2005. A case of phoresy of *Semeiochernes armiger* Balzan, 1892 (Pseudoscorpiones: Chernetidae) on the giant tropical fly *Pantophthalmus tabaninus* Thunberg, 1819 (Diptera: Pantophthalmidae) in an Amazonian rain forest, Parà. Lundiana, Supplement 6: 11–12.

Zeh, D. W. & Zeh, J. A. 1992a. Emergence of a giant fly triggers phoretic dispersal in the neotropical pseudoscorpion, *Semeiochernes armiger* (Balzan) (Pseudoscorpionida: Chernetidae). Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society 9: 43–46.

Zeh, J. A. & Zeh, D. W. 1992b. Are sexually-selected traits reliable species characters? Implications of intra-brood variability in *Semeiochernes armiger* (Balzan) (Pseudoscorpionida: Chernetidae). Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society 9: 61–64.

Jana Christophoryová (corresponding author; e-mail: christophoryova@gmail.com) & Katarína Krajčovičová, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, Mlynská dolina, Ilkovičova 6, 842-15 Bratislava, Slovakia
L'ubomír Vidlička, Institute of Zoology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Dúbravská cesta 9, 845-06 Bratislava, Slovakia
Václav Kautman, Mierová 16, 821-05 Bratislava, Slovakia