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Fourteen new generic and ten new specific synonymies in Pholcidae (Araneae), and transfer of *Mystes* Bristowe to Filistatidae

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Abstract

Between 1998 and 2011, the Venezuelan arachnologist Manuel Ángel González-Sponga (GS) published a series of taxonomic papers devoted to the Pholcidae of Venezuela. Of his 22 new genera, 20 were monotypic when described, suggesting a high percentage of synonyms. We studied his descriptions and as far as accessible his type specimens and propose the following new generic synonymies: *Autana* GS, 2011 = *Mesabolivar* GS, 1998; *Ayomania* GS, 2005 and *Venezuela* Koçak & Kemal, 2008 (new replacement names for *Falconia* GS, 2003) = *Mecolaesthus* Simon, 1893; *Carbonaria* GS, 2009 = *Mecolaesthus* Simon, 1893; *Caruaya* GS, 2011 = *Mesabolivar* GS, 1998; *Coroia* GS, 2005 = *Artema* Walckenaer, 1837; *Maimire* GS, 2009 = *Mecolaesthus* Simon, 1893; *Moraia* GS, 2011 = *Mecolaesthus* Simon, 1893; *Nasuta* GS, 2009 = *Mecolaesthus* Simon, 1893; *Portena* GS, 2011 = *Metagonia* Simon, 1893; *Rioparaguanus* GS, 2005 = *Mesabolivar* GS, 1998; *Tonoro* GS, 2009 = *Litoporus* Simon, 1893; *Sanluisi* GS, 2003 = *Mecolaesthus* Simon, 1893. Three of the type species are also specific synonyms: *Autana autanensis* GS, 2011 = *Mesabolivar aurantiacus* (Mello-Leitão, 1930); *Coroia magna* GS, 2005 = *Artema atlanta* Walckenaer, 1837; *Tonoro multispinae* GS, 2009 = *Litoporus uncatus* (Simon, 1893). Six species that González-Sponga described under *Blechroscelis* (a genus previously synonymized with *Priscula* Simon, 1893) are all synonyms of *Mesabolivar eberhardi* Huber, 2000 (*B. acuoso* GS, 2011; *B. araguanus* GS, 2011; *B. blechroscelis* GS, 2011; *B. copeyensis* GS, 2011; *B. cordillerano* GS, 2011; *B. andinensis* GS, 2011). In addition, and unrelated to González-Sponga's work, we synonymize the Central Asian monotypic genus *Ceratopholcus* Spassky, 1934 with *Crosso-priza* Simon, 1893; we synonymize the Chinese species *Pholcus acerosus* Peng & Zhang, 2011 with *Pholcus fragillimus* Strand, 1907 and remove the Malaysian monotypic genus *Mystes* Bristowe, 1938, previously thought to be the only East Asian representative of the subfamily Ninetinae, to the family Filistatidae.

Key words: Pholcidae, taxonomy, synonymies, Venezuela

Introduction

Pholcid spiders are highly diverse in tropical and subtropical forests around the world. Collections over large megatransects in Brazil, the Caribbean, and tropical Africa have shown that the current number of 1400 described species amounts to probably just around 20% of the actual diversity (Huber 2014). The New World stands out both with respect to total regional diversity and single-locality diversity. With about 37 genera, the Neotropics count more than Africa and Asia combined (about 30 genera). Of the 14 localities currently known to contain more than ten species of Pholcidae, twelve are Neotropical (Huber & Rheims 2011; B.A. Huber, unpublished). Many species seem to be restricted to small geographic areas, resulting in high species turnover among localities and consequently in large numbers of undescribed species in poorly explored regions.

At the level of genera, a first revision of New World pholcids was published in 2000 (Huber 2000), and most new species can now be assigned to existing genera with some confidence. However, with about 80% undescribed species it is also clear that generic limits will have to be reconsidered as new species are described. New genera are

likely to be necessary both for newly discovered species and for genera that turn out to be non-monophyletic. Venezuela is a particular challenge, not only for its outstanding biodiversity but ironically also for the work of one of the most eminent arachnologists. Eugène Simon visited Venezuela in 1887-1888, and he was obviously fascinated by the diversity of sizes, shapes and color patterns, resulting in the creation of several new genera for pholcid species that look relatively different but are apparently closely related (clade 4f in the subfamily Modisiminae in Huber 2011b). Thus he set the stage for a level of splitting that is apparently nowhere as extreme as in Venezuela, and that will be difficult to overcome by anything less than comprehensive revisions of the genera that make up the Venezuelan pholcid fauna.

Between 1998 and 2011, Manuel Ángel González-Sponga published a series of ten papers devoted entirely to the Pholcidae of Venezuela, describing 22 new genera and 50 new species (Tables 1, 2). Partly his descriptions were based on excellent new material from remote regions, and many of his new species are thus probably valid. However, much of his work is deeply flawed for several reasons: (1) he apparently considered Venezuelan arachnids the domain of Venezuelan arachnologists, which in turn meant that he had no ambition to deal with what in his view were other peoples' domains, i.e. the fauna of other and even neighboring countries; (2) he largely ignored the work of foreign arachnologists, even work on the fauna of Venezuela (foreign work is partly listed in his References but its content usually has no impact on the paper itself); (3) he increasingly adopted a concept of genera that allowed only minimal differences for species to be considered congeneric, forcing him to create new genera for almost every new species; (4) he often seemed to base his decisions about species identity on differences in drawings rather than on the comparison of specimens, resulting in the creation of new species for every slightly different view of the same structure. Partly as a result of the above, most of González-Sponga's pholcid genera were monotypic when described (20 of 22; i.e. 91%), and most of his pholcid species were known from their type localities only (45 of 50; i.e. 90%).

TABLE 1. González-Sponga's (GS) pholcid genera.

Genus	Synonym	Synonymized in
<i>Anomalaia</i> GS, 1998	<i>Metagonia</i> Simon, 1893	Huber 2000
<i>Autana</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar</i> GS, 1998	herein
<i>Ayomania</i> GS, 2005 (n.n. for <i>Falconia</i> GS, 2003)	<i>Mecolaesthus</i> Simon, 1893	herein
<i>Carapoia</i> GS, 1998		
<i>Carbonaria</i> GS, 2009	<i>Mecolaesthus</i> Simon, 1893	herein
<i>Caruaya</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar</i> GS, 1998	herein
<i>Carupania</i> GS, 2003	<i>Coryssocnemis</i> Simon, 1893	Huber 2009
<i>Chichiriviche</i> GS, 2011		
<i>Codazziella</i> GS, 2005		
<i>Coroia</i> GS, 2005	<i>Artema</i> Walckenaer, 1837	herein
<i>Maimire</i> GS, 2009	<i>Mecolaesthus</i> Simon, 1893	herein
<i>Mariguitaia</i> GS, 2004	<i>Micropholcus</i> Deeleman-Reinhold & Prinsen, 1987	Huber 2009
<i>Mesabolivar</i> GS, 1998		
<i>Moraia</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mecolaesthus</i> Simon, 1893	herein
<i>Nasuta</i> GS, 2009	<i>Mecolaesthus</i> Simon, 1893	herein
<i>Portena</i> GS, 2011	<i>Metagonia</i> Simon, 1893	herein
<i>Queliceria</i> GS, 2003		
<i>Rioparaguanus</i> GS, 2005	<i>Mesabolivar</i> GS, 1998	herein
<i>Sanluisi</i> GS, 2003	<i>Mecolaesthus</i> Simon, 1893	herein
<i>Stenosfemuraia</i> GS, 1998		
<i>Tibiosa</i> GS, 2006	<i>Crossopriza</i> Simon, 1893	Huber 2009
<i>Tonoro</i> GS, 2009	<i>Litoporus</i> Simon, 1893	herein

TABLE 2. González-Sponga's (GS) pholcid species.

Species	Synonym	Synonymized in
<i>Autana autanensis</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar aurantiacus</i> (Mello-Leitão, 1930)	herein
" <i>Blechroscelis</i> " <i>acuoso</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar eberhardi</i> Huber, 2000	herein
" <i>Blechroscelis</i> " <i>andinensis</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar eberhardi</i> Huber, 2000	herein
" <i>Blechroscelis</i> " <i>araguanus</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar eberhardi</i> Huber, 2000	herein
" <i>Blechroscelis</i> " <i>blechroscelis</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar eberhardi</i> Huber, 2000	herein
" <i>Blechroscelis</i> " <i>copeyensis</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar eberhardi</i> Huber, 2000	herein
" <i>Blechroscelis</i> " <i>cordillerano</i> GS, 2011	<i>Mesabolivar eberhardi</i> Huber, 2000	herein
<i>Carapoia paraguaensis</i> GS, 1998		
<i>Chichiriviche costanero</i> GS, 2011		
<i>Codazziella pilosa</i> GS, 2005		
<i>Coroia magna</i> GS, 2005	<i>Artema atlanta</i> Walckenaer, 1837	herein
<i>Coryssoenemis tarsocurvipes</i> (GS, 2003)		
<i>Mariguitaia divergentis</i> GS, 2004	<i>Micropholcus fauroti</i> (Simon, 1887)	Huber 2009
<i>Mariguitaia museorum</i> GS, 2004	<i>Micropholcus fauroti</i> (Simon, 1887)	Huber 2009
<i>Mariguitaia neoespartana</i> GS, 2004	<i>Micropholcus fauroti</i> (Simon, 1887)	Huber 2009
<i>Mariguitaia sucrensis</i> GS, 2004	<i>Micropholcus fauroti</i> (Simon, 1887)	Huber 2009
<i>Mecolaesthus cordiformis</i> (GS, 2009)		
<i>Mecolaesthus grandis</i> (GS, 2009)		
<i>Mecolaesthus multidenticulatus</i> (GS, 2003)		
<i>Mecolaesthus niquitanus</i> (GS, 2011)		
<i>Mecolaesthus puntiagudus</i> (GS, 2003)		
<i>Mecolaesthus tuberculosus</i> (GS, 2009)		
<i>Mesabolivar anseriformis</i> (GS, 2011)		
<i>Mesabolivar pseudoblechroscelis</i> GS, 1998		
<i>Mesabolivar spinosus</i> (GS, 2005)		
<i>Metagonia mariguitarensis</i> (GS, 1998)		
<i>Metagonia triocular</i> (GS, 2011)		
<i>Modisimus minimus</i> (GS, 2009)		
<i>Physocyclus boconoensis</i> GS, 2007	<i>Physocyclus globosus</i> (Taczanowski, 1874)	Huber 2009
<i>Physocyclus borburatensis</i> GS, 2007	<i>Physocyclus globosus</i> (Taczanowski, 1874)	Huber 2009
<i>Physocyclus cariaconoensis</i> GS, 2007	<i>Physocyclus globosus</i> (Taczanowski, 1874)	Huber 2009
<i>Physocyclus guatirensis</i> GS, 2007	<i>Physocyclus globosus</i> (Taczanowski, 1874)	Huber 2009
<i>Physocyclus monaguensis</i> GS, 2007	<i>Physocyclus globosus</i> (Taczanowski, 1874)	Huber 2009
<i>Priscula andinensis</i> GS, 1999		
<i>Priscula chejapi</i> GS, 1999		
<i>Priscula lagunosa</i> GS, 1999		
<i>Priscula limonensis</i> GS, 1999		
<i>Priscula piedraensis</i> GS, 1999		
<i>Priscula ranchograndensis</i> GS, 1999	<i>Priscula venezuelana</i> Simon, 1893	Huber 2000
<i>Priscula salmeronica</i> GS, 1999		
<i>Priscula ulai</i> GS, 1999		
<i>Queliceria discrepantis</i> GS, 2003		

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TABLE 2. (Continued)

Species	Synonym	Synonymized in
<i>Stenosfemuraia quadrata</i> GS, 2005		
<i>Stenosfemuraia parva</i> GS, 1998		
<i>Tibiosa caracensis</i> GS, 2006	<i>Crossopriza lyoni</i> (Blackwall, 1867)	Huber 2009
<i>Tibiosa casanaimensis</i> GS, 2006	<i>Crossopriza lyoni</i> (Blackwall, 1867)	Huber 2009
<i>Tibiosa coreana</i> GS, 2006	<i>Crossopriza lyoni</i> (Blackwall, 1867)	Huber 2009
<i>Tibiosa guayanesa</i> GS, 2006	<i>Crossopriza lyoni</i> (Blackwall, 1867)	Huber 2009
<i>Tibiosa moraensis</i> GS, 2006	<i>Crossopriza lyoni</i> (Blackwall, 1867)	Huber 2009
<i>Tonoro multispinae</i> GS, 2009	<i>Litoporus uncatus</i> (Simon, 1893)	herein

Previous efforts to evaluate González-Sponga's genera and species (Huber 2000, 2009) were hampered by the inaccessibility of his private collection. Thus, only four genera and 15 species were previously synonymized, based mainly on González-Sponga's drawings and to a lesser degree on the geographic distribution of the respective taxa and on information about the collection sites (some genera like *Crossopriza* and *Physocyclus* are represented in South America by only one pantropical species each, typically found in and around buildings).

In March 2009 González-Sponga passed away, but further papers continued to be published under his name until 2011, producing another nine genera and 16 species of Pholcidae. Following his last will and testament, his material was donated by his family to the Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (MIZA) in Maracay. Currently, the institute has no curator, but the material (thousands of lots of arachnids) is being inventoried and catalogued. As a result, access is still partly restricted but will hopefully improve greatly in the near future.

This note is largely devoted to the names published after González-Sponga's death, but the new accessibility of his collection also enabled us to confirm some of the synonymies proposed previously (Huber 2009) and to reconsider some of the older names whose synonymies could not be confidently assessed from the original descriptions. In addition, and unrelated to González-Sponga's work, we synonymize the Central Asian genus *Ceratopholcus* Spassky, 1934 with *Crossopriza* Simon, 1893; we synonymize the Chinese species *Pholcus acerosus* Peng & Zhang, 2011 with *Pholcus fragillimus* Strand, 1907 and remove the Malaysian genus *Mystes* Bristowe, 1938, previously thought to be the only East Asian representative of the subfamily Ninetinae, to the family Filistatidae.

Material and methods

González-Sponga's material is deposited in the Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola of the Universidad Central de Venezuela in Maracay (MIZA). Further specimens treated herein came from the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBU), the Alexander Koenig Research Museum of Zoology, Germany (ZFMK), and the Zoological Museum of the Moscow University, Russia (ZMMU). In some cases, inaccessibility of type specimens forced us to rely on original descriptions.

Taxonomy

Artema Walckenaer, 1837

Artema Walckenaer, 1837: 656. Simon 1893b: 465. Chrysanthus 1967: 92. Brignoli 1981: 91.

Coroia González-Sponga, 2005: 102; type species: *Coroia magna* González-Sponga, 2005; **new synonymy**.

***Artema atlanta* Walckenaer, 1837**

Artema atlanta Walckenaer, 1837: 656. F.O. Pickard-Cambridge 1902: 366, pl. 34, figs. 15-16. Petrunkevitch 1929: 119, figs. 102-104. Chrysanthus 1967: 92, figs. 15-19. Brignoli 1981: 92, figs. 1-7. Saaristo 2001: 15, figs. 16-22.
Artema mauriciana Walckenaer, 1837: 657. Millot 1946: 129, fig. 1. Synonymized by F.O. Pickard-Cambridge (1902).
Pholcus sisyphoides Doleschall, 1857: 408. Synonymized by F.O. Pickard-Cambridge (1902).
Artema convexa Blackwall, 1858: 332. Synonymized by Simon (1885).
Pholcus borbonicus Vinson, 1863: 132. Synonymized by Simon (1885).
Pholcus rotundatus Karsch, 1879: 106. Synonymized by Simon (1893b).
Crossopriza sexsignata Franganillo Balboa, 1926: 49. Synonymized by Pérez González (1996).
Coroia magna González-Sponga, 2005: 102, pl. 2, figs. 1-11; **new synonymy**.

Justification of synonymy. We have not re-examined the type specimens (from Falcón State, Venezuela) but González-Sponga's drawings show all the distinctive characters of this species (armature of chelicerae; shape of palp and of bulbal processes; shape of epigynal sclerites). In addition, *Artema* is an Old World genus, and *A. atlanta* is the only species that has attained a pantropical distribution (including numerous New World records, e.g. Walckenaer 1837; Blackwall 1858; Karsch 1879; Petrunkevitch 1929; Brignoli 1981).

***Litoporus* Simon, 1893**

Litoporus Simon, 1893b: 483. Huber 2000: 292.
Tonoro González-Sponga, 2009: 8; type species: *Tonoro multispinae* González-Sponga, 2009; **new synonymy**.

***Litoporus uncatu* (Simon, 1893)**

Coryssocnemis uncata Simon, 1893a: 321. Simon 1893b: 479-483, fig. 472 (♀). Huber 1997: 582, figs. 6a-e, 7a-b (♂).
Litoporus abrahami Mello-Leitão, 1947: 164, fig. 11. Synonymized by Huber (2000).
Litoporus uncatu: Huber 2000: 300, figs. 1207-1211 (♂♀).
Tonoro multispinae González-Sponga, 2009: 8-10, figs. 4a-i; **new synonymy**.

Justification of synonymy. *Litoporus uncatu* is a widespread species with highly distinctive male chelicerae (see map 8 and fig. 1207 in Huber 2000). We have not seen González-Sponga's material (3♂ 4♀ from Bolívar State, Venezuela) but the unique modification of the male chelicerae is strong evidence for synonymy (compare fig. 4c in González-Sponga 2009 with fig. 6c in Huber 1997). In addition, available figures of the male palp also show identical shapes of all its components (compare figs. 4e-f in González-Sponga 2009 with figs. 7a-b in Huber 1997).

Note. González-Sponga's (2009) leg 1 measures of the holotype are clearly wrong (tibia 1 shorter than tibiae 2 and 4).

***Mecolaesthus* Simon, 1893**

Mecoloesthus/Mecolaesthus Simon, 1893b: 482. Huber 2000: 255.
Ayomania González-Sponga, 2005: 108; and *Venezuela* Koçak & Kemal, 2008: 4 (new replacement names for *Falconia* González-Sponga, 2003); type species: *Falconia multidenticulata* González-Sponga, 2003; **new synonymies**.
Carbonaria González-Sponga, 2009: 2; type species: *Carbonaria cordiformis* González-Sponga, 2009; **new synonymy**.
Maimire González-Sponga, 2009: 4; type species: *Maimire tuberculosa* González-Sponga, 2009; **new synonymy**.
Moraia González-Sponga, 2011b: 43; type species: *Moraia niquitanus* González-Sponga, 2011b; **new synonymy**.
Nasuta González-Sponga, 2009: 6; type species: *Nasuta grandis* González-Sponga, 2009; **new synonymy**.
Sanluisi González-Sponga, 2003: 100; type species: *Sanluisi puntiaguda* González-Sponga, 2003; **new synonymy**.

Justifications of synonymies. *Mecolaesthus cordiformis* (González-Sponga, 2009); **new combination**. We have not re-examined the type specimens (1♂ 1♀ from Merida State, Venezuela) and do not know if the prosoma shows the posterior 'inflation' characteristic for *Mecolaesthus*. However, the shape of the palp in general and of the

retrolateral apophysis on the procurus in particular is characteristic for the type species *M. longissimus* Simon, 1893 and some close relatives (cf. figs. 1017, 1029, 1032, 1036 in Huber 2000). The armature of the male chelicerae is also similar to congeners from the same Venezuelan State (Merida) (e.g. *M. azulita* Huber, 2000; *M. tabay* Huber, 2000; *M. cornutus* Huber, 2000).

Mecolaesthus grandis (González-Sponga, 2009); **new combination**. We have not seen González-Sponga's specimens (1♂ 9♀ from Vargas State, Venezuela) but the original description explicitly mentions the posteriorly 'inflated' prosoma characteristic of *Mecolaesthus* ("Tórax de mayor altura que el área ocular...").

Mecolaesthus multidenticulatus (González-Sponga, 2003); **new combination**. Re-examination (by PAC) of the type specimens (1♂ 1♀ from Falcón State, Venezuela) revealed the characteristic (though inconspicuous) posterior 'inflation' of the prosoma. The male cheliceral apophyses are very similar to geographically close congeners like *M. grandis* and *M. tuberculosus*.

Mecolaesthus niquitanus (González-Sponga, 2011b); **new combination**. Re-examination (by PAC) of González-Sponga's specimens (2♂ 7♀ from Trujillo State, Venezuela) revealed the characteristic (though inconspicuous) posterior 'inflation' of the prosoma and a retrolateral process on the procurus similar to the type species *M. longissimus* and some close relatives (cf. figs. 1017, 1029, 1032, 1036 in Huber 2000).

Mecolaesthus puntiagudus (González-Sponga, 2003); **new combination**. The abdomen of this species is globular rather than elongated and pointed at the tip as in most congeners, but a re-examination (by PAC) of the type specimens (2♂ 8♀ from Falcón State, Venezuela) revealed the characteristic posterior 'inflation' of the prosoma. The epigynum has a pair of processes similar to *M. taino* Huber, 2000.

Mecolaesthus tuberculosus (González-Sponga, 2009); **new combination**. We have not seen González-Sponga's material of this species (2♂ 4♀ from Yaracuy State, Venezuela), but the original drawings strongly suggest that this species is closely related to *Mecolaesthus grandis* which is geographically close (distance between type localities about 190 km) and whose assignment to *Mecolaesthus* is strongly supported by the characteristic posterior 'inflation' of the prosoma (see above).

Mesabolivar González-Sponga, 1998

Mesabolivari González-Sponga, 1998: 27.

Mesabolivar: Huber 2000: 189.

Kaliana Huber, 2000: 271. Synonymized by Astrin, Misof & Huber (2007).

Autana González-Sponga, 2011b: 40; type species: *Autana autanensis* González-Sponga, 2011b; **new synonymy**.

Caruaya González-Sponga, 2011b: 40-41; type species: *Caruaya anseriformis* González-Sponga, 2011b; **new synonymy**.

Rioparaguanus González-Sponga, 2005: 104; type species: *Rioparaguanus spinosus* González-Sponga, 2005; **new synonymy**.

Justifications of synonymies. *Mesabolivar anseriformis* (González-Sponga, 2011b); **new combination**. The procurus of this species is strongly curved, similar to the type species *M. pseudoblechroscelis* González-Sponga, 1998 and to the closely related *M. huambisa* Huber, 2000. However, the chelicerae of *M. anseriformis* (2♂ types from Bolívar State, Venezuela, re-examined by PAC) have a distinctive pair of small apophyses close to the fangs (González-Sponga's drawing of the chelicerae is confusing and wrong). Several males and females of this species were collected in 2002 at km 109 on the road El Dorado to Santa Elena de Uairén, Estado Bolívar, Venezuela (BAH), about 140 km from the type locality. The material is deposited in ZFMK.

Mesabolivar spinosus (González-Sponga, 2005); **new combination**. We have not re-examined the type specimens (2♂ 2♀ from Bolívar State, Venezuela), but González-Sponga's drawings clearly show the distinctive characters of *Mesabolivar* (male cheliceral apophyses close to median line; median epigynal pocket) and the shape of the palp reminds strongly of the widespread *M. aurantiacus* (Mello-Leitão, 1930).

For *Autana*, see *Mesabolivar aurantiacus* below.

Mesabolivar aurantiacus (Mello-Leitão, 1930)

Blechroscelis aurantiacus Mello-Leitão, 1930: 61, fig. 13 (♂).

Blechroscelis irroratus Mello-Leitão, 1947: 160-161, figs. 4-5 (♂♀). Synonymized by Huber (2000).

Blechroscelis virescens Mello-Leitão, 1947: 161, fig. 6 (♂). Synonymized by Huber (2000).

Psilochorus cambridgei Mello-Leitão, 1947: 163 (♂♀) (name preoccupied).
Psilochorus browni Roewer, 1951: 455; new name for *P. cambridgei* Mello-Leitão, 1947. Synonymized by Huber (2000).
Mesabolivar aurantiacus: Huber 2000: 206, figs. 42, 43, 81, 801-810 (♂♀).
Autana autanensis González-Sponga, 2011b: 40, pl. 1, figs. 1-7 (♂); **new synonymy**.

Justification of synonymy. *Mesabolivar aurantiacus* is widespread in the Amazon region of South America (map 6 in Huber 2000). The holotype of *Autana autanensis* (from Amazonas State, Venezuela) was re-examined (by PAC) and found to be identical with the drawings in Huber 2000 (distinctive process on tip of slightly s-shaped procurus; same cheliceral modifications).

***Mesabolivar eberhardi* Huber, 2000**

Mesabolivar eberhardi Huber, 2000: 198, figs. 184, 194, 769-781 (♂♀).
Blechnoscelis acuoso González-Sponga, 2011a: 24, pl. 1, figs. 1-9; **new synonymy**.
Blechnoscelis araguanus González-Sponga, 2011a: 24-25, pl. 2, figs. 1-9; **new synonymy**.
Blechnoscelis blechnoscelis González-Sponga, 2011a: 25-26, pl. 3, figs. 1-9; **new synonymy**.
Blechnoscelis copeyensis González-Sponga, 2011a: 26, pl. 4, figs. 1-9; **new synonymy**.
Blechnoscelis cordillerano González-Sponga, 2011a: 26-27, pl. 5, figs. 1-9; **new synonymy**.
Blechnoscelis andinensis González-Sponga, 2011a: 27-28, pl. 6, figs. 1-9; **new synonymy**.

Justification of synonymies. *Mesabolivar eberhardi* is a variable species but differences among populations are inconsistent and genetic p-distances are low as typical for intraspecific variation (Huber 2000; Astrin *et al.* 2006). While most of González-Sponga's drawings of his six "*Blechnoscelis*" species clearly point towards *Mesabolivar eberhardi*, some remarkable deviations do occur. However, re-examination of González-Sponga's material (by PAC) revealed that all those apparent differences resulted from varying angles of view and from inaccurate drawing. For example, the male palpal trochanter apophyses of "*B. copeyensis*" and "*B. andinensis*" are not slender as in González-Sponga's drawings but short and thick as usual for the species (cf. fig. 773 in Huber 2000). The retrolateral process on the palpal femur of "*B. cordillerano*" is simple as usual (cf. fig. 773 in Huber 2000). The tips of the procuri vary widely in González-Sponga's drawings but in all specimens they actually conform to the bifid structure distinctive for the species (cf. figs. 775-776 in Huber 2000). The same is true for the bulbal process (embolus) which is also distinctively bifid (cf. fig. 778 in Huber 2000). The chelicerae of *M. eberhardi* carry a highly distinctive pair of proximal lateral projections (cf. fig. 774 in Huber 2000); these are shown in all of González-Sponga's drawings but in those drawings they appear more variable than they actually are. Finally, the epigynum of *M. eberhardi* has a long median groove (cf. fig. 780 in Huber 2000), also in specimens of "*B. acuoso*" and "*B. cordillerano*" (contrary to González-Sponga's drawings where the grooves appear short).

***Metagonia* Simon, 1893**

Metagonia Simon, 1893b: 472. Gertsch 1986: 40-41. Huber 2000: 53.
Anomalaia González-Sponga, 1998: 24. Synonymized by Huber (2000).
Portena González-Sponga, 2011b: 42 ("*Porteña*"); type species: *Portena triocular* González-Sponga, 2011b; **new synonymy**.

Justification of synonymy. *Metagonia triocular* (González-Sponga, 2011b) **new combination**. We have not examined González-Sponga's specimens (1♂ 1♀ from Vargas State, Venezuela). However, numerous characters visible in González-Sponga's drawings clearly support the assignment of this species to *Metagonia*: procurus with ventral hinged process; genital bulb dorsally attached to tarsus and with embolus as the only projection; modified male clypeus. Additional evidence is the posteriorly elevated abdomen and the presence of only six eyes.

Note. This species reminds of litter-dwelling Brazilian species (size; male chelicerae; clypeus; microhabitat; see Huber *et al.* 2005) but differs in abdomen shape (posteriorly elevated).

***Crossopriza* Simon, 1893**

Crossopriza Simon, 1893b: 476-477.

Tibiosa González-Sponga, 2006: 10-11. Synonymized by Huber (2009).

Ceratopholcus Spassky, 1934: 361; type species: *Ceratopholcus maculipes* Spassky, 1934; **new synonymy**.

Justification of synonymy. *Crossopriza maculipes* (Spassky, 1934) **new combination**. The type specimens (from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan) seem to be lost. Spassky's original description suggests a species very similar (or even identical) to *Crossopriza lyoni* (Blackwall, 1867). The examination (by BAH) of numerous specimens of *Crossopriza* from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (mostly in ZMMU) has shown that *C. maculipes* is indeed very similar to but also clearly distinguishable from *C. lyoni*. The two species share a second pair of apophyses frontally on the male chelicerae (a putative synapomorphy of a species group that also includes *C. johncloudsleyi* Deeleman-Reinhold & van Harten, 2001 and several undescribed species; it is not present in the type species *C. pristina* Simon, 1890). Geographically, *C. maculipes* and *C. lyoni* do not seem to overlap, and the only other species of *Crossopriza* in the area mentioned above is an undescribed species with very different cheliceral armature and epigynum (definitely not the species described and illustrated by Spassky 1934).

***Pholcus* Walckenaer, 1805**

Pholcus Walckenaer, 1805: 80. Simon 1893b: 470-471. Huber 2001: 108-111. Zhang & Zhu 2009: 6-8. Huber 2011a: 124-126.

***Pholcus fragillimus* Strand, 1907**

Pholcus fragillimus Strand, 1907: 126-128 (♂♀). Huber 2011a: 415-417, figs. 1924-26, 1956-58, 2017-21 (♂♀).

Pholcus okinawaensis Irie, 2002: 141-143, figs. 1-7 (♂♀). Irie 2009: 108, figs. (2-2-13) 21-23. Synonymized by Huber (2011a).

Pholcus acerosus Peng & Zhang, 2011: 1-3, figs. 1a-g (♂♀); **new synonymy**.

Justification of synonymy. Peng & Zhang's (2011) drawings show most of the distinctive characters of *Pholcus fragillimus* (three pairs of frontal apophyses on male chelicerae; large scales on uncus; male palpal tarsus elongation; procurus shape; long hairs on high male ocular area; epigynum shape; see also figs. 2017-2021 in Huber 2011a). A re-examination (by BAH) of 1♂ 1♀ paratypes of *Pholcus acerosus* (from Hainan Island, China; deposited in MHBU) also revealed the presence of the distinctive semitransparent process on the appendix.

Note. Strand's (1907) description of *Pholcus fragillimus* is based on specimens from Sri Lanka, it is written in German, and it provides no illustrations. Irie (2002) was the first to provide illustrations, but he also failed to recognize the species and created a synonym (*Pholcus okinawaensis*). It was only in the same year of Peng & Zhang's publication that the identity of *Pholcus fragillimus* became finally known (Huber 2011a). It is widely distributed in southern and eastern Asia (fig. 1979 in Huber 2011a).

***Mystes* Bristowe, 1938, Filistatidae, new family assignment**

Mystes Bristowe, 1938: 319; monotypic; type species: *M. oonopiformis* Bristowe, 1938.

***Mystes oonopiformis* Bristowe, 1938**

Mystes oonopiformis Bristowe 1938: 319-321, figs. 10-13 (♀).

Note. The type specimen (♀ holotype from Malaysia, Perak, Parit Buntar [5°07'N, 100°30'E], collected by H.T.

Pagden [probably 1929-1931]) should be deposited in the Natural History Museum, London, but it is probably lost. The description and drawings provided by Bristowe (1938) clearly indicate that this is a filistatid rather than a pholcid: strong palpal claw; flat oval carapace with narrow pronounced clypeus and compact ocular area; large labium fused to the sternum with a constriction between the endites; and dark, elongate tooth opposing the cheliceral fang. The small size of the female indicates that it is probably a member of the subfamily Prithinae, although the characteristic calamistrum in three rows is not reported in the original description. Several genera of Prithinae occur in Southeast Asia, and *Mystes* may well be a synonym of one of them. This problem will have to be solved by a future reviser of Filistatidae.

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