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Research article

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Uaica gen. nov., a new genus of huntsman spiders from the Brazilian Amazonia (Araneae: Sparassidae)

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Abstract. The new genus *Uaica* gen. nov. is proposed to include five new species, the type species, *Uaica uatuma* gen. et sp. nov. (♂♀) and *U. mapia* gen. et sp. nov. (♂) from Amazonas, *U. carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov. (♂♀), from Pará, *U. karipuna* gen. et sp. nov. (♂) from Rondônia and *U. juruena* gen. et sp. nov. (♀), from Mato Grosso, all from the Brazilian Amazonia. The new genus seems to be closely related to *Caayguara* Rheims, 2010, *Meri* Rheims & Jäger, 2022, *Nungara* Pinto & Rheims, 2016, and *Sadala* Simon, 1880. All species are described and illustrated, and a distribution map is provided.

Keywords. New species, taxonomy, Neotropical region.

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Introduction

Sparassidae Bertkau, 1872 is a well-established family of spiders, easily distinguished from other families by the presence of a membranous trilobate membrane at the distal end of the leg metatarsi (Jäger 1998; Ramírez 2014). They are nocturnal, wandering spiders that usually hide in flat crevices. At night, they can be found on foliage and on the ground. Species range in size from very small, such as *Diminutella cortina* Rheims & Alayón, 2018, to very large, like *Heteropoda maxima* Jäger, 2001.

The monophyly of Sparassidae is undisputed and has been supported by both morphological (Ramírez 2014) and molecular studies (Agnarsson & Rayor 2013; Moradmand *et al.* 2014; Tong *et al.* 2019; Gorneau *et al.* 2022). Within Araneae, the family is included in the RTA clade due to the presence of a retrolateral tibial apophysis (Moradmand *et al.* 2014; Ramírez 2014; Wheeler *et al.* 2017) and its position as sister to the "marronoid" clade has been consistently recovered by UCE (Kulkarni *et al.* 2021, 2023) and transcriptomic (Fernández *et al.* 2018; Kallal *et al.* 2021) analyses.

Ranked tenth in number of species, Sparassidae is currently known from 1529 species distributed in 98 genera (World Spider Catalog 2025). Of these, 300 in 32 genera comprise the Neotropical fauna. Twenty-eight genera are endemic to the region and those species included in more widely distributed genera, such as *Eusparassus* Simon, 1903 (1 sp.), *Heteropoda* Latreille, 1804 (4 spp.), *Olios* Walckenaer,

1837 (36 spp.) and *Stasina* Simon, 1877 (4 spp.), are all considered misplaced (Rheims & Alayón 2016; Jäger 2020). Despite being the focus of several studies in the Neotropical region over the past decade or two (e.g., Jäger & Rheims 2008; Rheims 2015, 2019, 2021; Casas & Rheims 2023), Sparassidae remain poorly known in the region, with many species still unknown, awaiting discovery and formal description.

In this paper, I describe a new genus of Sparassidae spiders from the Brazilian Amazon region. All its species are described, illustrated and photographed and a distribution map is provided.

Material and methods

The format of descriptions follows Rheims (2010). Only characters that differ from the generic pattern are mentioned in species descriptions. Leg spination pattern is expressed according to Petrunkevitch (1925). The material was examined under a LEICA MZ 165C stereo microscope. All measurements are in millimeters. Leg measurements are listed as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus); eye diameters as AME, ALE, PME, PLE and interdistances as AME–AME, AME–ALE, PME–PME, PME–PLE, AME–PME, ALE–PLE. Positions of tegular appendages are given clockwise, based on the left palp in ventral view. The female epigynal plate was dissected and the soft tissues were digested for 48 hours in a solution of pancreatin, following Álvarez-Padilla & Hormiga (2007). The digested structure was immersed in clove oil, following Levi (1965), for better visualization of internal structures. In schematic courses of female internal duct system, copulatory openings are marked with a circle, glandular appendages with a 'T', and the end of the fertilization duct in the direction of the uterus externus with an arrow. Illustrations were made using a stereo microscope LEICA MZ 165C, with camera-lucida. Left male palps were illustrated in prolateral, ventral and retrolateral views, epigynes in ventral view and vulva in dorsal view. Photographs of genital structures and specimens were made using a Leica DFC 500 digital camera, mounted on a Leica MZ 205A stereo microscope. Extended focal range images were composed with the program Leica Application Suite ver. 2.5.0. Geographic coordinates of collection localities were obtained from the labels or from Google Earth (given in square brackets). Distribution maps were prepared on SimpleMapper (Shorthouse 2010).

Institutional abbreviations

IBSP = Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, Brazil (A.D. Brescovit)
MPEG = Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém, Brazil (A.B. Bonaldo)

Abbreviations of morphological terms

ALE = anterior lateral eyes
AME = anterior median eyes
C = conductor
d = dorsal
E = embolus
EF = epigynal field
EP = epigynal pocket
FD = fertilization duct
GP = glandular projection
IDS = internal duct system
LL = lateral lobes
MS = median septum
p = prolateral
PLE = posterior lateral eyes
PME = posterior median eyes

r = retrolateral
RTA = retrolateral tibial apophysis
sp = spermophore
v = ventral

Results

Taxonomy

Class Arachnida Cuvier, 1812
Order Araneae Clerck, 1757
Family Sparassidae Bertkau, 1872

Genus ***Uaica*** gen. nov.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:46A8FACE-B1DF-43B6-BC45-92D4B431F12B

Type species

Uaica uatuma gen. et sp. nov. by original designation.

Diagnosis

Species of *Uaica* gen. nov. resemble those of the genera *Caayguara* Rheims, 2010, *Nungara* Pinto & Rheims, 2016, *Sadala* Simon, 1880 and *Meri* Rheims & Jäger, 2022 in having the combination of intermarginal denticles in the chelicerae (Fig. 1A−B) and short-toothed female palpal claws (Fig. 2E). They resemble species of *Caayguara* in having only two pairs of ventral spines on tibiae I−II but are distinguished in having 3−5 escort setae on the chelicerae (Fig. 1A) (only one in *Caayguara*), a single, distal RTA in the male palps (Figs 5C, 9C, 11C, 14C) and an epigynal pocket in the female epigyne (Figs 5D, 7A, 14D) (RTA medial, complex, with projections and epigynal pocket absent in *Caayguara*). They resemble species of *Nungara*, *Sadala* and *Meri* by the number of escort setae in the chelicerae (between 3−10) (Fig. 1A), the male palps with a single, distal RTA (Figs 5C, 9C, 11C, 14C) and the female epigyne with a median septum bearing an epigynal pocket or a triangular projection (Figs 5D, 7A, 14D). They are distinguished from the latter genera by the presence of only two pairs of ventral spines on tibiae I−II. Additionally, they are distinguished from *Sadala* by the female epigyne with a median septum bearing a triangular epigynal pocket (Figs 5D, 7A, 14D) (triangular projection in *Sadala*), from *Nungara* by the long and median conductor in the male palp (Figs 5B, 9B, 11B, 14B) (apical and gutter-shaped in *Nungara*) and from *Meri* by the embolus smooth and slender, without projections (Figs 5B, 9B, 11B, 14B) (with projections and membranous areas bearing needle-like extensions in *Meri*).

Etymology

The generic epithet refers to a character in a folk tale of the Karajá and Apinaye peoples from central and northern Amazonia. According to the story, Uaica was a bullied boy who sought refuge in the forest and, because of the kindness in his heart, received the gift of healing from Sinaa, the Jaguar Man; gender is masculine; noun in apposition.

Description

Total length of males 5.4−7.6, of females 5.9−10.8. Prosoma slightly longer than wide; cephalic region slightly higher than thoracic region, gradually flattening posteriorly; fovea conspicuous on posterior third of prosoma. Eight eyes arranged in two straight rows; AME larger than ALE and more distant from each other than from ALE; PME smaller than PLE and slightly more distant from each other than from laterals (e.g., Figs 3A, 4A, 10A, 11A). Clypeus low, less than AME diameter. Chelicerae longer than wide with three promarginal teeth, median one largest, and 4−5 retromarginal teeth, three similar

sized, the rest smaller; intermarginal denticles present mostly at base of furrow. Between 3−5 escort setae at base of fang (Fig. 1A–B). Labium slightly longer than wide. Endites slightly convergent, with dense scopulae on internal margin. Serrula with single row of denticles (Fig. 1C). Sternum as long as wide, very slightly projected between coxae IV. Legs laterigrade (2143). Spination in males: femora I−III: p1-1-1; d0-1-1; r1-1-1; femur IV: p1-1-1; d0-1-1; r0-0-1; patellae I−II: p1; r1; tibiae I−II: p1-0-1; d1-0-1; r1-0-1; v2-2-0; tibiae III−IV: p1-0-1; r1-0-1; v2-2-0; metatarsi I−III: p1-1-0; r1-1-0; v2-2-0; metatarsus IV: p1-1-1; r1-1-0; v2-2-0; palp: femur: p0-0-1; d0-1-2; r0-0-1; patellae: p1; r1; tibiae: p2-1-0; d1-0-0; r1-0-0. Spination in females as in males except tibiae I–II: d0; metatarsi IV r1-1-1. Trochanter I–IV with distal ventral margin deeply notched (Fig. 1D). Metatarsi I–IV distally with dorsal trilobate membrane with median hook slightly larger than lateral projections (Fig. 1E). Tarsi and anterior half of metatarsi scopulate. Trichobothria present on dorsal side of tibiae, metatarsi and tarsi, arranged in two or more rows on tarsi and one on metatarsi. Bothrium with dorsal plate with one distal grove, projected over smooth basal plate (Fig. 1F). Tarsal organ capsulate with slightly oval opening (Fig. 2A), located dorsally on distal third of leg metatarsi. Leg tarsi with pair of pectinate claws with 12–15 very slightly curved teeth and claw tufts (Fig. 2B–D). Female palpal claw with 4–5 short, slightly curved teeth (Fig. 2E). Opisthosoma oval, longer than wide. Male epiandrium bearing epiandrous spigots in small, scattered bunches (Fig. 2F). Six spinnerets: anterior lateral spinnerets contiguous, conical and bi-segmented. Anterior median spinnerets short and truncated. Posterior lateral spinnerets conical and bi-segmented. Male palp: tibia elongate, slightly shorter than cymbium with three prolateral spines, one dorsal spine and one retrolateral spine; ventral tibial apophysis absent; RTA single, inserted distally on tibia (e.g., Figs 3C, 3E, 12C, 12E); cymbium elongate with large oval alveolus and elongate dorsal scopula; subtegulum smooth, slightly prolateral; tegulum oval, smooth or indented at base of E; C hyaline, same width throughout, inserted medially on tegulum; E without projections, slender, tapering towards tip or filiform, arising from tegulum between 8−9 o'clock or between 5−6 o'clock (e.g., Figs 3D, 8D, 10D, 12D). Female epigyne: EF as long as wide or slightly longer than wide; muscle attachment bands absent; LL smooth, with no projections, partially covering MS; MS bearing triangular EP and lateral sclerotized rims (Figs 4C, 6C, 13C). Vulva: IDS running anteriorly as double helix; GP arising from anterior most turn; spermathecae not differentiated; FD short and hook-shaped (Figs 4D, 6D, 13D).

Included species

Uaica carapiranga gen. et sp. nov., *U. juruena* gen. et sp. nov., *U. karipuna* gen. et sp. nov., *U. mapia* gen. et sp. nov., *U. uatuma* gen. et sp. nov.

Distribution

Northern Brazil, Amazonian region, states of Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia and Mato Grosso (Fig. 15).

Uaica carapiranga gen. et sp. nov.
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Figs 1–5, 15

Diagnosis

Males of *Uaica carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov. resemble those of *U. uatuma* gen. et sp. nov. (Figs 12C–E, 14A–C) by the palps with a tegulum bearing an indentation at the base of the E, but are distinguished by the shorter E, same length as C (Figs 3D, 4B) (longer than C in *U. uatuma*) and by the shorter RTA, barely reaching the proximal margin of the cymbium (Figs 3E, 5C) (surpassing the proximal margin of the cymbium by almost half its length in *U. uatuma*). Females resemble those of *U. juruena* gen. et sp. nov. (Figs 6C–D, 7) by the epigyne with MS shaped as an inverted Y, bearing median EP (MS elongate with anterior EP in *U. juruena*). They are distinguished from those of the latter species by the LL not touching posteriorly, by the EP roughly as wide as long (Figs 4C, 5D) and by the IDS loosely

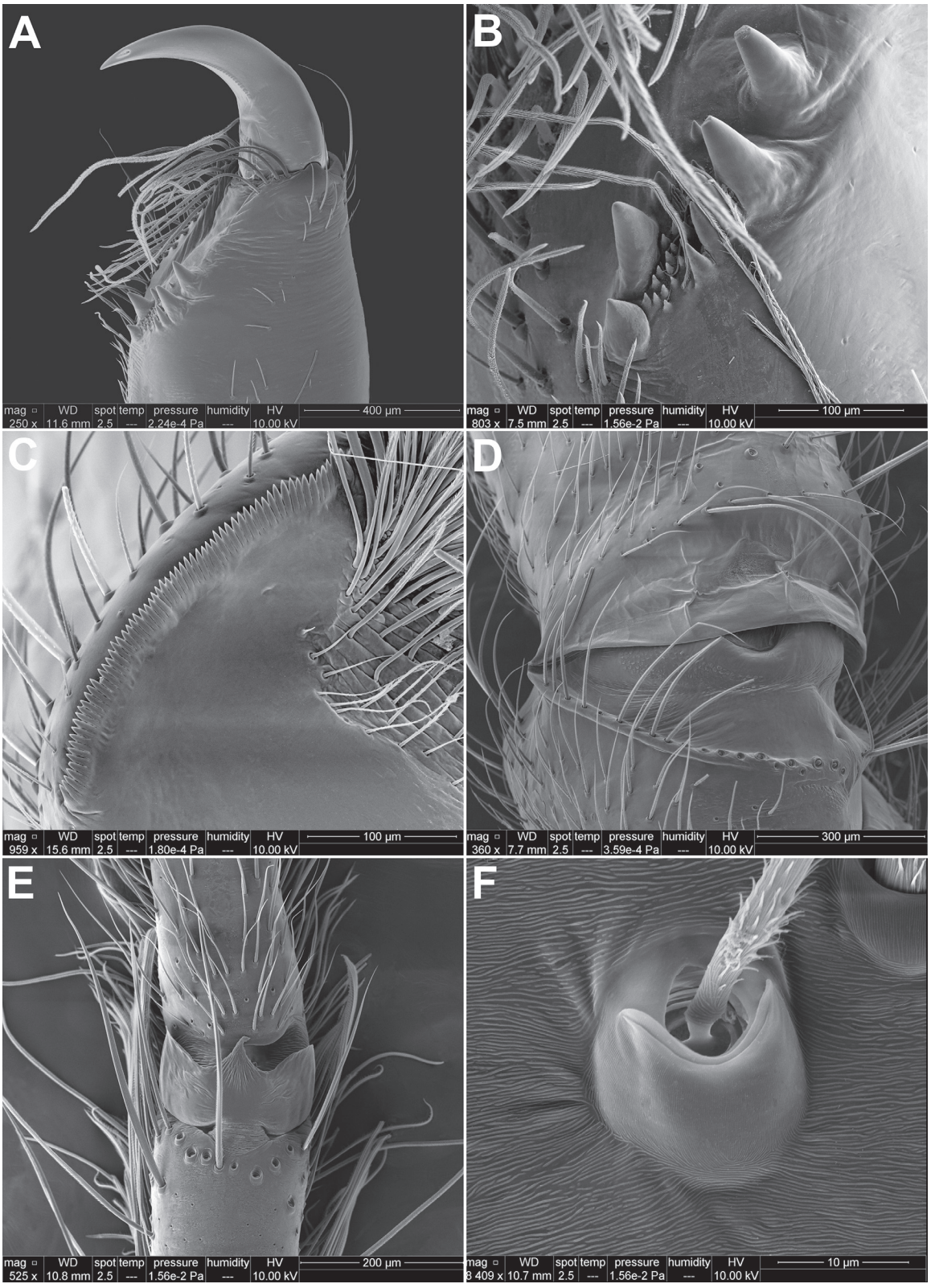

Fig. 1. *Uaica carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov. **A, C, E–F**. ♂ (MPEG 15059). **B**. ♂ (MPEG 15060). **D**. ♀ (MPEG 8571). **A**. Chelicerae, right, ventral view. **B**. Chelicerae, right, groove, ventral view. **C**. Endite, right, serrula, ventral view. **D**. Leg IV, left, trochanter, ventral view. **E**. Leg I, left, metatarsus, trilobate membrane, dorsal view. **F**. Leg I, left, tarsus, tricobothria, dorsal view.

twisted with three turns (Figs 4D, 5E–F) (LL touching posteriorly, EP almost 3 × as long as wide and IDS tightly coiled with five turns in *U. juruena*). Additionally, it is distinguished from all congeners by having two GPs (Fig. 5E–F) (only one in the other species).

Etymology

The specific epithet refers to the type locality of the holotype, in the region of Juruti, Pará; noun in apposition.

Type material

Holotype

BRAZIL – **Pará State** • ♂; Juruti; Platô Carapiranga, Linha 168E; 2.4728º S, 56.2082º W; 9 Feb. 2007; J.A.P. Barreiros leg.; MPEG 15063.

Paratypes

BRAZIL – **Pará State, Juruti** • 1 ♂; same data as for holotype; IBSP 344077 • 1 ♀; Platô Carapiranga, Acampamento Mutum; 2.5519º S, 56.2247º W; 11 Aug. 2010; N.S. Abrahim leg.; MPEG 30844 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 12 Aug. 2010; B.V.B. Rodrigues leg; IBSP 344078 • 1 ♂; Platô Carapiranga, Acampamento Mutum; 1.6124º S, 56.1942º W; 27 May 2009; N.S. Abrahim leg.; MPEG 30713 • 1 ♀; Platô Carapiranga, Acampamento Mutum; 2.5550º S, 56.2229º W; 20 Aug. 2011; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30806 • 1 ♀; Beneficiamento, ponto 6; 2.5076º S, 56.1776º W; 13 May 2010; B.V.B. Rodrigues leg.; MPEG 30858 • 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Sítio Barroso; 2.4616º S, 56.0032º W; 8 Feb. 2007; J.A.P. Barreiros leg.; IBSP 344076.

Other material examined

BRAZIL – **Pará State, Juruti** • 1 ♂; Platô Carapiranga, Acampamento Mutum; 1.6124º S, 56.1942º W; 27 May 2009; N.S. Abrahim leg.; MPEG 30713 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 26 May 2009; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30712 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 27 May 2009; N.S. Abrahim leg.; MPEG 30718 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 6 Aug. 2008; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30746 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 20 May 2009; N.S. Abrahim leg.; MPEG 30705 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 26 May 2009; N.S. Abrahim leg.; MPEG 30720 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 6 Aug. 2008; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30728 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 25 May 2009; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30723 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 20 Nov. 2007; E.S. Santos leg.; MPEG 15054 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 20 Nov. 2007; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 15050 • 1 ♀; Sítio Barroso; 2.4616º S, 56.0032º W; 16 Nov. 2007; D.F. Candiani leg.; MPEG 15055 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 11 Feb. 2007; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 15058 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 6 Jun. 2007; D.F. Candiani leg.; MPEG 15051 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 8 Feb. 2007; J.A.P. Barreiros leg.; MPEG 15060 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 11 Aug. 2006; D.F. Candiani leg.; MPEG 8567 • 1 ♂; Sítio 3 Irmãos; 2.4626º S, 56.0142º W; 12 Aug. 2008; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30729 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 12 Aug. 2008; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30730 • 1 ♀; Sítio Barroso; 2.4643º S, 56.0024º W; 23 May 2009; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30716 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 22 May 2009; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30708 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 11 Feb. 2007; J.A.P. Barreiros leg.; MPEG 15061 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 23 May 2009; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30715 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 22 May 2009; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30709 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 23 May 2009; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30719 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 9 Feb. 2007; J.A.P. Barreiros leg.; MPEG 15059 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 9 Aug. 2006; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 8566 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 9 Aug. 2006; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 8571 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 9 Feb. 2007; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 15057 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 8 Jun. 2007; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 15056 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 17 Nov. 2007; D.F. Candiani leg.; MPEG 15053 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 9

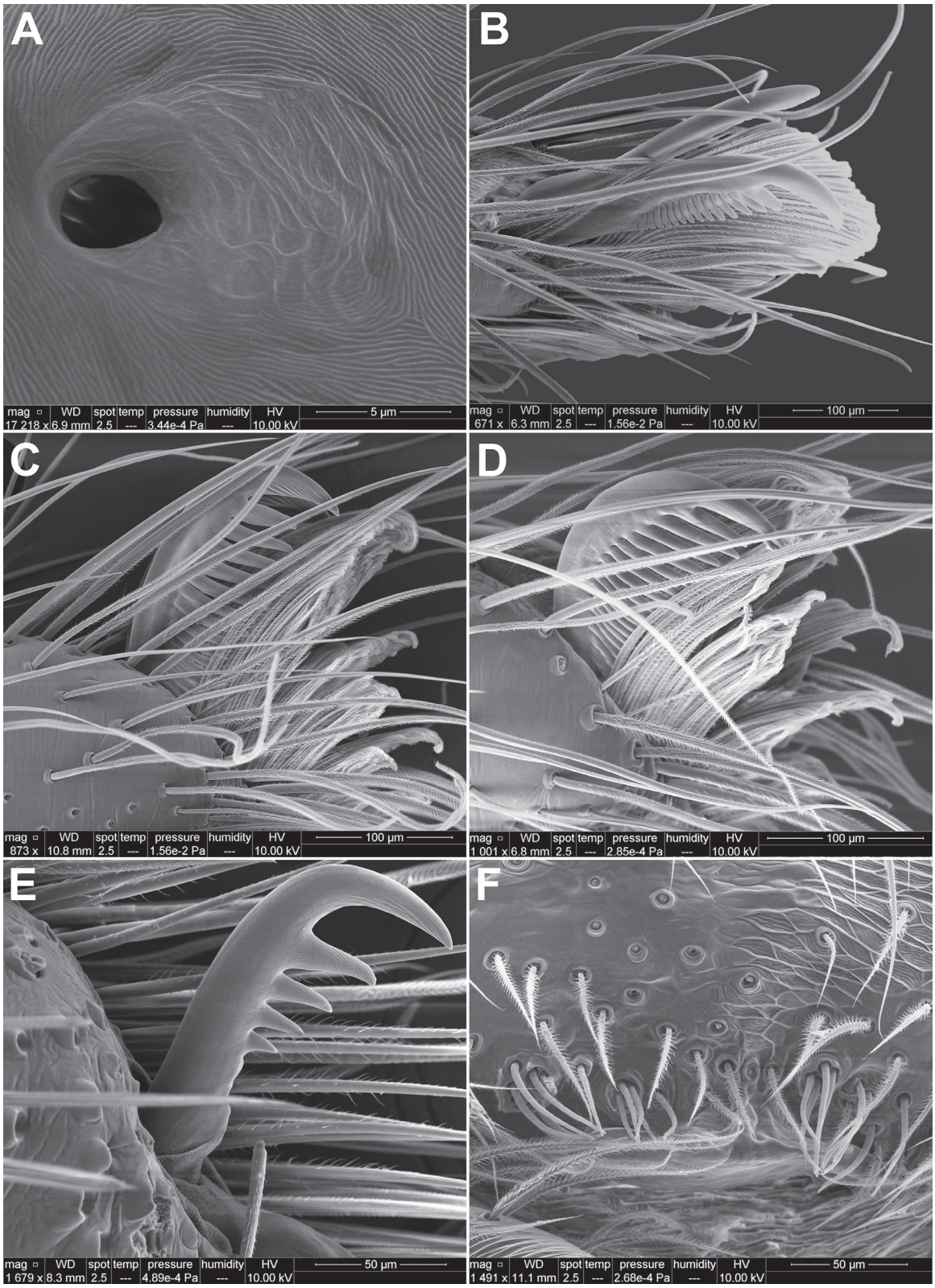

Fig. 2. *Uaica carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov. **A, C–D, F**. ♂ (MPEG 15059). **B**. ♀ (MPEG 30845). **E**. ♀ (MPEG 8571). **A**. Leg IV, left, tarsus, tarsal organ, dorsal view. **B**. Leg I, tarsus, claws, prolateral view. **C**. Leg III, left, tarsus, claws, prolateral view. **D**. Leg IV, left, tarsus, claws, prolateral view. **E**. Pedipalp, left, claw, prolateral view. **F**. Epiandrium, spigots, ventral view.

Jun. 2007; D.F. Candiani leg.; MPEG 15049 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 8 Jun. 2007; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 15052 • 1 ♀; próximo à adutora, ALCOA; 2.4728º S, 56.2082º W; 18 Nov. 2007; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30725 • 1 ♀; Platô Carapiranga, Linha 168E; 2.5071º S, 56.1847º W; 19 May 2009; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30721 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 19 May 2009; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30722 • 1 ♂; Beneficiamento; 2.5076º S, 56.1629º W; 9 Aug. 2010; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30803 • 1 ♂; Beneficiamento, ponto 1; 2.5076º S, 56.1776º W; 7 Jan. 2012; N.C. Bastos leg.; MPEG 30843 • 1 ♀; same data as for preceding; 13 May 2010; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30853 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 8 May 2010; B.V.B. Rodrigues leg.; MPEG 30866 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 9 Aug. 2010; N.S. Abrahim leg.; MPEG 30830 • 1 ♀; 4 Jan. 2012; R.F. Saturnino leg.; MPEG 30828 • 1 ♀; Platô Carapiranga, Acampamento Mutum; 2.5519º S, 56.2247º W; 12 Aug. 2010; N.S. Abrahim leg.; MPEG 30829 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 11 Aug. 2010; B.V.B. Rodrigues leg.; MPEG 30832 • 1 ♀; Platô do Rio Juruti; 2.5520º S, 56.2184º W; 7 Sep. 2002; D.D. Guimarães leg.; MPEG 30808 • 1 ♀; Platô Carapiranga, Acampamento Mutum; 2.5550º S, 56.2229º W; 10 May 2010; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30845 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 10 May 2010; N.F. Lo Man Hung leg.; MPEG 30805 • 1 ♀; Vale do Igarapé Mutum; Platô do Rio Juruti; 2.6031º S, 56.2101º W; 6 Aug. 2004; D.F. Candiani leg.; MPEG 8661 • 1 ♂; Comunidade Jaratuba; 3.1924º S, 56.5809º W; 27 Sep. 2009; E.A. Jesus leg.; MPEG 15797 • 1 ♀; Igarapé Cabeça de Anta; 3.2008º S, 56.4179º W; 28 Sep. 2009; E.A. Jesus leg.; MPEG 15798.

Description

Male (holotype)

Color. Prosoma pale brown, slightly darker along thoracic striae; fovea darker brown; eye borders black. Chelicerae, legs and pedipalps brownish orange. Labium brown, distally grayish brown. Endites grayish brown, distally lighter. Sternum pale creamish brown with darker margins. Opisthosoma gray; dorsally with three pairs of irregular whitish marmored marks, two anterior, along margins of cardiac mark and one posterior, close to spinnerets, and three pairs of brown short, transversal marks between the anterior and posterior pairs of white marks; ventrally with wide, gray band with two parallel lines of muscle impressions. Spinnerets yellowish brown (Fig. 3A–B).

Measurements. Total length 6.5. Prosoma: length 3.1, width 2.9. Opisthosoma: length 3.3, width 1.8. Eyes: diameters 0.25, 0.19, 0.14, 0.19; interdistances 0.17, 0.10, 0.30, 0.27, 0.19, 0.12. Legs (2143): I: 23.0 (6.3, 1.8, 6.6, 6.5, 1.8); II: 26.9 (7.3, 2.0, 8.1, 7.6, 2.0); III: 16.0 (4.7, 1.5, 4.3, 4.2, 1.3); IV: 19.9 (5.6, 1.4, 5.5, 5.8, 1.6).

Palp. RTA triangular slightly longer than wide; ST visible prolaterally, between 8:30 and 10:30 o'clock; sp running retrolaterally in a U-shape, C 3 × as long as wide, same width throughout, arising centrally from tegulum; E slightly longer than C, with wide base and gradually tapering towards tip, arising from tegulum at 8:30 o'clock (Figs 3C–E, 5A–C).

Female (paratype, MPEG 30844)

Color. Coloration pattern as in male. Prosoma, chelicerae, legs and pedipalps lighter. Opisthosoma yellowish brown with small and irregular white marbled marks. Dorsally with conspicuous, gray cardiac mark; ventrally with wide gray band with pair of parallel lines of muscle impressions. Spinnerets pale yellowish gray (Fig. 4A–B).

Measurements. Total length 8.2. Prosoma: length 3.7, width 3.3. Opisthosoma: length 4.2, width 2.5. Eyes: diameters 0.25, 0.22, 0.15, 0.19; interdistances 0.25, 0.20, 0.42, 0.39, 0.26, 0.18. Legs (2143): I: 17.9 (5.1, 2.0, 4.9, 4.6, 1.3); II: 19.9 (5.6, 2.1, 5.8, 5.1, 1.3); III: 12.9 (3.8, 1.5, 3.4, 3.0, 1.2); IV: 15.2 (4.5, 1.5, 4.0, 4.0, 1.2).

Fig. 3. *Uaica carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov., ♂ (MPEG 8567). **A**. Habitus, dorsal view. **B**. Habitus, ventral view. **C**. Left palp, prolateral view. **D**. Left palp, ventral view. **E**. Left palp, retrolateral view. Scale bars: A–B = 2.0 mm; C–E = 0.5 mm.

Epigyne. EF wider than long; LL smooth; MS longer than wide with lateral, slender sclerotized rims; CO anterior, at lateral margins of MS; EP triangular (Figs 4C, 5D).

Vulva. IDS with first winding hook-shaped, running anteriorly as double helix; one GP arising from anterior most turn and other from last turn, closer to FD; FD antero-laterad (Figs 4D, 5E–F).

Variation

Ten males: total length 5.4−7.0; prosoma length 2.6−3.1; femur I length 5.5−6.7. Ten females: total length 7.7−10.8; prosoma length 2.9−3.8; femur I length 4.3−4.9.

Distribution

Known from northwestern state of Pará (Fig. 15).

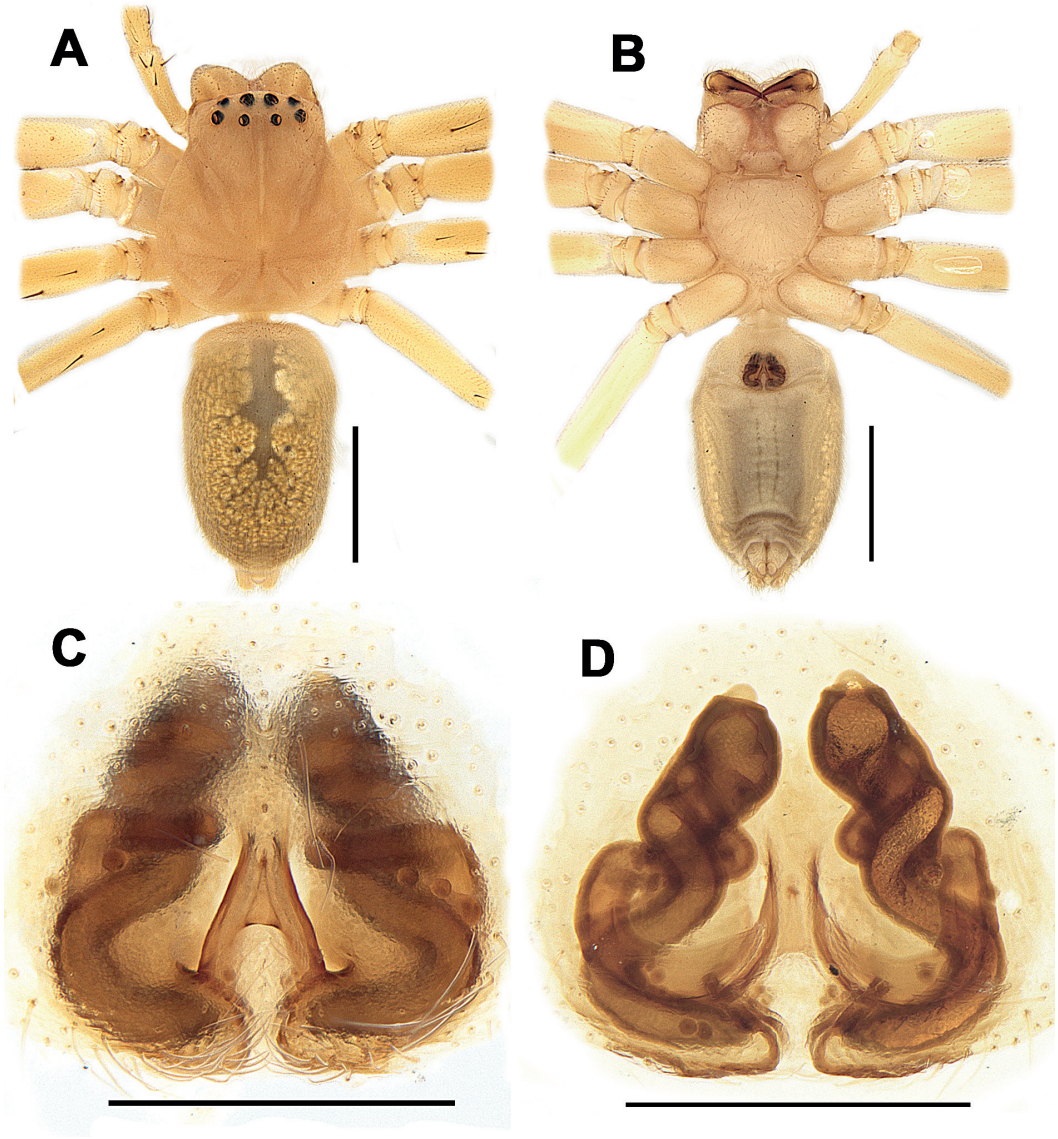

Fig. 4. *Uaica carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov., ♀, paratype (MPEG 30806). **A**. Habitus, dorsal view. **B**. Habitus, ventral view. **C**. Epigyne, ventral view. **D**. Vulva, dorsal view. Scale bars: A–B = 2 mm; C–D = 0.5 mm.

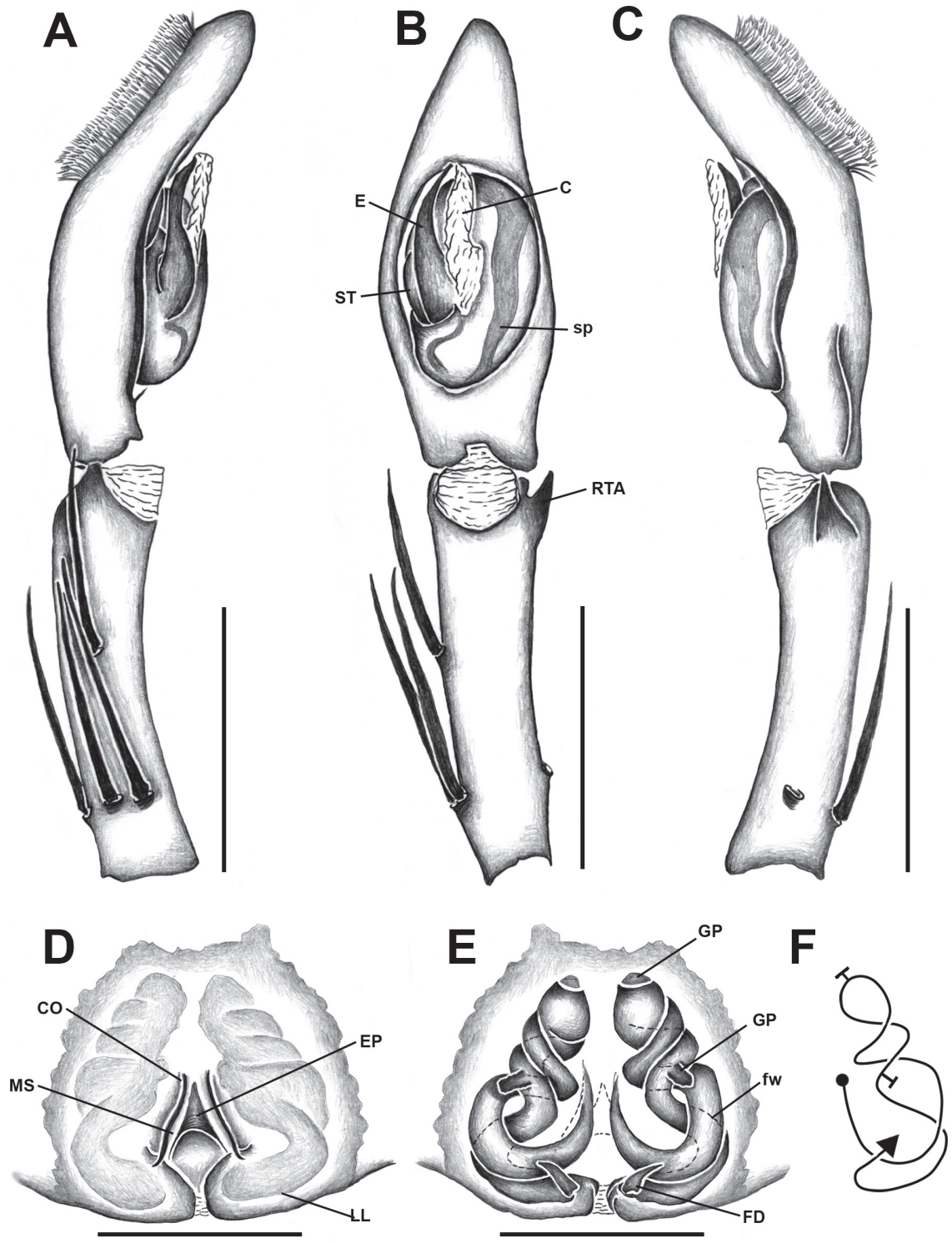

Fig. 5. *Uaica carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov. **A–C**. ♂, paratype (IBSP 30713). **D–F**. ♀, paratype (IBSP 30844). **A**. Left palp, prolateral view. **B**. Left palp, ventral view. **C**. Left palp, retrolateral view. **D**. Epigyne, dorsal view. **E**. Vulva, ventral view. **F**. Schematic course of IDS. Abbreviations: C = conductor; CO = copulatory openings; E = embolus; EP = epigynal pocket; FD = fertilization duct; fw = first winding of IDS; GP = glandular projection; LL = lateral lobe; MS = median septum; RTA = retrolateral tibial apophysis; sp = spermophore; ST = subtegulum. Scale bars: A–C = 1 mm; D–E = 0.5 mm.

Uaica juruena gen. et sp. nov.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:17F3E4F3-A34B-404C-B11A-3DDD5636BD26
Figs 6–7, 15

Diagnosis

Females resemble those of *U. carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov. (Figs 4C–D, 5D–F) by the epigyne with MS shaped as an inverted Y, bearing median EP (MS elongate with anterior EP in *U. uatuma* gen. et sp. nov.). They are distinguished from those of the latter species by the LL touching posteriorly and EP almost 3 × as long as wide (Figs 6C, 7A), and IDS tightly twisted, with five turns (Figs 6D, 7B–C) (LL not touching posteriorly, EP roughly as wide as long and IDS lightly twisted with three turns in *U. carapiranga*). Males are unknown.

Etymology

The specific epithet refers to the Juruena River that borders the type locality of the species, São Nicolau Farm; noun in apposition.

Type material

Holotype
BRAZIL – **Mato Grosso State** • ♀; Cotriguaçu; Fazenda São Nicolau; [10.1326º S, 58.1412º W]; Jan. 2018; G. Almeida leg.; IBSP 233305.

Description

Female (holotype)
Color. Prosoma pale yellow, slightly darker along thoracic striae and eye area; fovea pale brown; eye borders black; legs, pedipalps and chelicerae pale yellow; labium pale brown distally pale yellow. Endites pale yellow, distally lighter; sternum pale yellow with slightly darker margins; opisthosoma covered with marbled white irregular marks; dorsally with cardiac mark pale gray with spidery lines extending laterally; ventrally with pale gray median longitudinal band and parallel lines of muscle impressions; spinnerets pale yellow (Fig. 6A–B).

Measurements. Total length 8.5. Prosoma: 3.4 long, 3.0 wide. Opisthosoma: 5.0 long, 3.1 wide. Eyes: diameters 0.20, 0.20, 0.12, 0.17; interdistances 0.24, 0.20, 0.40, 0.34, 0.19, 0.17. Legs (2143): I: 14.8 (4.0, 1.6, 4.0, 4.1, 1.1); II: 16.9 (5.0, 1.8, 4.6, 4.3, 1.2); III: 10.8 (3.3, 1.3, 2.7, 2.5, 1.0); IV: 13.0 (3.9, 1.3, 3.4, 3.4, 1.0).

Epigyne. EF longer than wide; LL touching each other posteriorly; MS slightly less than 2 × as long as wide; EP triangular 3 × as long as wide; CO anterior, at lateral margins of MS (Figs 6C, 7A).

Vulva. IDS with first winding hook-shaped, running anteriorly as double helix; GP arising from last turn, closer to FD; FD antero-laterad (Figs 6D, 7B–C).

Male
Unknown.

Distribution

Only known from the type locality in the state of Mato Grosso (Fig. 15).

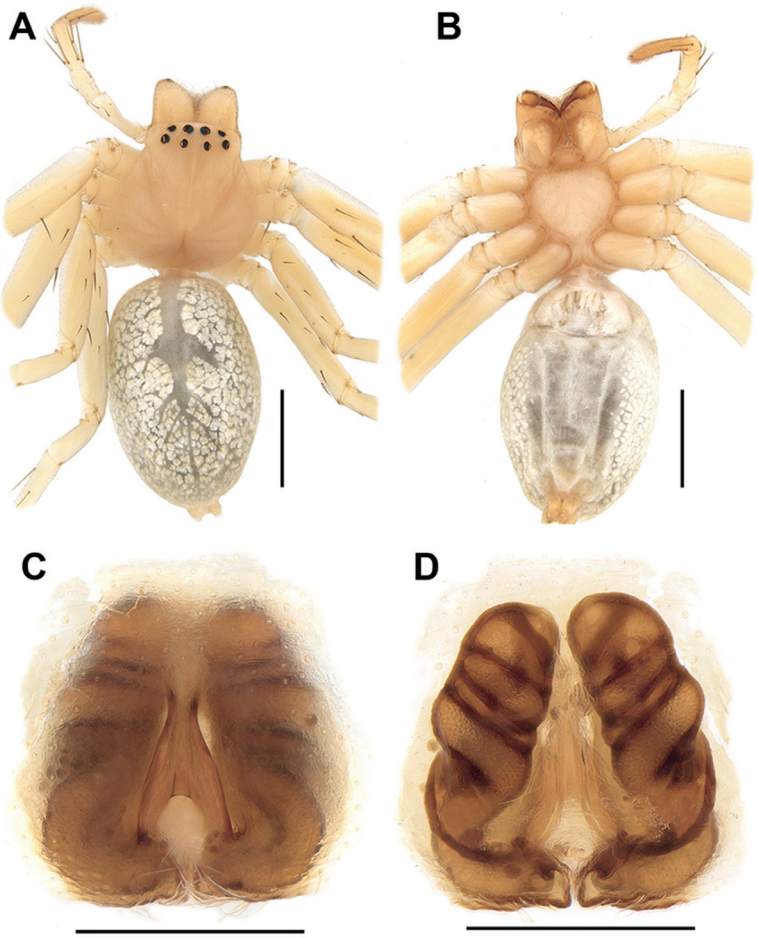

Fig. 6. *Uaica juruena* gen. et sp. nov., ♀, holotype (IBSP 233305). **A**. Habitus, dorsal view. **B**. Habitus, ventral view. **C**. Epigyne, ventral view. **D**. Vulva, dorsal view. Scale bars: A–B = 2.0 mm; C–D = 0.5 mm.

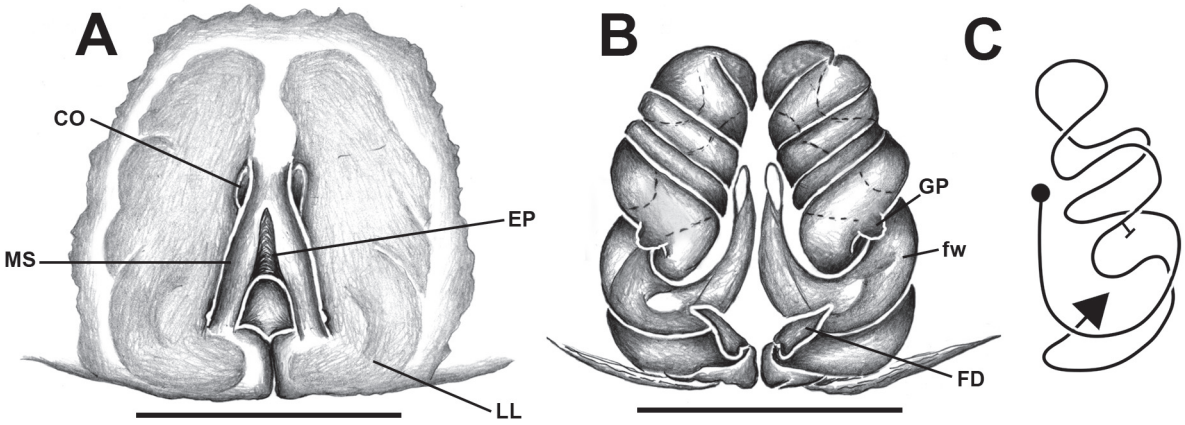

Fig. 7. *Uaica juruena* gen. et sp. nov., ♀, holotype (IBSP 233305). **A**. Epigyne, ventral view. **B**. Vulva, dorsal view. **C**. Schematic course of IDS. Abbreviations: CO = copulatory openings; EP = epigynal pocket; FD = fertilization duct; fw = first winding of IDS; GP = glandular projection; LL = lateral lobe; MS = median septum. Scale bars: 0.5 mm.

Uaica karipuna gen. et sp. nov.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E0DF65B2-179D-40FB-9587-CBCFAAADBC0D
Figs 8–9, 15

Diagnosis

Males of *U. karipuna* gen. et sp. nov. are distinguished from those of all congeners by the palps with T strongly projecting retroproximally and E arising at 5 o'clock position (Figs 8D, 9B) (T not projecting and E arising at 8:30 o'clock in the other species). Females are unknown.

Etymology

The specific epithet refers to the Karipuna indigenous people that currently inhabit an Indigenous Territory located in the municipalities of Porto Velho and Nova Mamoré, in Rondônia, Brazil; noun in apposition.

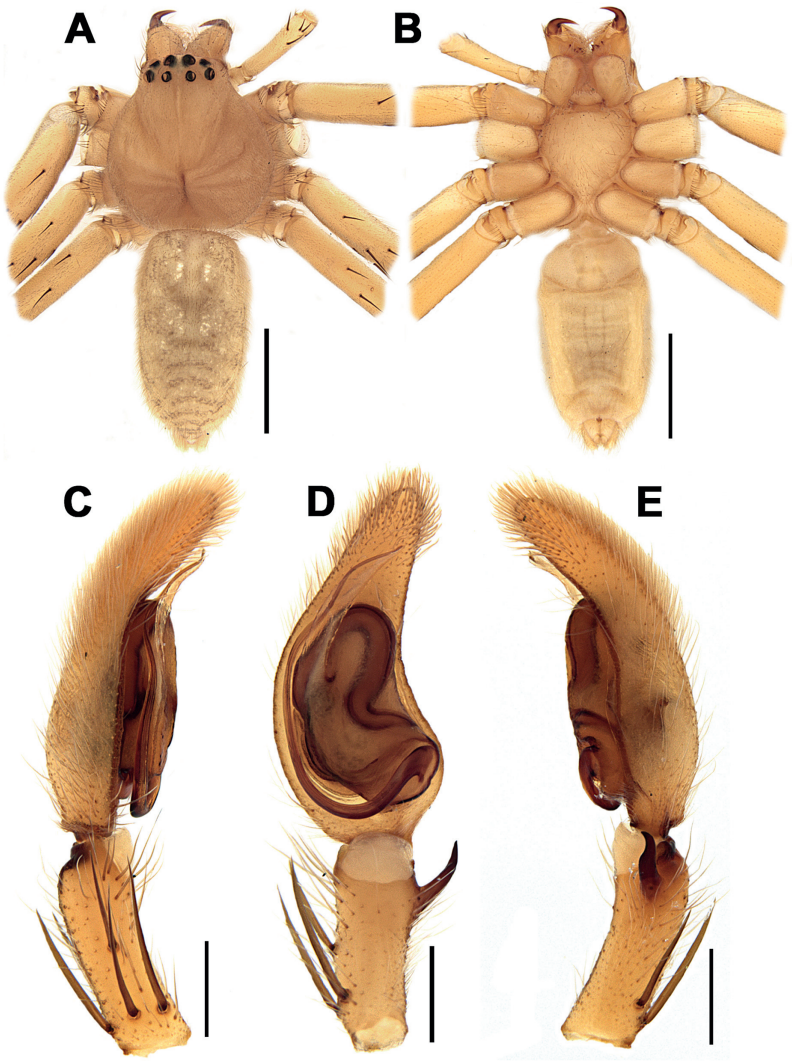

Fig. 8. *Uaica karipuna* gen. et sp. nov., ♂, holotype (IBSP 8691). **A**. Habitus, dorsal view. **B**. Habitus, ventral view. **C**. Left palp, prolateral view. **D**. Left palp, ventral view. **E**. Left palp, retrolateral view. Scale bars: A–B = 2.0 mm; C–D = 0.5 mm.

Type material

Holotype

BRAZIL – **Rondônia State** • ♂; Porto Velho; [8.7500º S, 63.9000º W]; 15 Apr. 1996; Equipe IBSP/SMNK leg.; IBSP 8691.

Other material examined

BRAZIL • 2 juvs; same vial as holotype; IBSP 8691.

Description

Male (holotype)

Color. Prosoma pale brown, darker along thoracic striae and lateral margins of cephalic region; fovea dark brown; eye borders black. Chelicerae pale brown as prosoma. Legs and pedipalps slightly lighter than prosoma. Labium brown, distally pale brown. Endites pale brow, distally lighter. Sternum orange brown with darker margins. Opisthosoma cream colored; dorsally with two pairs of faint whitish marbled marks along lateral margins of cardiac mark and six light brown chevron-like marks medially down

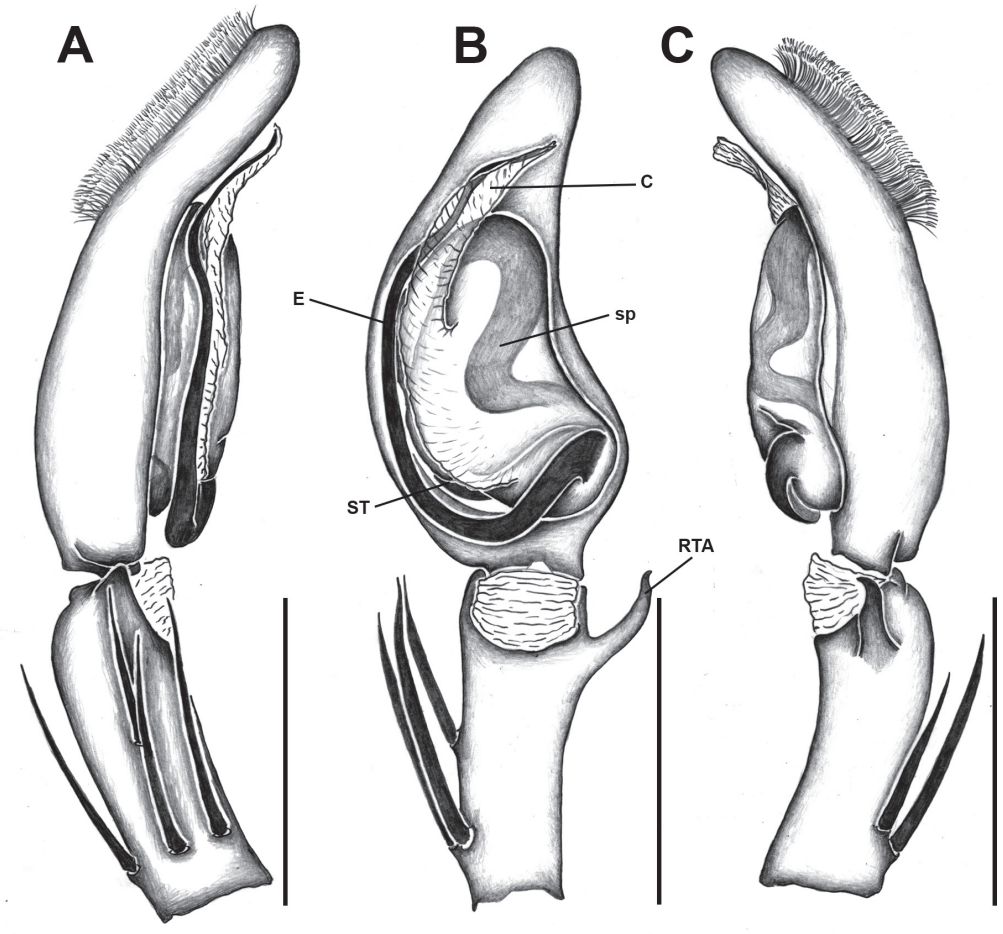

Fig. 9. *Uaica karipuna* gen. et sp. nov., ♂, holotype (IBSP 8691). **A**. Left palp, prolateral view; **B**. Left palp, ventral view. **C**. Left palp, retrolateral view. Abbreviations: C = conductor; E = embolus; RTA = retrolateral tibial apophysis; sp = spermophore; ST = subtegulum. Scale bars: 0.5 mm.

posterior half; ventrally with pale brownish-yellow band with two parallel lines of muscle impressions. Spinnerets pale yellow (Fig. 8A–B).

Measurements. Total length 7.6. Prosoma: length 3.2 long, 3.2 wide. Opisthosoma: 4.2 long, 2.2 wide. Eyes: diameters 0.24, 0.22, 0.16, 0.20; interdistances 0.18, 0.06, 0.34, 0.28, 0.14, 0.10. Legs (2143): I: 22.2 (5.9, 2.1, 6.3, 6.2, 1.7); II: 25.5 (7.0, 2.1, 7.4, 7.1, 1.9); III: 15.6 (4.6, 1.5, 4.2, 4.1, 1.2); IV: 18.8 (5.5, 1.5, 5.0, 5.3, 1.5).

Palp. RTA almost 2 × as long as wide, projecting away from tibia in ventral view and with curved tip in retrolateral view; ST visible prolaterally; sp running retrolaterally with strong medial indentation; C 2 × as long as wide, with very wide base; E filiform, longer than C (Figs 8C–E, 9).

Female

Unknown.

Distribution

Only known from the type locality, in the state of Rondônia (Fig. 15).

Uaica mapia gen. et sp. nov.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:BB6EB59D-C1C9-4790-A0CF-9C794310B87D
Figs 10–11, 15

Diagnosis

Males of *Uaica mapia* gen. et sp. nov. resemble those of *U. uatuma* gen. et sp. nov. (Figs 12C–E, 14A–C) by the E slender, longer than C and arising from tegulum at 8:30 o'clock position (Figs 10D, 11B), but are distinguished by the RTA S-shaped in retrolateral view (Figs 10E, 11C) (straight and conical in *U. uatuma*) and by the E arising straight from the tegulum (Figs 10D, 11B) (arising from an indentation of the tegulum in *U. uatuma*). Females are unknown.

Etymology

The specific epithet refers to the type locality, the Mapiá River; noun in apposition.

Type material

Holotype

BRAZIL – **Amazonas State** • ♂; Borba; Rio Mapiá; [4.4500º S, 59.3333º W]; 22 Apr. 1996; equipe IBSP/SMNK leg.; IBSP 8817.

Paratypes

BRAZIL – **Amazonas State** • 1 ♂; same data as for holotype; IBSP 60015 • 1 ♂; Coari; Trocaris; Comunidade Trocaris; 3.8980º S, 62.8670º W; 25 Sep. 2003, F. Rego *et al.* leg.; IBSP 270063 • 1 ♂; same data as for preceding; 3.8940º S, 62.8850º W; IBSP 270044.

Other material examined

BRAZIL • 3 juvs; same data as for holotype; IBSP 8817.

Description

Male (holotype)

Color. Prosoma pale brownish orange slightly darker along thoracic striae; fovea dark brown; eye borders black. Chelicerae, legs and palps slightly lighter than prosoma. Labium pale brown, distally pale

orange. Endites pale orange. Sternum pale yellow with pale brown margins. Opisthosoma brownish gray; dorsally with whitish marbled irregular marks around cardiac mark and posteriorly close to spinnerets; ventrally with wide gray band with two parallel lines of muscle impressions. Spinnerets cream colored (Fig. 10A–B).

Measurements. Total length 6.4. Prosoma: 2.7 long, 2.6 wide. Opisthosoma: 3.5 long, 1.6 wide. Eyes: diameters 0.24, 0.20, 0.16, 0.18; interdistances 0.12, 0.06, 0.30, 0.20, 0.12, 0.10. Legs (2143): I: 21.6 (5.7, 1.7, 6.3, 6.3, 1.6); II: 25.8 (6.8, 1.7, 7.7, 7.5, 2.1); III: 14.7 (4.2, 1.3, 4.1, 4.0, 1.1); IV: 18.0 (5.0, 1.3, 4.9, 5.4, 1.4).

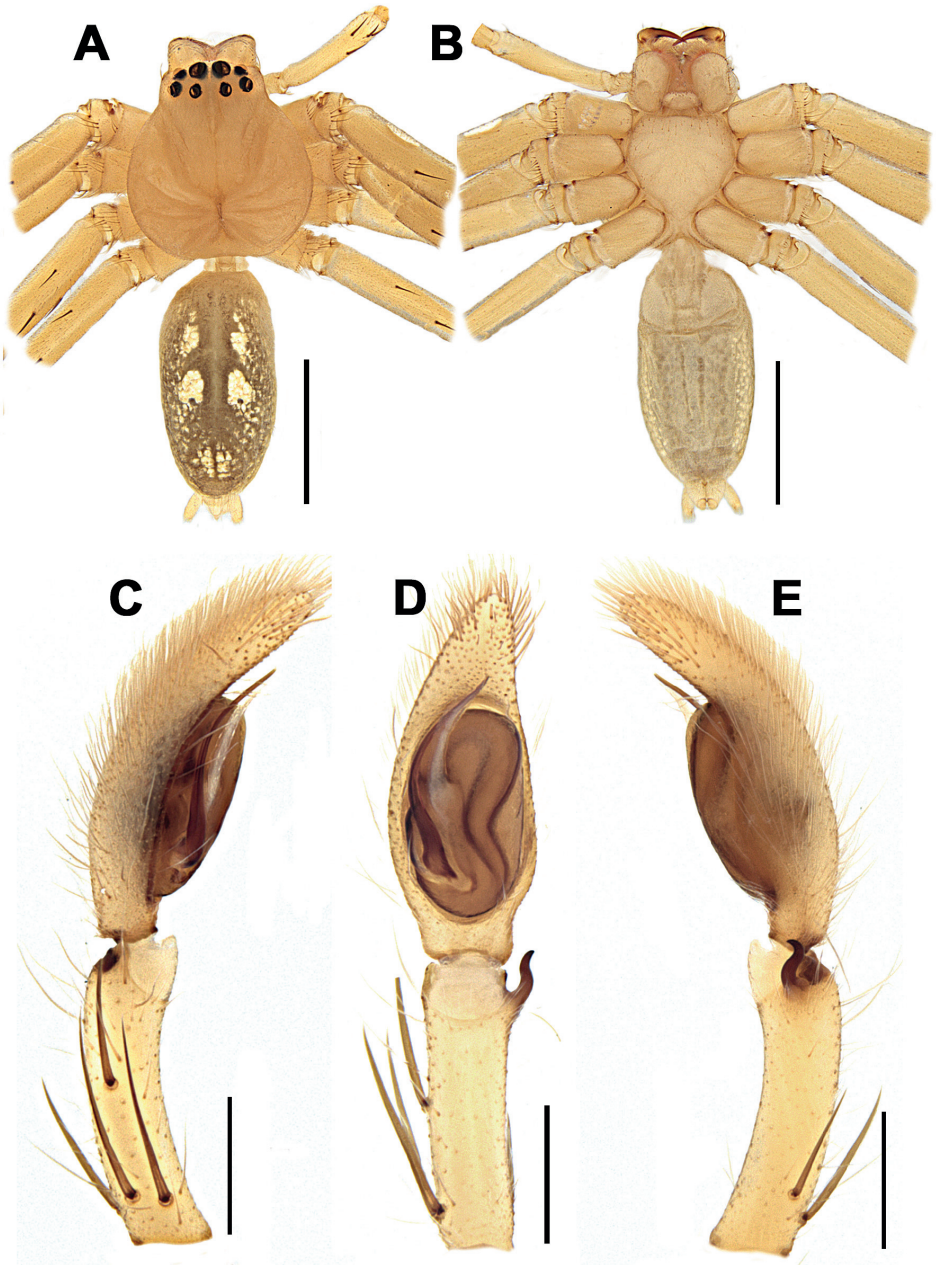

Fig. 10. *Uaica mapia* gen. et sp. nov., ♂, holotype (IBSP 8817). **A**. Habitus, dorsal view. **B**. Habitus, ventral view. **C**. Left palp, prolateral view. **D**. Left palp, ventral view. **E**. Left palp, retrolateral view. Scale bars: A–B = 2 mm; C–E = 0.5 mm.

Palp. RTA almost 4 × as long as wide; sp running retrolaterally with slight medial indentation; C slightly over 4 × as long as wide, same width throughout; E tapering towards tip, longer than C (Figs 10C–E, 11).

Female

Unknown.

Variation

Four males: total length 6.4−7.3; prosoma length 2.7−3.4; femur I length 5.7−6.2.

Distribution

Known from the northeastern state of Amazonas (Fig. 15).

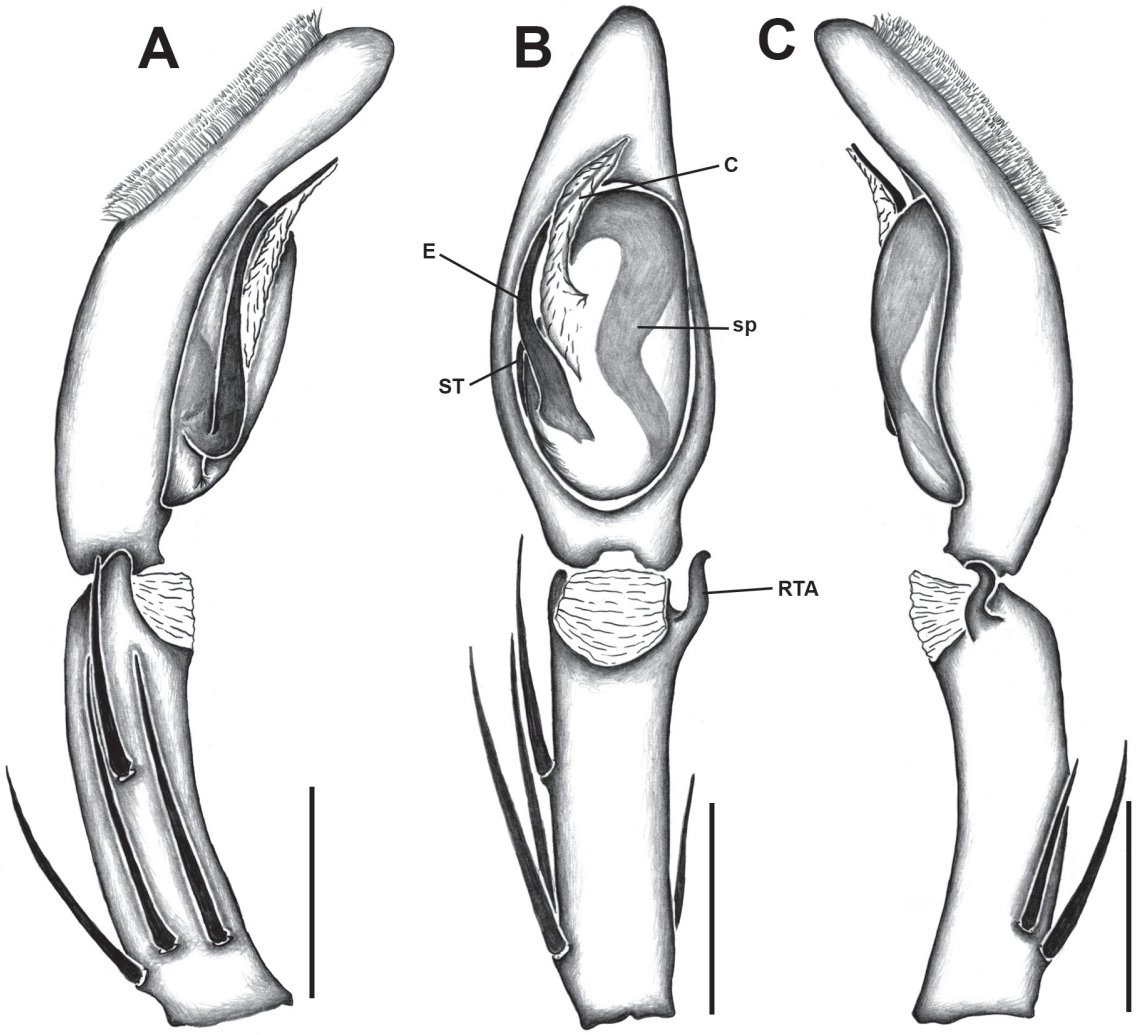

Fig. 11. *Uaica mapia* gen. et spec. nov., ♂, holotype (IBSP 8817). **A**. Left palp, prolateral view. **B**. Left palp, ventral view. **C**. Left palp, retrolateral view. Abbreviations: C = conductor; E = embolus; sp = spermophore; ST = subtegulum; RTA = retrolateral tibial apophysis. Scale bars: 0.5 mm.

Uaica uatuma gen. et sp. nov.
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:55CE25EE-5589-424B-A000-7951CC7033D6
Figs 12–15

Diagnosis

Males of *U. uatuma* gen. et sp. nov. resemble those of *U. mapia* gen. et sp. nov. (Figs 10C–E, 11) by the E slender, longer than C and arising from tegulum at 8:30 o'clock position, but are distinguished by the RTA straight and conical in ventral view and slightly bent medially in retrolateral view (Figs 12E, 14C) (S-shaped in retrolateral view in *U. mapia*) and by the tegulum bearing an indentation at the base of E (Figs 12D, 14B) (arising straight from the tegulum in *U. mapia*). Females distinguished from those

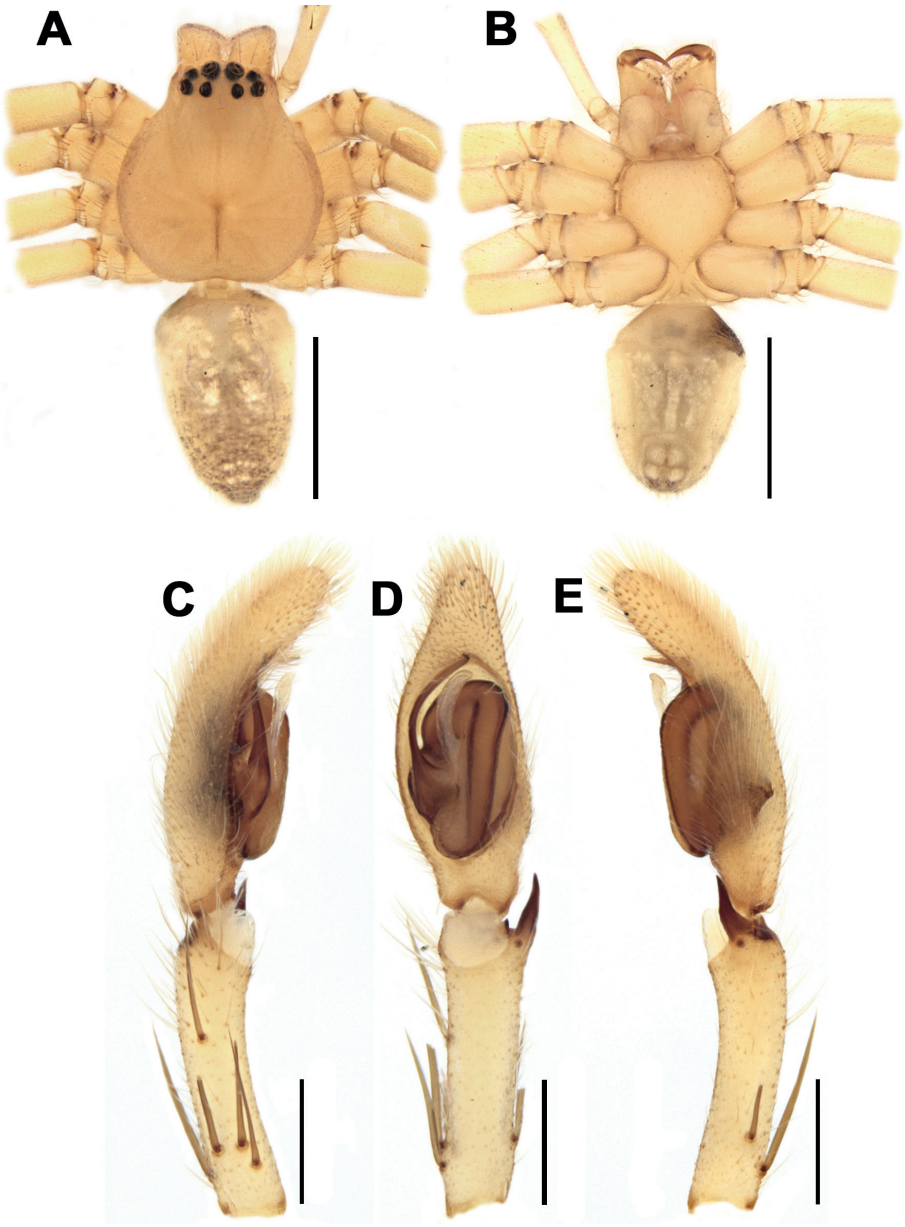

Fig. 12. *Uaica uatuma* gen. et sp. nov., ♂, holotype (IBSP 7372). **A**. Habitus, dorsal view. **B**. Habitus, ventral view. **C**. Left palp, prolateral view. **D**. Left palp, ventral view. **E**. Left palp retrolateral view. Scale bars: A–B = 2 mm; C–E = 0.5 mm.

of *U. carapiranga* gen. et sp. nov (Figs 4C–D, 5D–F) and *U. juruena* gen. et sp. nov. (Figs 6C–D, 7) by anterior position of EP and slender, elongate MS, more than 3 × as long as wide (Figs 13C, 14D) (slightly more median EP and MS shaped as an inverted Y, slightly longer than wide in the later species).

Etymology

The specific epithet refers to the type locality. The Usina Hidrelétrica de Balbina (Balbina Hydroelectric Plant) was built on the Uatumã River in northeastern Amazonas; noun in apposition.

Type material

Holotype

BRAZIL – **Amazonas State** • ♂; Presidente Figueiredo; Usina Hidrelétrica de Balbina; [1.9000º S, 59.4667º W]; 7 Dec. 1988; Equipe Butantan leg.; IBSP 7372.

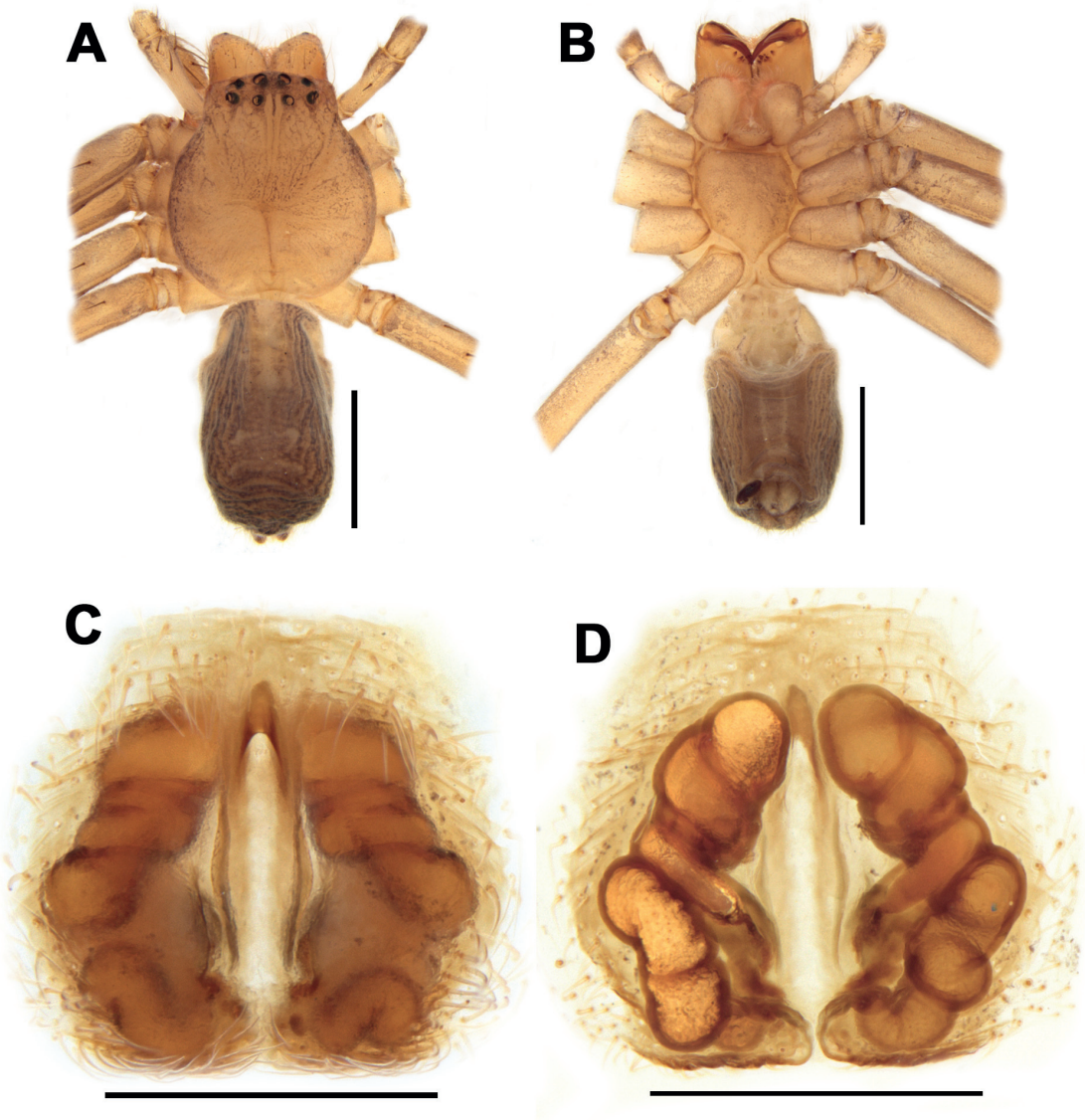

Fig. 13. *Uaica uatuma* gen. et sp. nov., ♀, paratype (IBSP 7346). **A**. Habitus, dorsal view. **B**. Habitus, ventral view. **C**. Epigyne, ventral view. **D**. Vulva, dorsal view. Scale bars: A–B = 2 mm; C–D = 0.5 mm.

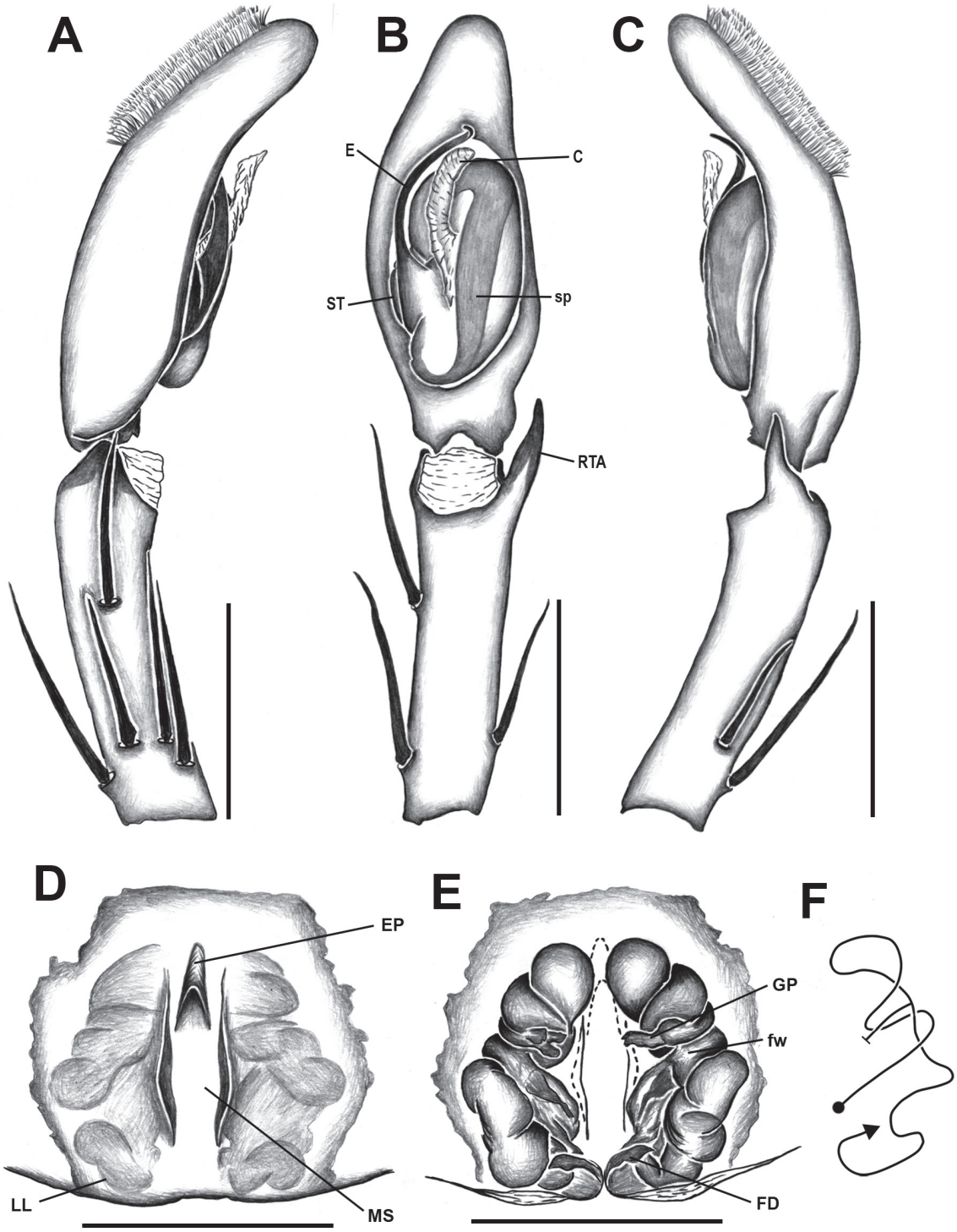

Fig. 14. *Uaica uatuma* gen. et sp. nov. **A–C**. ♂, holotype (IBSP 7372). **D–F**. ♀, paratype (IBSP 7346). **A**. Left palp, prolateral view. **B**. Left palp, ventral view. **C**. Left palp, retrolateral view. **D**. Epigyne, ventral view. **E**. Vulva, dorsal view. **F**. Schematic course of IDS. Abbreviations: C = conductor; E = embolus; EP = epigynal pocket; FD = fertilization duct; fw = first winding of IDS; GP = glandular projection; LL = lateral lobe; MS = median septum; RTA = retrolateral tibial apophysis; sp = spermophore; ST = subtegulum. Scale bars = 0.5 mm.

Paratypes

BRAZIL – **Amazonas State** • 1 ♀; same data as for holotype; 1987–1988; IBSP 7345 • 1 ♀; same data as for holotype; 1987–1988; IBSP 7346 • 1 ♂; Manaus, Reserva do km 41; [2.4072º S, 59.7611º W]; Aug. 2000; A.J. Santos leg.; IBSP 37295.

Description

Male (holotype)

Color. Prosoma pale brownish orange with slightly darker margins; fovea dark brown; eye borders black. Chelicerae same as prosoma. Legs and palps lighter than prosoma. Labium pale brown, distally pale orange. Endites pale orange. Sternum pale yellow with pale brown margins. Opisthosoma yellowish cream colored; dorsally with whitish marbled irregular marks around cardiac mark and posteriorly close to spinnerets; ventrally with three whitish marbled marks running posteriorly from epiandrous region to spinnerets. Spinnerets cream colored (Fig. 12A–B).

Measurements. Total length 5.5. Prosoma: 2.7 long, 2.5 wide. Opisthosoma: 2.7 long, 1.6 wide. Eyes: diameters 0.25, 0.20, 0.15, 0.20; interdistances 0.16, 0.05, 0.30, 0.19, 0.15, 0.05. Legs (2143): I: 21.0 (5.6, 1.6, 6.1, 6.1, 1.6); II: 24.0 (6.5, 1.6, 7.2, 7.0, 1.7); III: 14.5 (4.2, 1.2, 4.1, 3.9, 1.1); IV: 17.8 (5.0, 1.2, 5.0, 5.2, 1.4).

Palp. RTA longer than wide, mostly straight and pointed; tegulum forming a slight indentation probasally; sp running retrolaterally in a straight line; C arising medially, more than 6 × as long as wide, shorter than E; E filiform with wide base, curved at tip (Figs 12C–E, 14A–C).

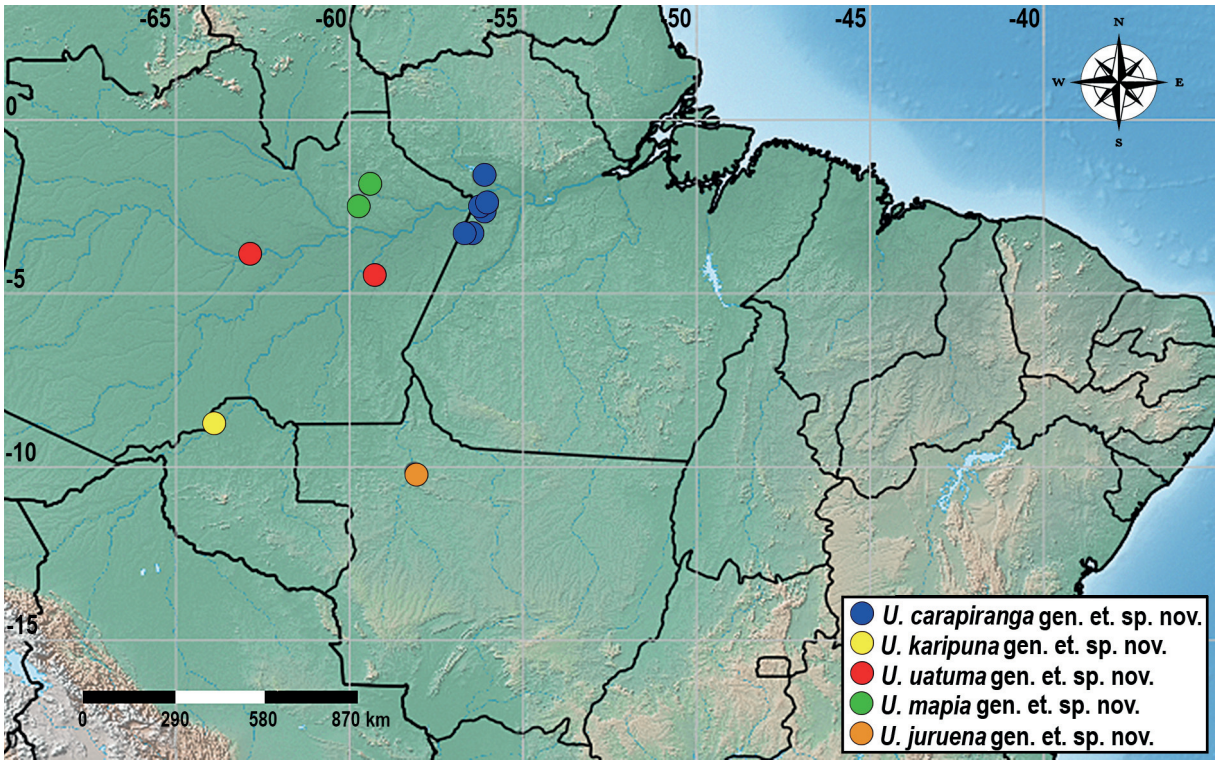

Fig. 15. Distribution map for species of the genus *Uaica* gen. nov. (Brazil).

Female (paratype, IBSP 7346)

Color. Coloration pattern much darker than in male. Prosoma orange brown with darker margins; fovea dark brown; eye borders black. Chelicerae and legs as prosoma. Labium, endites and sternum brownish orange. Opisthosoma grayish brown; dorsally with elongated marks laterally and posteriorly; ventrally with shorter marks laterally and two parallel lines of muscle impressions. Spinnerets pale brownish cream colored (Fig. 13A–B).

Measurements. Total length 7.0. Prosoma: 3.2 long, 3.0 wide. Opisthosoma: 3.6 long, 2.1 wide. Eyes: diameters 0.22, 0.22, 0.16, 0.20; interdistances 0.20, 0.14, 0.36, 0.32, 0.18, 0.14. Legs (2143): I: 17.7 (4.9, 1.8, 4.9, 4.7, 1.4); II: 19.8 (5.7, 1.8, 5.6, 5.2, 1.5); III: 12.6 (3.7, 1.4, 3.3, 3.1, 1.1); IV: 15.3 (4.4, 1.4, 4.1, 4.1, 1.30).

Epigyne. EF as long as wide; LL smooth and parallel; MS with elongate lateral rims (Figs 13C, 14D).

Vulva. IDS running anteriorly in double helix; GP elongate, distally with short ramifications; arising from last turn, closer to FD; FD laterad (Figs 13D, 14E–F).

Variation

Two males: total length 5.5−6.5; prosoma length 2.7−2.9; femur I length 5.6−6.1. Two females: total length 7.0−9.7; prosoma length 3.2−3.5; femur I length 4.8−4.9.

Distribution

Known from central and eastern Amazonas State (Fig. 15).

Discussion

The position of *Uaica* gen. nov. within Sparassidae remains doubtful and not much can be said, based solely on morphology. There are few papers dealing with the relationships between genera of Sparassidae (Moradmand *et al.* 2014; Tong *et al.* 2019; Gorneau *et al.* 2022) and mostly, they focus on a particular genus or group of genera. None of them include a representative number of Neotropical genera. *Uaica* seems to be more closely related to *Caayguara*, *Nungara*, *Sadala* and *Meri*, with which they share the combined presence of three promarginal teeth and intermarginal denticles in the chelicerae and a short-toothed female palpal claw (Rheims 2010; Pinto & Rheims 2016; Jäger & Rheims 2022). Of these, only representatives of *Meri* and *Caayguara* have been included in more comprehensive analyses. *Meri* has been consistently recovered as sister to *Polybetes* Simon, 1897 (Moradmand *et al.* 2014; Gorneau *et al.* 2022) while *Caayguara* appears as sister to all non-Sparianthinae sparassids (Gorneau *et al.* 2022) or polyphyletic, with one species nested within Heteropodinae and another sister to *Neostasina* Rheims & Alayón, 2016 in Sparianthinae Simon, 1897 (Kulkarni *et al.* 2023). While *Caayguara* is definitely not a member of Sparianthinae it could be closely related to members of Heteropodinae Thorell, 1873 as previously suggested by Moradmand *et al.* (2014: fig. 1) and partially recovered by Kulkarni *et al.* (2023: fig. 14). *Uaica*, *Sadala*, *Meri* and *Nungara* seem more closely related to each other than to *Caayguara*, sharing many characters such as the presence of more than five escort setae in the chelicerae, a simple, distally inserted RTA in the male palps, a projection or pocket on the median septum of the epigyne and the presence of a glandular projection on the internal ducts of the female vulva. This could mean that these four genera, together with *Polybetes*, comprise the subfamily Polybetinae Järvi, 1912. Nevertheless, I believe that further phylogenetic studies, probably including both morphological and molecular data, will be needed to clarify the position of these genera within the family and corroborate or refute these suggestions.

Acknowledgments

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