

Description of *Sybota compagnucci*, a new spider species from Patagonia, Argentina (Araneae, Uloboridae)

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Abstract: Description of *Sybota compagnucci* a new spider species from Patagonia, Argentina (Araneae, Uloboridae). *Sybota compagnucci* new species is described for the Argentinian Patagonia (Neuquén, Río Negro and Chubut Provinces). Relationships with the previously described *Sybota* species are discussed.

Key words: Araneae, Uloboridae, *Sybota*, Taxonomy, Patagonia, Argentina.

The uloborid spider genus *Sybota* Simon 1892, comprises five species: two from Central and Southern Chile, *S. abdominalis* (Nicolet) and *S. osornis* Opell and three from Argentina, *S. rana* (Mello-Leitão), *S. mendozae* Opell and *S. atlantica* Grismado (Platnick, 2007). One of the most remarkable features of the genus *Sybota* (convergent with the genus *Polonecia* Lehtinen) is the abdominal caudal projection that extends beyond the spinnerets (Fig. 4; Opell 1979, figs. 51, 102, 110, 116; Grismado 2001, figs. 1, 3). The female genitalia of *Sybota* species have a partially entelegyne condition (Fig. 13, Grismado 2001, fig. 10); and the males have a well developed conductor and a median apophysis with two or three projections (Figs. 5- 10; Opell 1979, figs. 6A- B; Grismado 2001, figs. 5-7). Coddington (1990), in the last published cladistic analysis of the family, suggested that *Sybota* is the sister group of the clade *Orinomana* Strand + (*Hyptiotes* Walckenaer + *Miagrammopes* O. P. Cambridge), all of them united by having the posterior lateral eyes on conspicuous tubercles of carapace.

In a previous paper (Grismado, 2001), I proposed a monophyletic group within the genus *Sybota* that comprises the Argentine species, all of them share the following putative synapomorphies: long cephalotorax, anterior median eyes on a prominent tubercle, females with long sperm ducts and males (at least in *S. atlantica*) with the embolus longer than those of the Chilean species.

In this contribution I describe a new species, *S. compagnucci*, from the Andean forests of Neuquén, Río Negro and Chubut provinces, in the Argentinian Patagonia, that lacks the synapomorphies above mentioned, resembling more to the Chilean than to the Argentinian members of the genus.

MATERIALS AND METHODS.

The specimens here studied are deposited in the National Collection of Arachnology of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales «Bernardino Rivadavia», Buenos Aires (MACN-Ar, Cristina L. Scioscia). The format of descriptions and terminology of genital structures follows mostly Opell (1979). As in a previous paper (Grismado, 2001) I follow this nomenclature in the male palpal sclerites only for ease comparison with previously described species. I also discriminated in this paper the three projections of the median apophysis for descriptive purposes (dorsal, median and ventral; Fig. 7). Coddington (1990) suggested that the terms median apophysis and conductor must be switched, although he recognized that the homology of this sclerites in uloborids is still unsolved. The abbreviations used in the text are as follows: BH= basal haematodocha; C= conductor; CD= copulatory duct; CO= copulatory opening; Cy= cymbium; E= embolus; F= fundus; FD= fertilization duct; MA= median apophysis; MH= median haematodocha; PP= posterior plate; S= spermatheca; ST= subtegulum; T= tegulum. Abbreviations for eyes are the standard for Araneae. The drawings were made with camera lucida mounted on a stereoscopic compound microscope Leitz Wetzlar; the photographs of preserved specimens were taken with a digital camera Nikon DXM 1200 mounted on a stereoscopic compound microscope Nikon SMZ 1500; male palp was expanded in KOH solution and transferred to distilled water. The epigynum was cleared in clove oil for observation. All measurements are expressed in millimeters.

SYSTEMATIC DESCRIPTION

Sybota compagnucci n. sp.

(Figs. 1-14)

Types. Male holotype and two females para-types from Argentina, Neuquén Province, Parque Nacional Lanín: Departamento Huiliches: Lago Paimún, 15-17.I.1999, Luis A. Compagnucci col. (MACN-Ar 10524, 12347 and 12348 respectively).

Etymology. The species epithet is a patro-nymic in honor to Luis A. Compagnucci, ento-mologist of the MACN, collector of the type se-ries, companion of several field trips and good friend.

Diagnosis. Both sexes differ from the remain-ing species of the genus by having the relatively shorter caudal projection of abdomen (Figs. 1-4). Females resemble those of *S. abdominalis* and *S. osornis* by having a short prosoma and by lack-ing the anterior tubercle for the AME (Fig. 3; Opell 1979, figs. 98, 100-101), but differ by their broader median field of the epigynum (Fig. 11) and a broadened posterior plate (Fig. 12). The male palp is, nevertheless, more similar to that of *S. atlantica* by having the embolus and the conductor longer than the Chilean species and by the shape of the median apophysis: *S. abdominalis* and *S. osornis* have a rounded ven-tral projection, and the dorsal one is thinner and well separated from the other two prongs by a large concavity (Opell 1979, figs. 6A-B). The me-dian apophysis of *S. atlantica* and *S. com-pagnucci* share the more or less equidistant pro-jections (in retrolateral view), with the ventral one shortened, not rounded; moreover, the dor-sal projection is broadened and flattened. The new species here described differs clearly from *S. atlantica* by having a shorter embolus and con-ductor, a longer digitiform prolateral projection of the conductor, a much larger conical projec-tion of the palpal tibia, and by lacking a basal cymbial tubercle (Figs. 5-10, Grismado 2001, figs. 5-7).

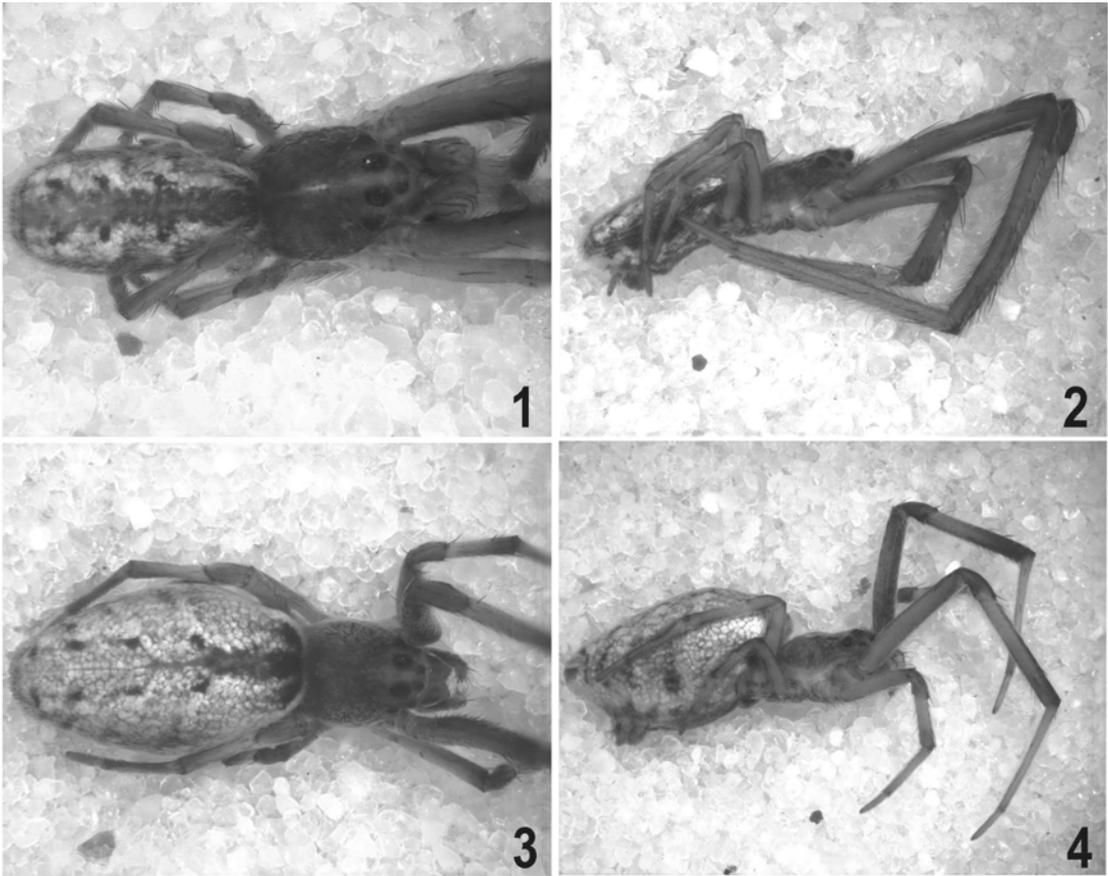
Description. Male (holotype): Total length: 3.56, cephalotorax length: 1.40, sternum length: 0.94, abdomen length: 2.30; leg I, length of podomeres: femur 2.92, tibia 2.64, metatarsus 2.96, tarsus 0.78. Color: Cephalotorax brown with fine dark radial lines, with a thin light median band, more contrasting around the fovea, and diffused on the ocular area (Fig. 1); clypeus and carapace margins yellowish; prosoma completely covered by fine light hairs; eyes bordered by dark brown rings. Sternum with a dark brown «V»

design with posteriorly directed tip, posterior and lateral to the «V», reddish; anterior to that, light brown; labium yellowish with whitish anterior border, endites yellowish, lighter at margins. Legs yellowish with a diffuse grey pigment on prolateral sides of femora and tibiae I-II and retrolateral faces of femora, tibiae, and metatarsi III -IV. Abdomen with a less pronounced caudal projection than in other known species, more or less truncated; there is a wide dark dorsal band, almost black in front, light gray in central and posterior parts; conspicuous white guanine deposits at the sides, and four pairs of black spots (Fig. 1); from the anterior part of abdomen two laterally directed dark bands that continue along both sides, becoming more wide and diffuse un-til joining with the dorsal pattern in the caudal projection. Ventrally there is a dark brown pre-epigastric area that continues as a wide dark ven-tral band; sides with white guanine deposits; spinnerets yellowish brown except the posterior face of PMS, dark grey.

Palp: Tibia with a large conical projection; plate-shaped subtegulum visible in the resting palp (prolateral view); basal and median hae-matodochae present (Figs. 8-9, visible with ex-pansion); ejaculatory duct sinuous, also visible through the tegulum; embolus encircling poste-roventrally the median apophysis; conductor with a large digitiform projection in the prolateral side (Figs. 5-6, 9-10); median apophysis with three equidistant projections, the dorsal one flat-tened and pointing upwards (in retrolateral view), the median projection is the largest, and the ventral projection is short and with irregu-lar outline (Figs. 6, 7-10).

Female (paratype MACN-Ar 12347): Total length: 5.25, cephalotorax length: 1.60, sternum length: 1.12, abdomen length: 3.64; leg I, length of podomeres: femur 2.48, tibia 2.00, metatarsus 2.08, tarsus 0.68. Color: Carapace as in the male but slightly lighter and without the dorsal stripe (Fig. 3); eyes and legs as in the male, except the darkened distal part of tibiae I-II (Fig. 4). Ster-num as in the male, endites and labium uniformly yellowish. Abdomen (Figs. 3, 4) with relatively short and rounded caudal projection, color simi-lar as the male except by the shorter dorsal band (reaching until the first pair of black spots) and by the lateral dark areas, that are replaced by four diffuse gray bands, each corresponding to the dorsal dark spots; in the venter, the median band is thinner, slightly widened at the cribellum.

Epigynum: Paired atria slightly smaller than those of *S. osornis* and *S. abdominalis*, with the median field wider (Fig. 11). Posterior plate also



Figs. 1-4: *Sybota compagnucci* n. sp., preserved specimens. 1-2, male holotype; 3-4, female paratype. 1, 3, dorsal view; 2, 4, lateral view.

widened, with distinctive sclerotization pointing ventrally (Fig. 12). Large spermathecae, similar to those of the known Chilean species, with copulatory openings in the margins of the epigynal atria (Fig. 13).

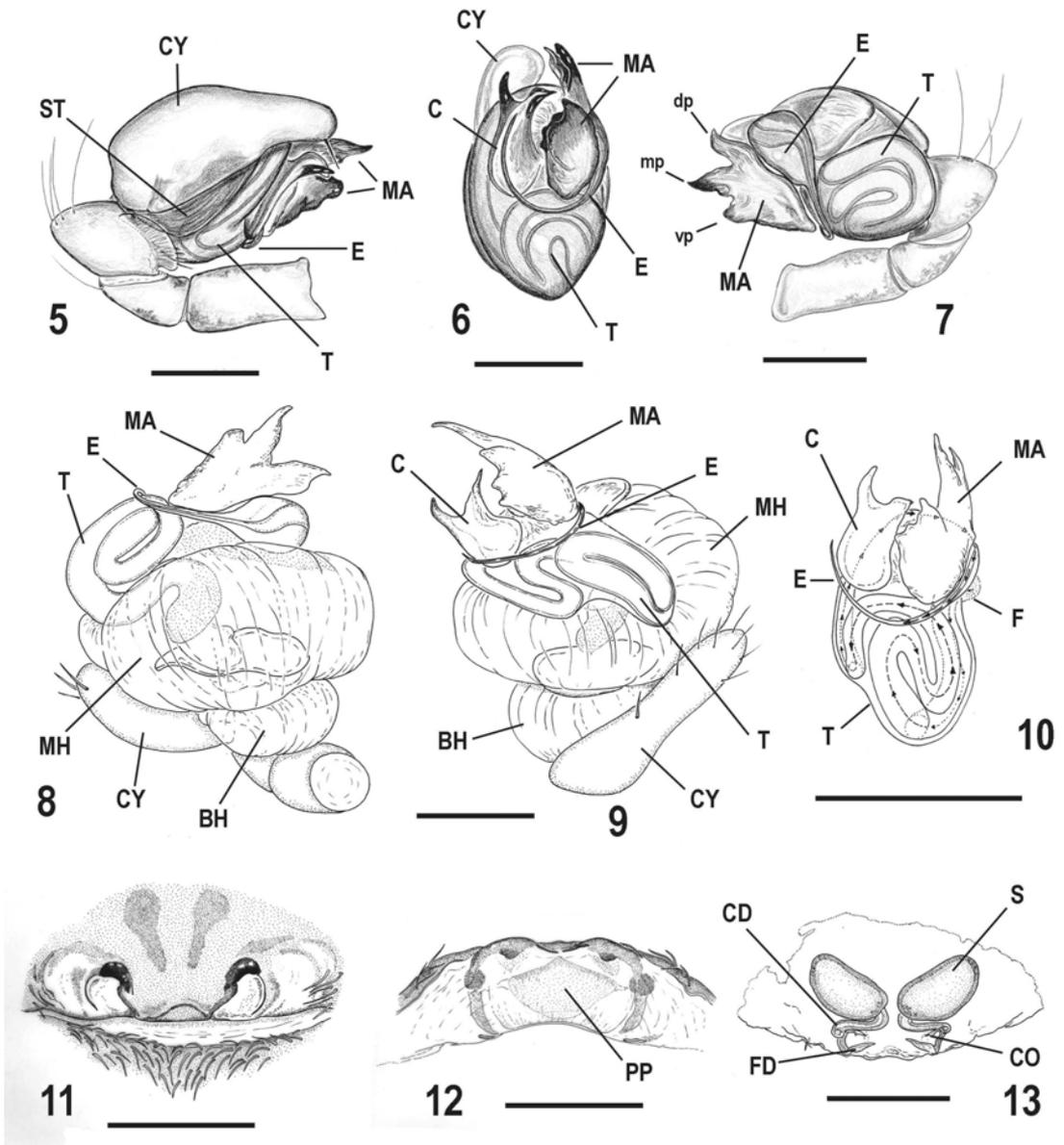
Material examined. ARGENTINA: Neuquén province: Parque Nacional Lanín: Departamento Lácar: Pucará, Lago Lácar, II-1961, dad. M. E. Galiano, 1 m (MACN-AR 5285); VIII-1973, Shacovskoy col., 1 m (MACN-AR 10924); Hua Hum, I-1985, M. J. Ramírez col., 1 f (MACN-AR 10929); Lago Hermoso; 15 -I-1985, M. J. Ramírez col., 1 f, 1 m (MACN-AR 10922); Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi: Departamento Los Lagos: Península Quetihue, Lag. Patagua y bosque de arrayanes, 23-I-1985, M. J. Ramírez col., 1 juv. (MACN-AR 10928); Río Negro province: Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi: Departamento Bariloche: Arroyo Casa de Piedra y Ruta Nac. 240 (1 km from Bariloche), II-1982, M. J. Ramírez col.,

3 f (MACN-AR 10923); Chubut province: Parque Nacional Los Alerces: Departamento Futaleufú: Río Rivadavia, II-1986, M. J. Ramírez col., 1 f (MACN-AR 10927); Río Arrayanes, II-1986, M. J. Ramírez col., 1 juv. (MACN-AR 10926); Villa Futalaufquen, II-1986, M. J. Ramírez col., 1 juv. (MACN-AR 10925).

Distribution. Andean forests of Neuquén, Río Negro and Chubut Provinces, Argentina.

DISCUSSION

Sybota compagnucci greatly resembles *S. abdominalis* and *S. osornis* in lacking the putative synapomorphies of the other three Argentine species, although no quantitative cladistic analysis has been carried out for the species in this genus. Nevertheless, I cannot hypothesize synapomorphies for these three species; the greatly elongated cone-shaped palpal tibia of these three



Figs. 5-13: *Sybota compagnucci* n. sp. genital morphology. 5-7, male palp (holotype), 5 prolateral, 6 ventral, 7 retrolateral (dp, mp and vp= dorsal, median and ventral projections of median apophysis); 8-10, expanded male palp (male from Lago Hermoso), 8 prolateral, 9 retrolateral, 10 apical; 11-13, female genitalia (paratype), 11 epigynum ventral, 12 epigynum posterior, 13 cleared vulva dorsal. Scale bars: 5-12= 0.3 mm; 13= 0.5 mm. (See other abbreviations in the text).

Austral species is possibly a shared apomorphy (in *S. atlantica* the conical shape is lesser pronounced, and the males of *S. rana* and *S. mendozae* remain unknown). However, this character must be taken with some caution, given that most *Miagrammopes* species have similar features (Chickering 1968; Opell 1979: fig. 90; Opell 1984: figs. 19-22).

Despite the somatic morphology, the genital bulb of the male looks very similar to that of *S. atlantica*. In contrast, the female genitalic structure more closely resembles those of *S. abdominalis* and *S. osornis*.

These puzzling combination of morphological features make the species assemblage more complex than originally suggested by Grismado

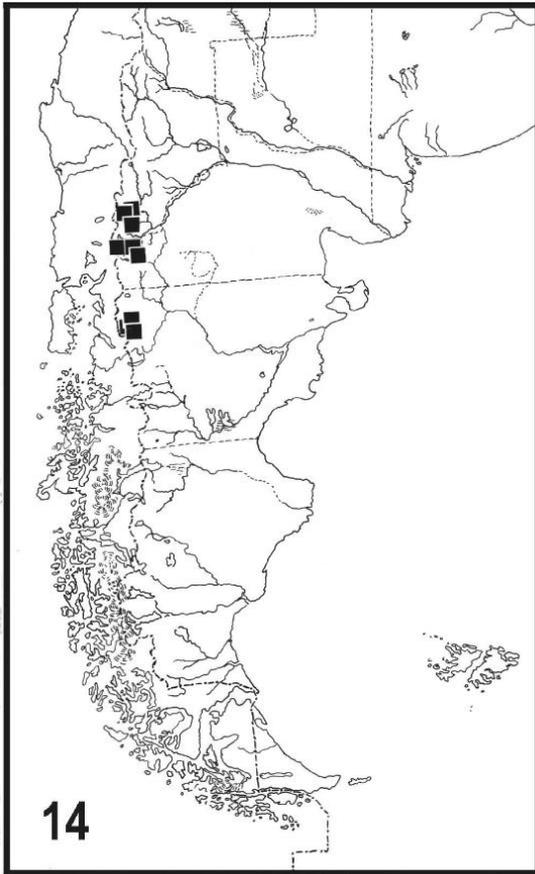


Fig. 14: Geographic distribution of *S. compagnucci*, n. sp.

(2001). Consequently, until phylogenetic studies can be conducted, I cannot confidently place *S. compagnucci* close to any of the known *Sybota* species.

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