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Research article

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The short-legged Andean cosmetids revisited: the genus *Libitia* Simon, 1879 with description of two new species (Opiliones, Cosmetidae)

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Abstract. The old genus *Libitia* Simon, 1879 of small Andean harvestmen is revisited. The monotypic genus *Libitiella* Roewer, 1947 is herein considered a junior subjective synonym of *Libitia*. Accordingly, *Libitiella bipunctata* (Sørensen, 1932) is restored to the combination *Libitia bipunctata*. The species *Libitia cordata* and *Libitia bipunctata* comb. nov. are redescribed and the new species *Libitia gandalf* sp. nov. and *Libitia iguaque* sp. nov. are herein described from Cordillera Oriental of Colombian Andes (Chingaza Natural Park and Iguaque Natural Park, respectively). The species *Gonyleptes multimaculatus* Wood 1869, currently under the synonymy of *L. cordata*, is revalidated and transferred to *Paecilaemella* Roewer, 1925 forming *Paecilaemella multimaculata* comb. nov., and the species *Cynorta itacoaiensis* H. Soares, 1970 is herein considered a junior subjective synonym of it. In addition, the second current species of the genus, *Libitia fusca* (Simon, 1879), is transferred to *Metalibitia*. *Libitia* is diagnosed based in genital and external morphology, an identification key of the four species and distribution maps are offered.

Keywords. Gonyleptoidea, Neotropics, Andes, *Metalibitia*, *Paecilaemella*.

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Introduction

The Northern Andes have a high topographic complexity, recognized as a biodiversity hotspot (Myers *et al.* 2000). Opilionological fauna is common and abundant in Andean realms but its taxonomy is still poorly understood and its diversity is underestimated. Cosmetid harvestmen of Andes have received better attention in the last few years in Bolivia (Monteiro & Pinto-da-Rocha 2015) and Colombia (García & Kury 2017; Medrano & Kury 2017). Venezuelan species were much favored earlier thanks

to the bulky taxonomic work of the arachnologist Manuel Ángel González-Sponga (1992, 1996, 1998a, 1998b) and more recently by the revision of the genus *Neocynorta* Roewer, 1915 in the cordillera of Mérida (Medrano *et al.* 2019).

Historical background

An early expedition to Nueva Granada by the French naturalist Justin Goudot (who was based in Bogotá) allowed Gervais (1844) to examine and describe some species inhabiting the territory currently corresponding to Colombia. One of those specimens was described as *Cosmetus cordatus* Gervais, 1844, characterized in a brief description by having a singular heart-shaped spot (“*coeur de carte à jouer*”) on the dorsum. Some years later, Simon (1879: 216) created the genus *Libitia* for cosmetids with short legs, unarmed abdomen and five segments in legs I, III and IV, including *C. cordatus* and the new species *Libitia fusca* Simon, 1879. He also mentioned the singularly inflated basitarsomeres of posterior legs in *L. cordata* and lacking in *L. fusca*.

Metalibitia Roewer, 1912 and *Paralibitia* Roewer, 1912, genera with short legs and flat scutum, were synonymized under *Libitia* by Sørensen (1932: 411) which in turn was divided in two subgenera: *Messa* and *Libitia*. The former subgenus is unavailable because it was published after 1930 without designation of a type-species from among the two originally included (ICZN Art. 13.3) and, moreover, it would be invalid as a junior homonym of *Messa* Leach, 1817 (Hymenoptera). In the latter, Sørensen included *L. cordata* and the new species *L. bipunctata*, recognizing the tarsal incrustation of basitarsomeres of posterior legs as diagnostic character of the subgenus. He did not include *Libitia fusca* in the genus.

Mello-Leitão (1933: 109) promoted the subgenus *Libitia* (including both species proposed by Sørensen) to genus and dismembered the second subgenus *Messa* into four genera: *Paralibitia*, *Metalibitia*, *Messa* Mello-Leitão 1933 and *Paramessa* Mello-Leitão 1933. Although the similarity between *L. cordata* and *L. bipunctata* was remarkable and already noticed by Sørensen (1932), the difference in tarsal counts was enough for Roewer (1947: 8) to create a separate genus for *L. bipunctata*: the monotypic *Libitiella* Roewer, 1947.

Separately, in 1869, Wood described *Gonyleptes multimaculatus* from “Napo and Maravon”, based on a single specimen lacking pedipalps and “maxillae”. Its description includes the presence of a transverse yellow stripe just posterior to the ocularium and minute whitish spots in dorsal scutum and coxa IV. Although, the lack of pedipalps made difficult identification at family level, Butler (1873: 115) recognized it as a cosmetid. Nonetheless, in a *lapsus* of overconfidence, he established the synonym with *C. cordatus* without any detailed explanation, but probably based on the vague similarity of the white spot on the anterior scutum of both species. The name was later combined with the genus *Cranaus* by Simon (1879: 216) but this combination was not followed by any other author and it remains today a junior synonym of *L. cordata*.

Libitia currently contains two species described in later 19th century: *L. cordata* and *L. fusca* from the vague locations “Colombia” and “South America”, respectively. Recently, Medrano & Kury (2018) recovered the genus within a group with two other Andean genera of flat cosmetids: *Eulibitia* Roewer, 1912 and *Ambatoiella* Mello-Leitão, 1943, but the status of its species were not studied.

The aim of this work is to review the genus *Libitia*, which are small cosmetid harvestmen with short legs and a flat unarmed dorsal scutum. We hereby recognize four valid species in the genus, among them two new species from Meta and Boyacá Departments in the highlands of Colombia. A key for the identification and a map of the known distribution of species are provided. Additional nomenclatural acts are proposed for names mistakenly associated with *Libitia*.

Material and methods

Descriptions of colors use the standard names of the 267 Color Centroids of the NBS/IBCC Color System (<http://people.csail.mit.edu/jaffer/Color/Dictionaries#nbs-iscc>) as described in Kury & Orrico (2006). Scanning Electron Microscopy was carried out with JEOL JSM-6390LV at the Center for Scanning Electron Microscopy of Museu Nacional/UFRJ and at Rudolf Barth Electron Microscopy Platform of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute / FIOCRUZ. All measurements are in millimeters unless otherwise indicated.

Repositories

BMNH	=	The Natural History Museum, London, UK
IAvH	=	Instituto Alexander von Humboldt, Villa de Leyva, Colombia
ICN	=	Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia
MNHN	=	Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, France
MNRJ	=	Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
MPUJ	=	Museo Javeriano de Historia Natural "Lorenzo Uribe, S.J.", Bogotá, Colombia
ZMG	=	Zoologisches Museum of the Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany

Other abbreviations

AL	=	abdominal scutum length
AW	=	abdominal scutum width
CL	=	carapace length
CW	=	carapace width
Fe	=	femur
Ti	=	tibia

Tarsal formula: numbers of tarsomeres in tarsus I to IV, when an individual count is given, order is from left to right side (figures in parentheses denote number of tarsomeres only in the distitarsi I–II).

Terminology for outline of dorsal scutum follows Kury & Medrano (2016). The terminology of the macrosetae of the penis ventral plate follows Kury & Villarreal (2015). The species descriptions do not repeat the generic characteristics. The term coda, here used, refers to the posterior part of the dorsal scutum, recognizable as the part with parallel straight sides, posterior to the main slope-change caused by the widened convex laterals. This term was first used and defined by Kury (2012).

The illustrations were made using a stereo microscope with a camera lucida and digitalized using the software Inkscape ver. 0.92. Photographs were taken with a Sony Cybershot DSC-V1 camera attached to the stereo microscope. The software package CombineZP by Alan Hadley, was used to create composite images with extended depth of field, through combination of several images taken at different focal planes. The resulting images were edited with Adobe Photoshop CS5. The plates were prepared in CorelDraw X7 for photographs.

All type material of Opiliones in the Zoologisches Museum of the Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen has been destroyed, according to information from the curator Dr Gert Tröster (June 28, 2011). All types designated here and the examined material were lost in the fire of September 2nd 2018 along with the bulk of the arachnological collection of MNRJ (Kury *et al.* 2018), except for material of *L. bipunctata* (ICN-AO 470, ICN-AO 1204 and ICN-AO 771) and a female paratype of *L. iguaque* sp. nov. (MPUJ-ENT 1432). There is no formal impediment according to the ICZN rules (ICZN Code: Art. 72.5.6 and 73.1.4) to describe a species whose holotype was lost before its publication (see Krell & Marshall 2017) for a discussion on this topic). Type material of *L. gandalf* sp. nov. was destroyed before illustration

of chelicerae and pedipalps; nevertheless, those parts do not possess significant diagnostic features for identification, thus the non-description of these parts does not compromise the validity of the species.

Results

Class Arachnida Lamarck, 1801
Order Opiliones Sundevall, 1833
Suborder Laniatores Thorell, 1876
Family Cosmetidae C.L. Koch, 1839
Subfamily Cosmetinae C.L. Koch, 1839

Genus *Libitia* Simon, 1879

Libitia Simon, 1879: 216 [type species: *Cosmetus cordatus* Gervais, 1844, by subsequent designation of Roewer (1912)].

Libitiella Roewer, 1947: 8 [type species: *Libitia bipunctata* Sørensen, 1932, by original designation].
syn. nov.

Libitia – Simon 1880: 103 — Roewer 1912: 11; 1923: 293. — Mello-Leitão 1923: 108; 1926: 331; 1932: 53; 1933: 105, 109; 1935: 113. — Kästner 1937: 389. — Kury 2003: 65 (revalidated) [junior subjective synonym of *Vonones* Simon, 1879 by Goodnight & Goodnight (1953: 59)].

Libitia (*Libitia*) – Sørensen in Henriksen 1932: 417.

non Libita [subsequent incorrect spelling] – Roewer 1928: 552.

Etymology

Obscure, it sounds to us as a Roman woman's name. Gender feminine.

Diagnosis

Can be differentiated in having shorter legs (femur IV shorter than the total length of the dorsal scutum) contrasting with other short-legged cosmetids as *Rhaucus* Simon, 1879, *Neocynorta* or *Eulibitia* (its femur IV is longer than dorsal scutum length) (Fig. 1B, E–F). Outline of dorsal scutum alpha-type with faint marked constrictions forming a parallel coda in males and divergent coda in females contrasting with *Ambatoiella* that has well-marked constrictions (Figs 2, 6). Can be separated from other genera by having cheliceral sockets (invaginations in the anterior margin of the carapace where the basichelicerites fit) shallow, with well-marked lateral quadrangular projections (triangular in *Eulibitia*, rounded in *Rhaucus*, bifid in *Metalibitia*) (Figs 2, 6). Posterior margin of DS without yellow stripe (transversal stripe in *Eulibitia* and some *Rhaucus* species) (Fig. 1A–D). Basitarsomeres I, III and IV remarkably enlarged in males (Figs 1B, 5B, D, 9C–D). Penis with an elongate wattle in stylus forming distally two long serrate membranes and with a medial cleft (Fig. 5), without stylar barbs.

Description

Small and flat animals (< 4 mm) with short legs (Fig. 1B). Outline of dorsal scutum alpha-type with symmetrical mid-bulge (Fig. 2).

Mesotergum flat and unarmed. Scutum with yellowish white blots as a 'ladder mask' over dark brown background (see Medrano & Kury 2016, 2017), with intraspecific variation from absent (Fig. 2) to strongly filled invading the entire area I and II (Fig. 6) or part of carapace (Fig. 9A).

Coxa IV entirely visible in dorsal view, without groin warts (defined in Kury & Barros, 2014) and small prodorsal distal apophysis. Femur III and IV curved and uniformly tuberculate (Fig. 1B).

Penis (Fig. 4): ventral plate (VP) sub-rectangular with latero-apical borders protruding from the ventral plate, stylus with an incrassated wattle forming apically two long serrate membranes creating a medial cleft (Fig. 4D), without stylar barbs. VP laterally with two pairs of MS A, two pairs of MS C (sometimes asymmetrical with 3 MS C on one side, as in *L. bipunctata* and *L. gandalf* sp. nov.), two pairs of MS D (D1 three times longer than D2), and ventrally with two pairs of MS E and one pair MS B (Fig. 4C).

Note

As no diagnostic differences have been found among the penes of each of the four species, no specific descriptions are made.

Included species

Libitia cordata (Gervais, 1844), *Libitia bipunctata* Sørensen, 1932, *Libitia gandalf* sp. nov. and *Libitia iguaque* sp. nov.

Geographic distribution

Central part of Eastern Cordillera of Andes from 2600 to 3700 meters, in Cundinamarca, Boyacá and Meta departments of Colombia.

Key to males of *Libitia*

1. Pattern of blots invading carapace and area and occupying entirely area I of mesotergum (Fig. 9A, C, E) *L. gandalf* sp. nov.
 – Pattern of blots restricted to mesotergum (Figs 2, 6, 11A–B) 2
2. Pattern of blots invading area I and part of II, forming an irregular heart-shape (Figs 5A–B, 6)
 *L. cordata* (Gervais, 1844)
 – Pattern of blots only in lateral margins of mesotergum forming the rails of a ladder not invading areas I or II, sometimes extremely reduced (Figs 2, 11A–B) 3
3. Coda shorter than mid-bulge (Fig. 11A); maximum width of dorsal scutum equal to maximum length (Fig. 11A); legs podomeres with same color of trochanter (Fig. 11B–F); three basitarsomeres in legs I and III; penis with MS D1 equally distanced from MS D2 and MS C2 (Fig. 12A–D)
 *L. iguaque* sp. nov.
 – Coda as long as mid-bulge (Fig. 1A); maximum width of dorsal scutum shorter than maximum length (Fig. 1A); legs podomeres darker than trochanter (Fig. 1B–F); two basitarsomeres in legs I and III; penis with MS D1 closer to MS C2 than MS D2 (Fig. 4)
 *L. bipunctata* Sørensen, 1932 comb. rev.

Libitia bipunctata Sørensen, 1932 comb. rev.

Figs 1–4, 14

Libitia (Libitia) bipunctata Sørensen in Henriksen, 1932: 417.

Libitia bipunctata – Mello-Leitão 1933: 109.

Libitiella bipunctata – Roewer 1947: 8, pl. 1, fig. 3.

Diagnosis

Can be distinguished from *L. cordata* and *L. gandalf* sp. nov. by having small white-yellowish blots restricted to the marginal scutal groves (or sulci) (rails, see Medrano & Kury 2016) as dissociated

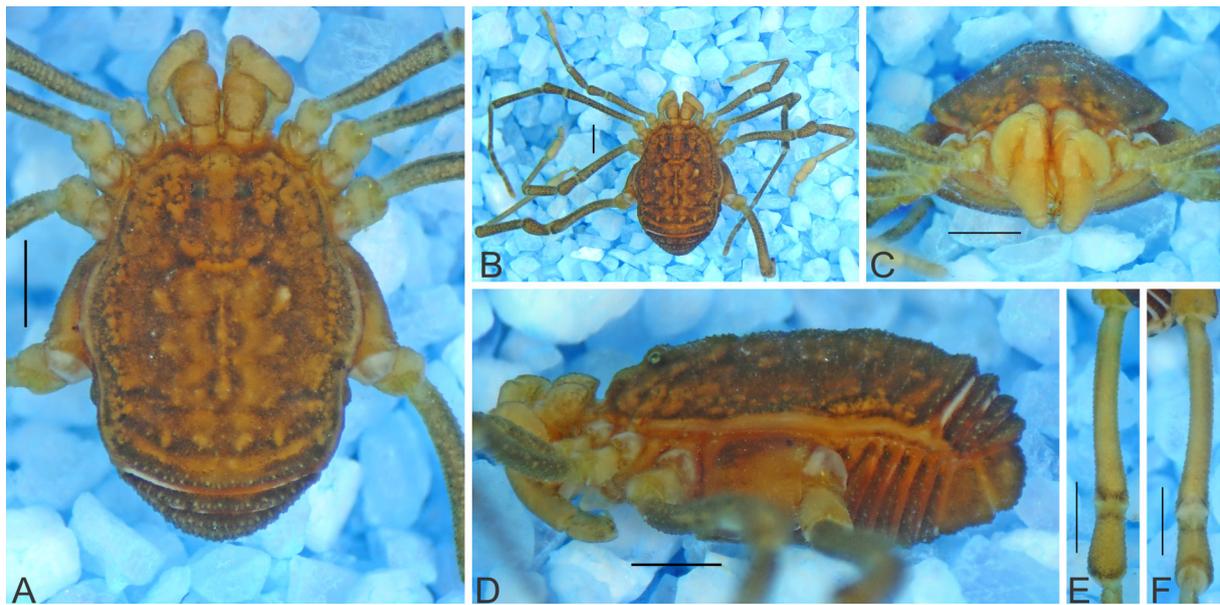


Fig. 1. *Libitia bipunctata* Sørensen, 1932, ♂ (ICN-AO 1040), habitus. **A.** Dorsal view. **B.** Dorsal view, panoramic. **C.** Frontal view. **D.** Lateral right view. **E–F.** Right femur IV, dorsal and ventral view, respectively. Scale bars = 1 mm.

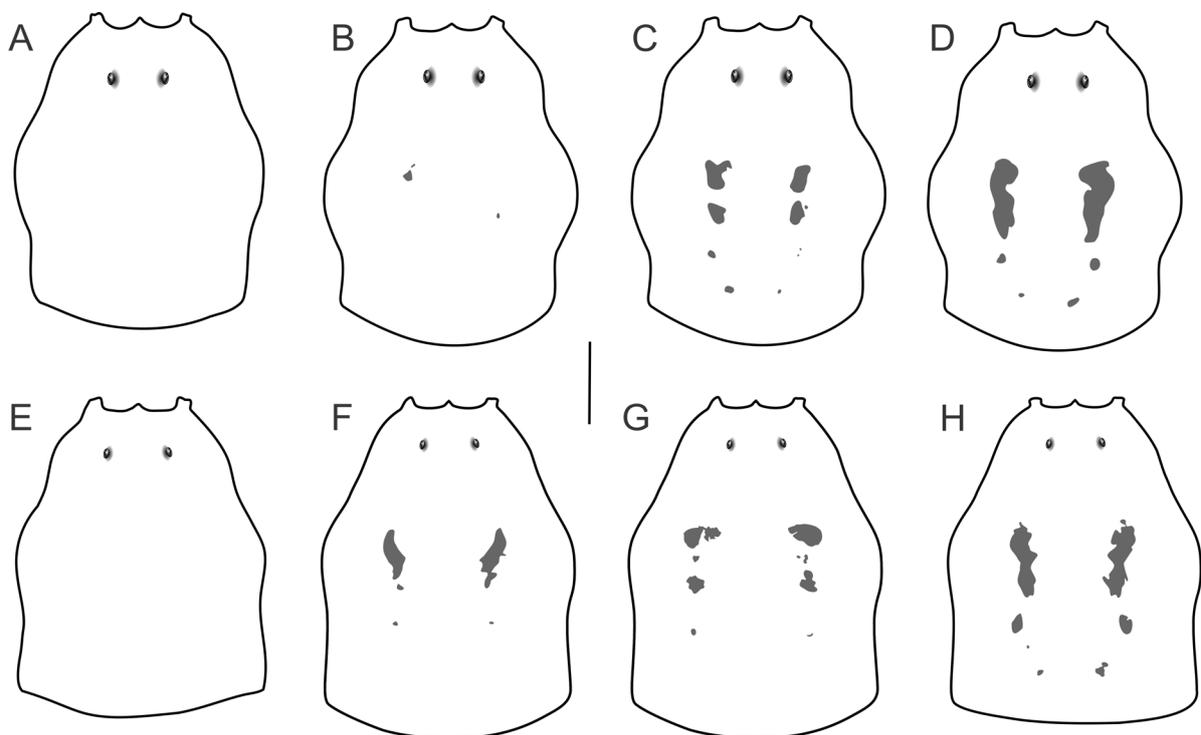


Fig. 2. *Libitia bipunctata* Sørensen, 1932, variation of spot pattern on dorsal scutum. **A–D.** ♂♂. **A.** IAvH-I-67. **B.** ICN-AO 468. **C.** ICN-AO 419. **D.** IAvH-I-87. **E–H.** ♀♀. **E.** IAvH-I-76. **F–H.** UNAL-AO 420. Scale bar = 1 mm.

pattern; from *L. iguaque* sp. nov. by having coda as long as mid-bulge and by possessing penis with MS D1 closer to MS C2 than MS D2.

Etymology

The name is derived from the Latin ‘*bipunctatus*’, meaning ‘one who has two blots’.

Material examined

Syntypes

COLOMBIA • 2 ♀♀; Cundinamarca Department [originally mistakenly reported as “Venezuela”], without further locality data; BMNH • 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; between La Unión and Páramo de Chingaza [originally misspelled as “Chingusa”]; 1000–2400 m a.s.l.; ZMG.

Other material

COLOMBIA – **Cundinamarca Department** • 26 ♂♂, 17 ♀♀, 20 juvs; Bogotá, Cantera Soratama; 2800 m a.s.l.; A. Álvarez leg.; MPUJ_ENT 11432 • 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Bogotá, Humedal La Conejera; 4.760671° N, 74.106359° W; 2600 m a.s.l.; Apr. 2000; ICN-AO 292 • 1 ♂; Bogotá, Quebrada La Vieja; 4.649889° N, 74.048065° W; 2600 m a.s.l.; 12 Dec. 2010; O. Villarreal, D. Luna and M. Medrano leg.; ICN-AO 922 • 4 ♂♂, 16 ♀♀; Bogotá, Sierras del Chicó, 4.671375° N, 74.038878° W; 15 May 2007; I. Morales leg.; ICN-AO 470 • 10 ♀♀; Bogotá, Usme, Parque Entrenubes, Cerro Juan Rey; 4.521586° N, 74.097581° W; 2700 m a.s.l.; 23–25 May 2003; L. Benavides leg.; ICN-AO 420 • 1 ♂, 14 ♀♀; same collection data as for preceding; ICN-AO 419 • 1 ♂; Choachí, Páramo Cruz Verde vía Bogotá-Choachí; 4.592793° N, 74.033624° W; 3300 m a.s.l.; 14 Dec. 1979; ICN-AO 76 • 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Guasca, Reserva Biológica El Encenillo; 4.794559° N, 73.909036° W; 8–10 Dec. 2012; A. Herrera, C. Suárez and E. Ariza leg.; ICN-AO 1383 • 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀; Guasca, Reserva Biológica El Encenillo; 8–10 Dec. 2012; C. Suárez and E. Ariza leg.; necrotrampa; ICN-AO 1204 • 12 ♀♀; La Calera, E.A.A.B. Club La Aguadora - Embalse de San Rafael; 4.706040° N, 74.008119° W; 2700 m a.s.l.; Sep. 2010; P. Barriga and D. Tobar leg.; ICN-AO 472 • 5 ♀♀; same collection data as for preceding; ICN-AO 484 • 1 ♂; Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza, Alto de La Bandera; 4.719018° N, 73.820675° W; 3660 m a.s.l.; IAvH-I-64 • 1 ♂; same collection data as for preceding; IAvH-I-67 • 1 ♀; same collection data as for preceding; IAvH-I-76 • 1 ♀; same collection data as for preceding; IAvH-I-77 • 1 ♂; Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza, La Siberia; 4.712840° N, 73.945862° W; 3170 m a.s.l.; IAvH-I-72 • 1 ♀; same collection data as for preceding; IAvH-I-73 • 1 ♂; Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza, Vda. El Manzano, Reserva Forestal Río Blanco, Palacio Laguna Brava; 4.675665° N, 73.880396° W; 2930 m a.s.l.; IAvH-I-87 • 1 ♀; Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza, Valle del Fraylejón; 4.525783° N, 73.774845° W; 3170 m a.s.l.; IAvH-I-122 • 4 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza; 4.575° N, 73.853° W; 2950 m a.s.l.; Y. Cifuentes leg.; ICN-AO 1437 • 1 ♀; San Antonio del Tequendama, Los Tunos; 4.564730° N, 74.218390° W; 2009; ICN-AO 996 • 1 ♂; Sibate, Alto de San Miguel; 4.450395° N, 74.300759° W; 2630 m a.s.l.; 1 Dec. 1979; I. de Arevaldo leg.; ICN-AO 78 • 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Soacha, near Chusacá; 4.538153° N, 74.280819° W; 2770 m a.s.l.; Dec. 1979; ICN-AO 52 • 1 ♂; Zipaquirá, Vereda Ventalarga, Represa Pantano Redondo; 5.042453° N, 74.036160° W; 3000 m a.s.l.; 27 Apr. 2013; E. Florez *et al.* leg.; ICN-AO 468.

Redescription

Male (ICN 419)

MEASUREMENTS. CL = 1.4, AL = 2.7, CW = 2.4, AW = 3.3, IOD = 0.6, Fe I = 1.7, Ti I = 1.3, Fe II = 2.9, Ti II = 2, Fe III = 2.5, Ti III = 1.5, Fe IV = 2.7, Ti IV = 2.1.

DORSUM (Fig. 1A–D). Dorsal scutum alpha-type, finely granular. Free tergites with rows of granules. Posterior margin of dorsal scutum convex. Small white-yellowish blots restricted to the marginal scutal grooves, not invading the areas of mesotergum nor grooves medially.

VENTER. Free sternites finely granular; coxae II–IV finely and uniformly granular; coxa I with longitudinal row of tubercles and smooth area corresponding to lace area of pedipalp. Anal operculum finely granular

CHELICERAE (Fig. 3B–C). Basichelicerite finely and uniformly granular with some rounded protuberances in basal and ectal margins, two ectodistal small setiferous protuberances. Movable finger with row of eight teeth; fixed finger with five triangular teeth, decreasing in size from distal to basal part of finger.

PEDIPALPS (Fig. 3A). Trochanter with strong ventral apophysis. Femur dorsally convex without pronounced dorsal keel or tubercles, with ventral row of ten well-formed setiferous tubercles and a mesodistal process. Patella with mesal keel. Shallow slit along tibia mesal surface, separating dorsal and ventral sides.

LEGS (Fig. 1B, E–F). Uniformly granular, femora III and IV slightly curved backwards. Coxae I–IV with prolateral conical apophyses, I and II larger than III and IV. Tarsal claws of legs III and IV smooth. Tarsal counts: 5(3)/6(3)/5/5.

COLOR (Fig. 1). Body and appendages background Strong Orange Yellow (68) mottled in Dark Yellowish Brown (78), ladder mask Pale Greenish Yellow (104). Pedipalpus as well as trochanters and tarsomeres of legs Light Greenish Yellow (101).

Female

Dorsal scutum and Fe IV shorter than males, with coda wider. Basitarsomeres I, III and IV not enlarged.

Variation (Fig. 2)

Pattern of yellow spots varying from an immaculate dorsal scutum to a well-filled ladder mask.

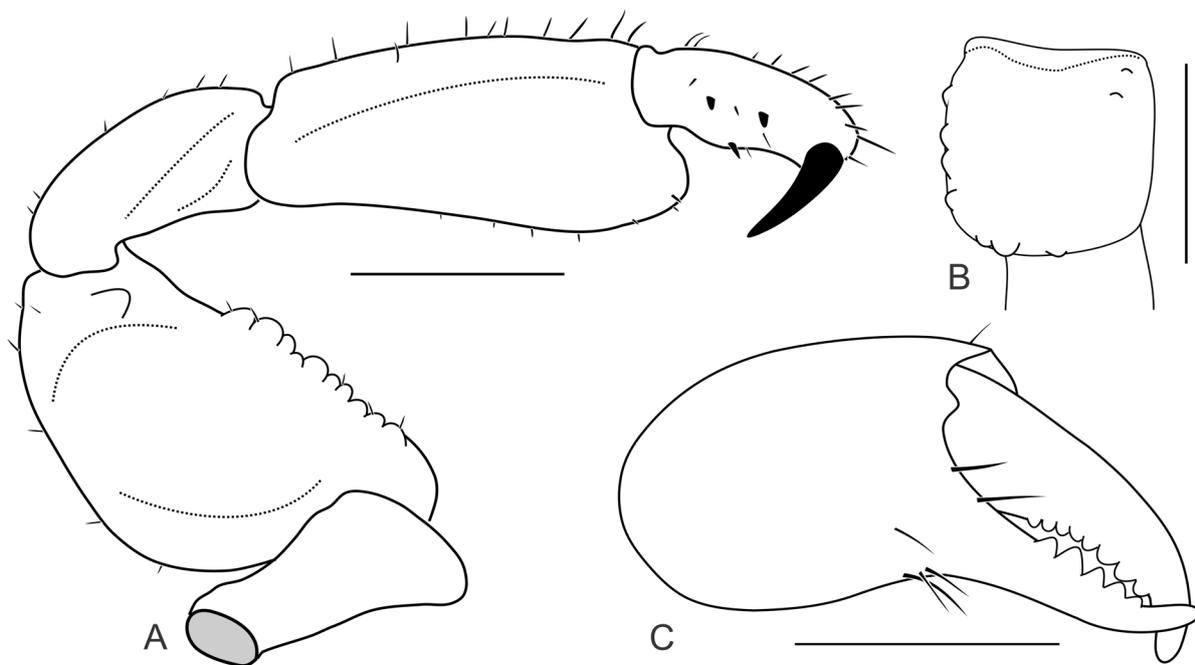


Fig. 3. *Libitia bipunctata* Sørensen, 1932, ♂ (ICN-AO 470). **A.** Left pedipalp, ventral view. **B.** Left cheliceral hand, dorsal view. **C.** Left chelicera, dorsal view. Scale bars = 1 mm.

Habitat

Some specimens (material examined) were collected in leaf litter and under rocks from High-Andean forest to Paramo, between 2600–3660 m, using both manual collect and passive methods, as a pitfall or ‘necrotrampa’ used for animals with affinity for decomposed organic matter.

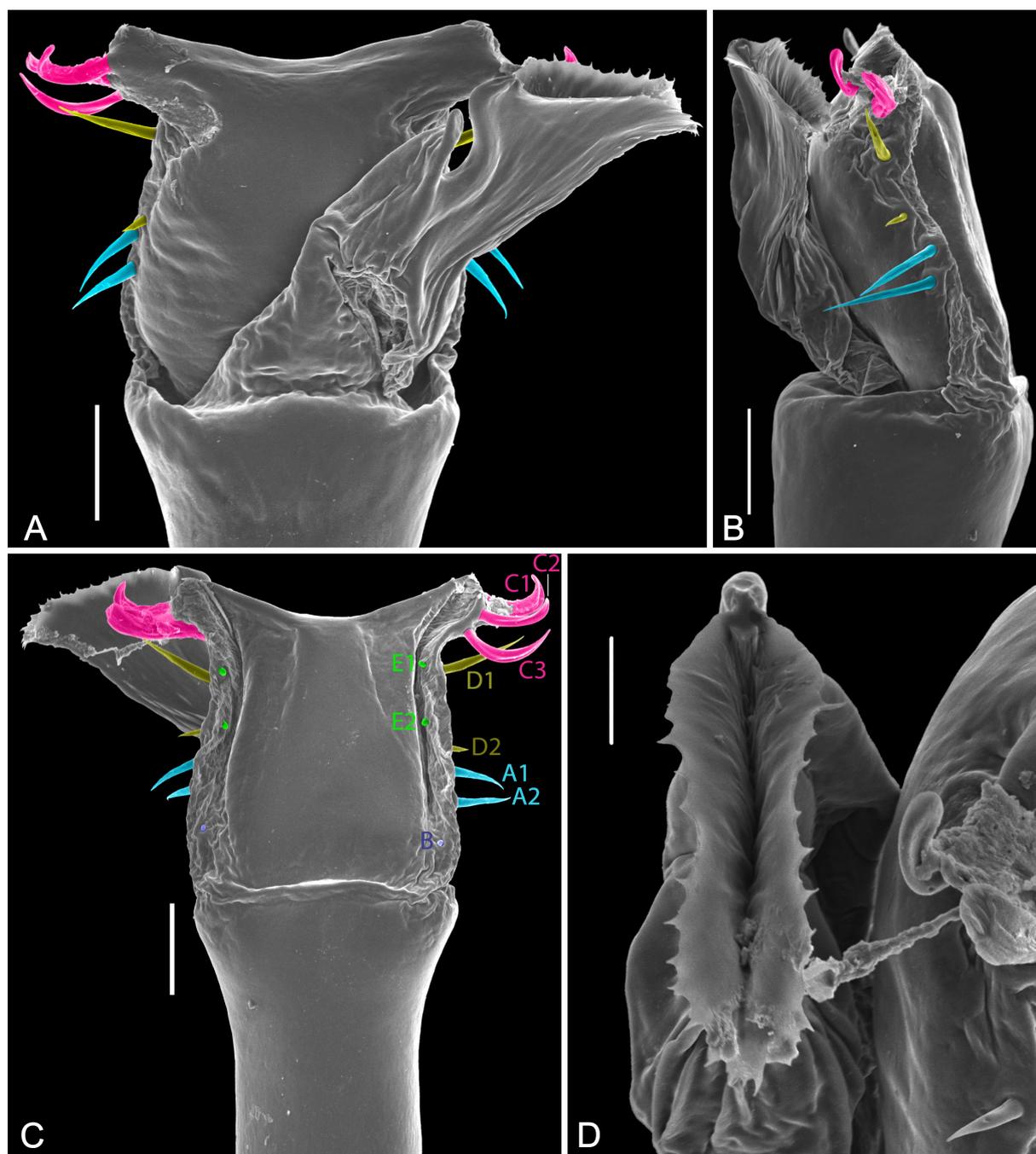


Fig. 4. *Libitia bipunctata* Sørensen, 1932, ♂ (ICN-AO 419), distal part of penis. **A.** Dorsal view **B.** Right lateral view. **C.** Ventral view, macrosetae coloured and numbered. **D.** Stylus, dorsal view. Scale bars: A–C = 50 µm; D = 20 µm.

Libitia cordata (Gervais, 1844)

Figs 5–8, 14

Cosmetus cordatus Gervais, 1844: 117, pl. 46, fig. 9 [“Cosmète coeur”].

Libitia cordata – Butler 1873: 115. — Simon 1879: 216. — Roewer 1912: 12; 1923: 293. — Mello-Leitão 1923: 108; 1932: 53; 1933: 109.

Libitia (Libitia) cordata – Sørensen in Henriksen 1932: 419.

non “*Phalangium fusco-ferrugineum*” – Olivier 1792: 125 [unavailable name].

Diagnosis

Can be separated from all the other species of the genus in having a heart-shape blot in areas I and II, without invading the carapace (Fig. 5A–B).

Etymology

The name is derived from the Latin adjective ‘*cordatus*’, meaning ‘heart shaped’.

Material examined

Holotype

COLOMBIA • ♀; without further locality data; MNHN.

Other material

COLOMBIA – **Cundinamarca Department** • 3 ♂♂, 11 ♀♀; Bogotá, Usme, Parque Entrenubes, Cerro Juan Rey; 4.521586° N, 74.097580° W; 2700 m a.s.l.; 23–25 May 2003; L. Benavides leg.; ICN-AO 421

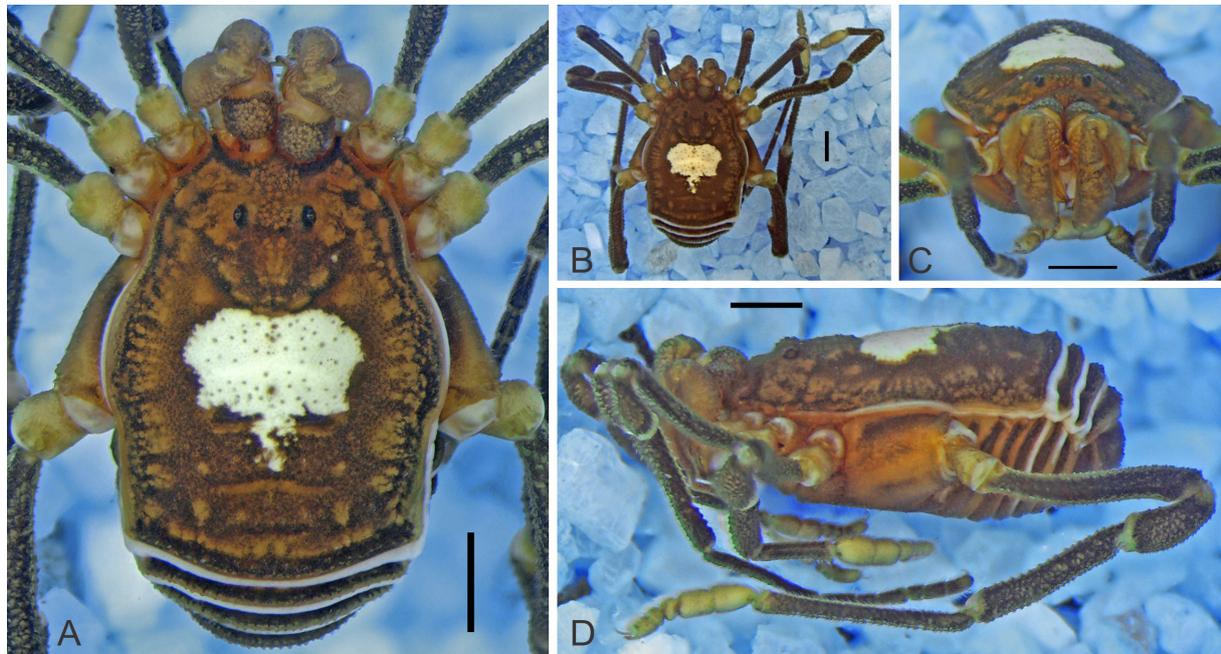


Fig. 5. *Libitia cordata* (Gervais, 1844), ♂ (ICN-AO 1040), habitus. **A.** Dorsal view. **B.** Dorsal view, panoramic. **C.** Frontal view. **D.** Lateral right view. Scale bars = 1 mm.

• 15 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀; Vía la Virgen de la Peña; 4.577788° N, 74.057366° W; 2700 m a.s.l.; 12 May 2012; M. Medrano and A. García leg.; ICN-AO 1040.

Doubtful/unconfirmed records

“Venezuela”, Páramo “Boydla”, road to “Choact” [not located, probably Colombia, between Bogotá and Choachí] (Sørensen *in* Henriksen 1932). Guyana, Brazil (Simon 1879; Roewer 1912, 1923). Ecuador, Chimborazo, Simbabe (Roewer 1923)

Remarks

Olivier’s species is not an available name according to ICZN because the paper it was described in is not consistent with binominal nomenclature.

Redescription

Male (ICN-AO 1040)

MEASUREMENTS. CL = 1.6, AL = 2.7, CW = 2.5, AW = 3.4, IOD = 0.6, Fe I = 1.8, Ti I = 1.3, Fe II = 3, Ti II = 2, Fe III = 2.5, Ti III = 1.6, Fe IV = 2.8, Ti IV = 2.1.

DORSUM (Figs 5–6). Dorsal scutum alpha-type, areas I–III, anterior and posterior margin of scutum, and lateral margins with granules. Free tergites with rows of granules and anal operculum finely granular. Posterior margin of dorsal scutum convex. Large white-yellowish blot invading entirely areas I and II and invading medially area III.

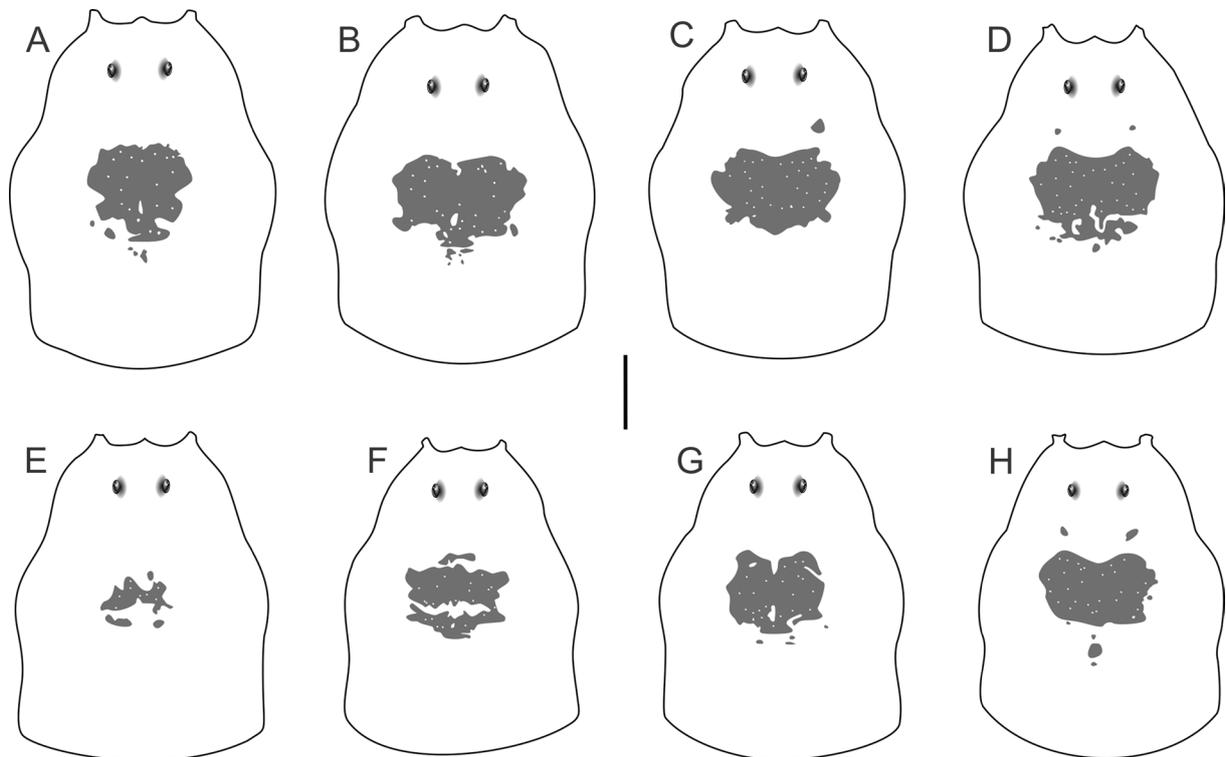


Fig. 6. *Libitia cordata* (Gervais, 1844), variation of spot pattern on dorsal scutum. **A–D.** ♂♂. **A.** ICN-AO 1040. **B.** ICN-AO 421. **C.** ICN-AO 1040. **D.** ICN-AO 1040. **E–H.** ♀♀. **E–F.** ICN-AO 421. **G–H.** ICN-AO 1040. Scale bar = 1 mm.

VENTER. Free sternites finely granular; coxae II–IV finely and uniformly granular; coxa I with longitudinal row of tubercles and smooth area corresponding to lace area of pedipalp. Anal operculum finely granular.

CHELICERAE (Fig. 7F–G). Basichelicerite finely and uniformly granular without notable tubercles, ectodistal small setiferous protuberance; movable finger with row of nine sharp teeth; fixed finger with six triangular teeth, decreasing in size from distal to basal part of finger.

PEDIPALPS (Fig. 7D–E). Trochanter with strong ventral apophysis. Femur dorsally convex without pronounced dorsal keel or tubercles, with ventral row of three well-formed setiferous tubercles and a mesodistal process. Patella with mesal keel. Shallow slit along tibia mesal surface, separating dorsal and ventral sides.

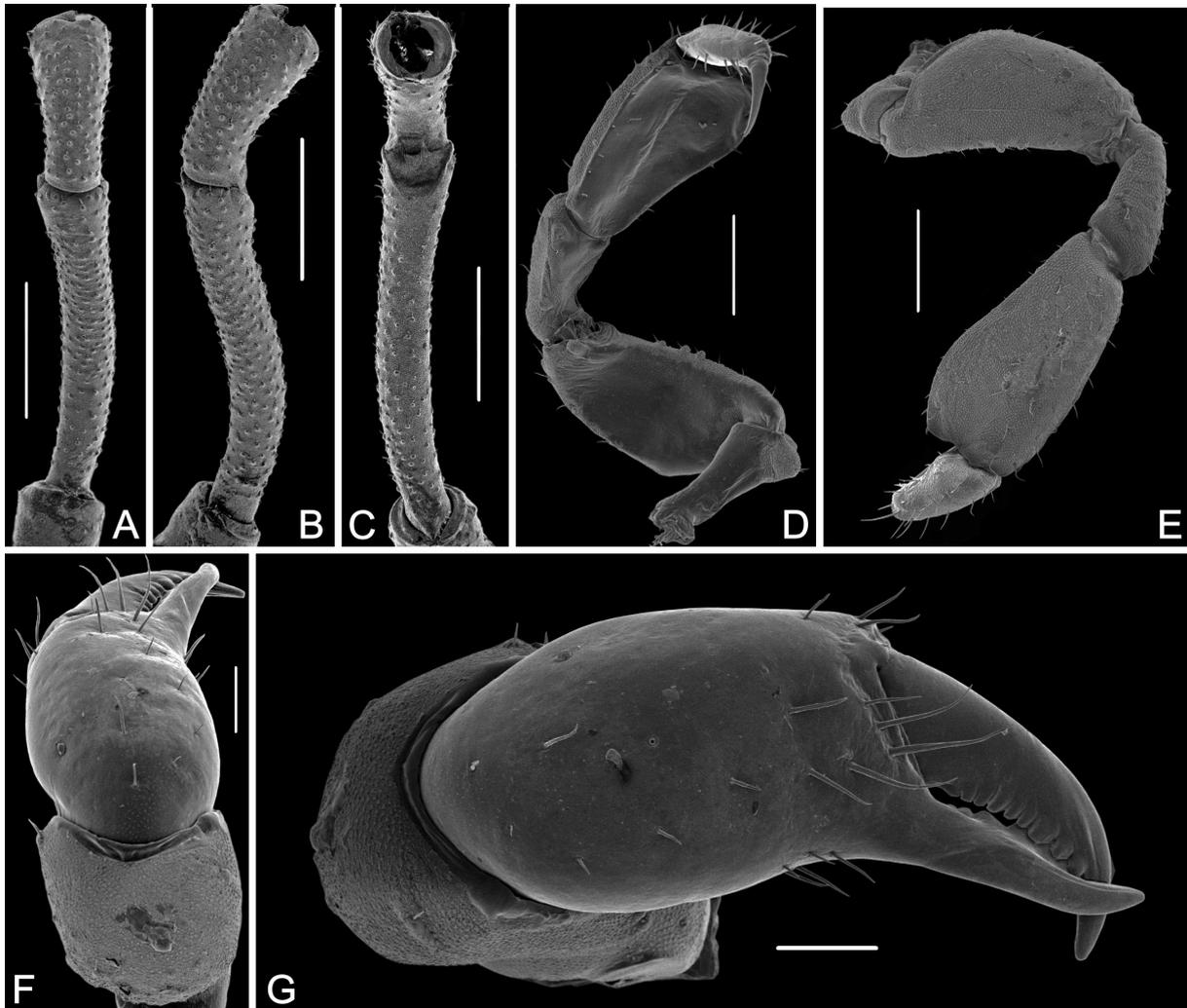


Fig. 7. *Libitia cordata* (Gervais, 1844), ♂ (ICN-AO 1040). **A–C.** Left femur IV, dorsal, prolateral and ventral view, respectively. **D–E.** Right pedipalp, ventral and dorsal view, respectively. **F–G.** Left chelicera, dorsal and frontal view, respectively. Scale bars: A–C = 1 mm, D–E = 500 μ m; F–G = 200 μ m.

LEGS (Figs 5, 7A–C). Coxa IV granulated with distal prodorsal small apophysis. Coxa IV granulated. Femur IV substraight, with two longitudinal ventral rows of small tubercles along entire length. Tarsal counts: 5(3)/6(3)/5/5.

COLOR (Fig. 5). Body background Brilliant Orange Yellow (67) mottled in Dark Yellowish Brown (78) and Brownish Black (65) for margins of dorsal scutum and appendages, ladder mask Pale Greenish Yellow (104). Pedipalpus as well as trochanters and tarsomeres of legs Light Greenish Yellow (101).

Female (ICN-AO 1040)

Measurements. CL = 1.7, AL = 3.1, CW = 2.6, AW = 3.4, IOD = 0.6, Fe I = 1.6, Ti I = 1.3, Fe II = 2.6, Ti II = 1.9, Fe III = 2.6, Ti III = 1.5, Fe IV = 2.9, Ti IV = 2.4. Dorsal scutum longer than in males, with coda wider. Basitarsomeres I, III and IV not enlarged. Tarsal counts: 5(3)/6(3)/5/5.

Variation (Fig. 6)

Pattern of yellow spots varying from a complete spot in form of a heart, to a dissociated version of the spot in the middle of areas I and II. In some cases, small spots are present in posterior margin of cephalothorax.

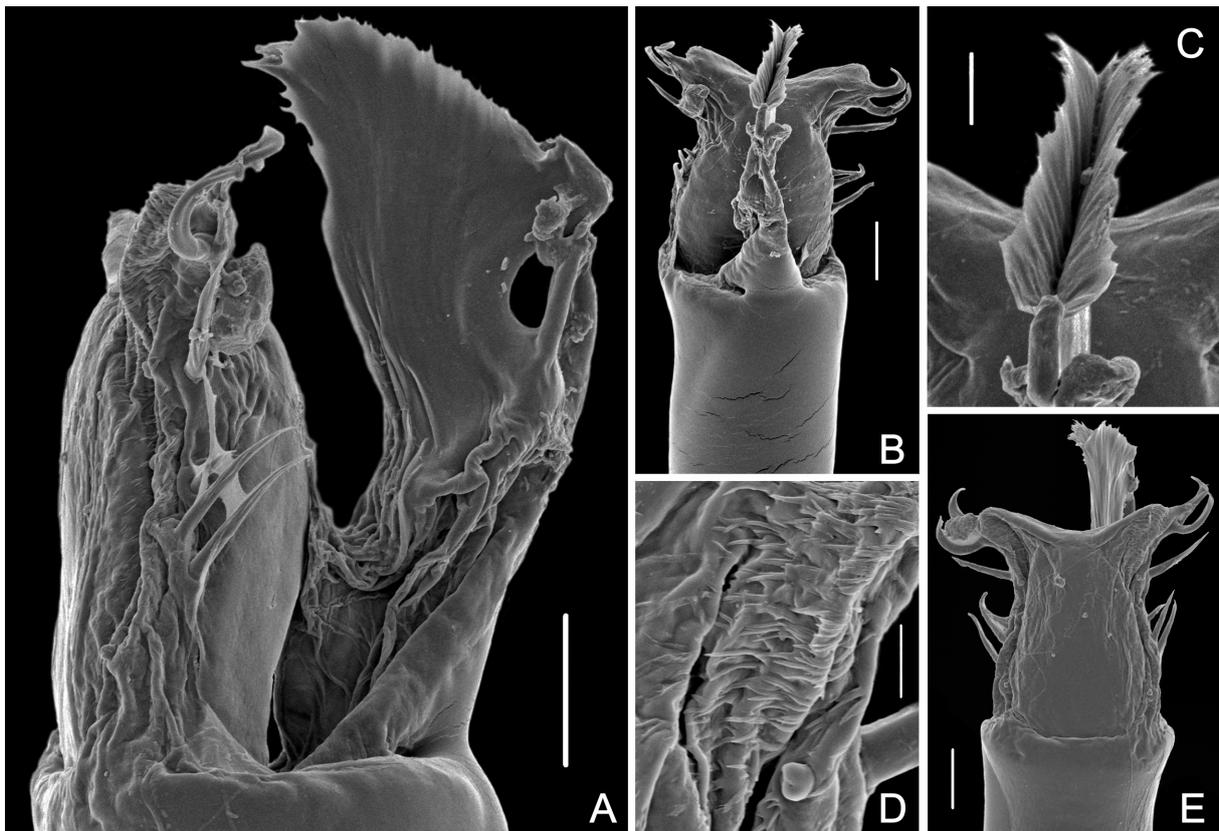


Fig. 8. *Libitia cordata* (Gervais, 1844), ♂ (ICN-AO 1040), distal part of penis. **A.** Left lateral view. **B.** Dorsal view. **C.** Stylus. **D.** Lateral portion of ventral plate, microsetae. **E.** Ventral view. Scale bars: A, E = 50 μ m; B = 100 μ m; C = 20 μ m; D = 10 μ m.

Libitia gandalf sp. nov.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:FBDC8502-2FE9-4413-B4C5-CD74D8D68EA1

Figs 9–10, 14

Diagnosis

Can be separated from all the other species of the genus in having the blots pattern invading carapace and occupying entirely area I of mesotergum. Scutal groove between carapace and area I without white marks forming a smile-like pattern immersed in a white ‘beard’ and one spot without filling at each side of that ‘smile’.

Etymology

Noun in apposition from the fictional character Gandalf the White, one of the protagonists in J.R.R. Tolkien’s novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Blot pattern of dorsal scutum resembles the white beard of the character while smiling.

Material examined

Holotype

COLOMBIA • ♂; Meta Department, San Juanito, Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza; 4.471391° N, 73.675435° W; 2990 m a.s.l.; IAvH-I-69.

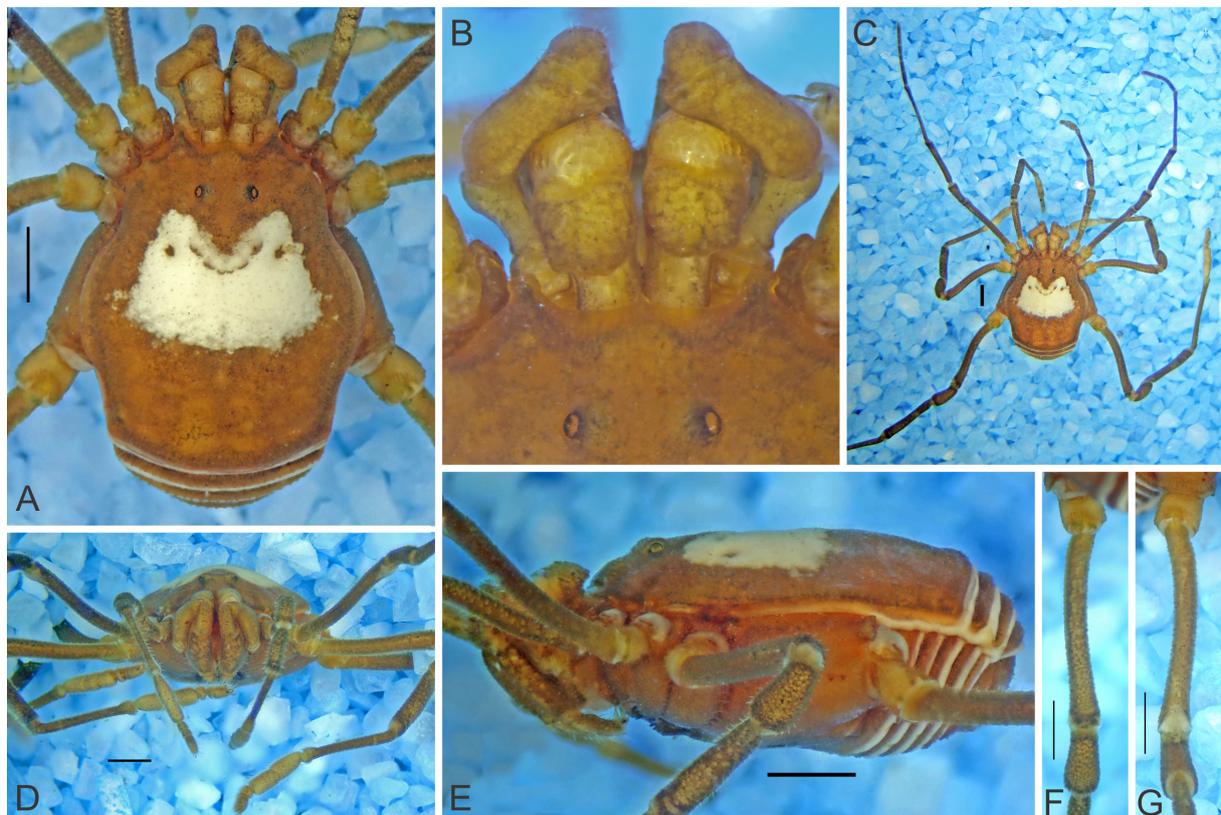


Fig. 9. *Libitia gandalf* sp. nov., holotype, ♂ (IAvH-I-69), habitus. **A.** Dorsal view. **B.** Dorsal view, anterior margin of carapace. **C.** Dorsal view, panoramic. **D.** Frontal view. **E.** Right lateral view. **F–G.** Right femur IV, dorsal and ventral view, respectively. Scale bars = 1 mm.

Paratype

COLOMBIA • 1 ♀; same collection data as for holotype; IAvH-I-86.

Description**Male holotype** (IAvH-I-69)

MEASUREMENTS. CL = 1.7, AL = 2.6, CW = 2.6, AW = 3.7, IOD = 0.6, Fe I = 2, Ti I = 1.4, Fe II = 3.4, Ti II = 2.3, Fe III = 2.9, Ti III = 1.7, Fe IV = 3.3, Ti IV = 2.7.

DORSUM (Fig. 9A–E). Dorsal scutum alpha-type, areas I–III, anterior and posterior margin of scutum, and lateral margins with granules. Free tergites with rows of granules and anal operculum finely granular. Posterior margin of dorsal scutum convex. Area I and posterior part of carapace with yellow solid blot, except for a fragmented area in scutal groove and one unfilled spot at each side.

VENTER. Free sternites finely granular; coxae II–IV finely and uniformly granular; coxa I with longitudinal row of tubercles and smooth area corresponding to lace area of pedipalp. Anal operculum finely granular.

LEGS (Fig. 9F–G). Coxa IV granulated with distal prodorsal small apophysis. Coxa IV granulated. Femur IV substraight, with two longitudinal ventral rows of small tubercles along entire length. Tarsal counts: 5(3)/7(3)/5/5-6.

COLOR (Fig. 9). Body background and appendages Moderate Orange Yellow (71) mottled in Deep Yellowish Brown (75), ladder mask Pale Greenish Yellow (104). Trochanters and tarsomeres of legs Light Greenish Yellow (101).

Female

Similar to males, with coda longer. Basitarsomeres I, III and IV not enlarged. Tarsal counts: 5(3)/6–7(3)/6/6.

Variation

No remarkable variation encountered in spots of DS in the examined specimens.

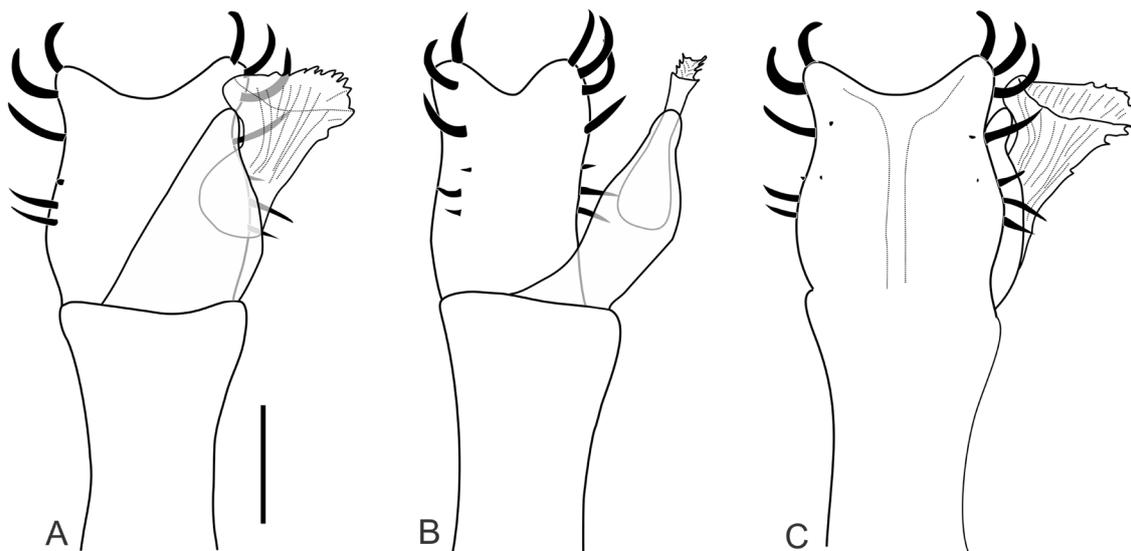


Fig. 10. *Libitia gandalf* sp. nov., holotype (IAvH-I-69), distal part of penis. **A.** Dorsal view. **B.** Latero-dorsal view. **C.** ventral view. Scale bar = 50 μ m.

Libitia iguaque sp. nov.

[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:E1CD5C3A-5C52-461C-A2D5-F0785E40A931](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1000000)

Figs 11–12, 14

Diagnosis

Can be separated from all the other species of the genus in having the coda shorter than mid-bulge, maximum width of dorsal scutum equal to maximum length (Fig. 11A). Three basitarsomeres in legs I and III (Fig. 11B–C). VP of the penis with MS D1 equally distanced from MS D2 and MS C2 (Fig. 12A–D).

Etymology

Noun in apposition from Iguaque, which in the Chibcha language means ‘vigorous mountain’ and was the cultural epicenter in the Amerindian period; as sacred territory it represented, for the Muiscas, the universe in continuous regeneration: birth, fecundity, fertility and initiation, symbol of ascent and interior knowledge. Also, it is the name of the Sanctuary that is the type locality of the species.

Material examined

Holotype

COLOMBIA • ♂; Boyacá Department, Santuario de Fauna y Flora Iguaque; 5.70175° N, 73.456222° W; 2941 m a.s.l.; 26–27 Nov. 2011; A. García and A.B. Kury leg.; MNRJ 19765.

Paratypes

COLOMBIA – **Boyacá Department** • 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀; same collection data as for holotype; MNRJ 19379 • 1 ♀; Qda. Los Francos; IAvH-I-82 • 1 ♀; Cabaña Carrizal; 5.6833° N, 73.4500° W; 2850 m a.s.l.; IAvH-I-91 • 1 ♀; same collection data as for preceding; IAvH-I-92 • 1 ♀; Villa de Leyva; 5.720016° N, 73.457901° W; 2900 m a.s.l.; 20 Aug. 1998; IAvH-I-17 • 1 ♀; Villa de Leyva, S.F.F Iguaque; 5.697856° N, 73.453133° W; 10 Apr. 2001; coprotrampa; ICN-AO 771.

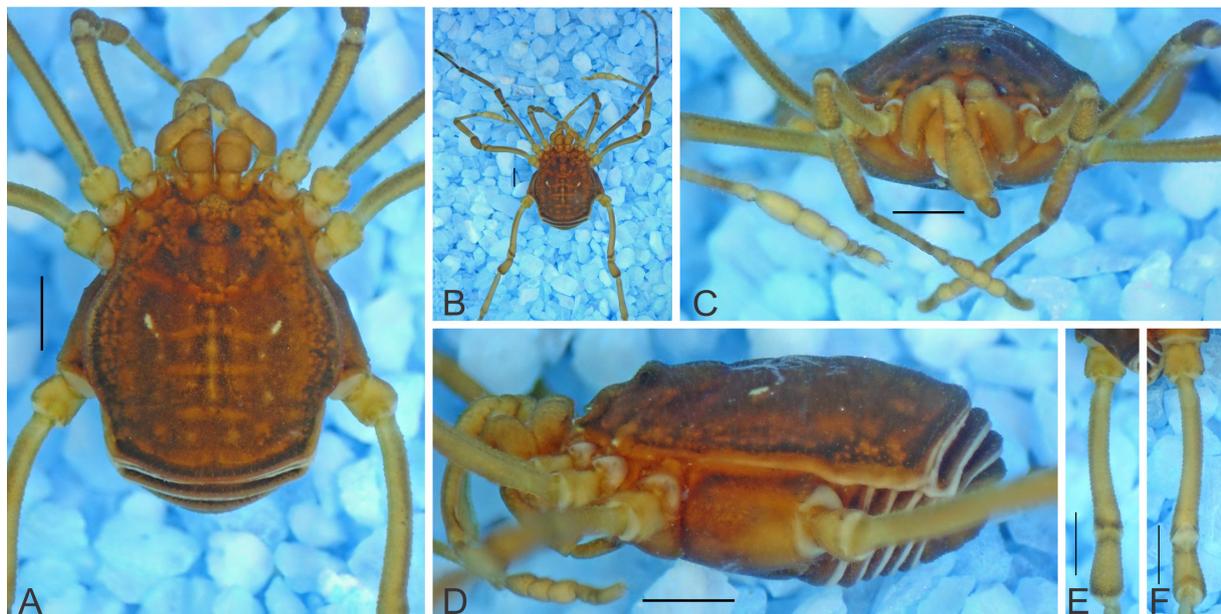


Fig. 11. *Libitia iguaque* sp. nov., ♂ (MNRJ 19765), habitus. **A.** Dorsal view. **B.** Dorsal view, panoramic. **C.** Frontal view. **D.** Lateral right view. **E–F.** Right femur IV, dorsal and ventral view, respectively. Scale bars = 1 mm.

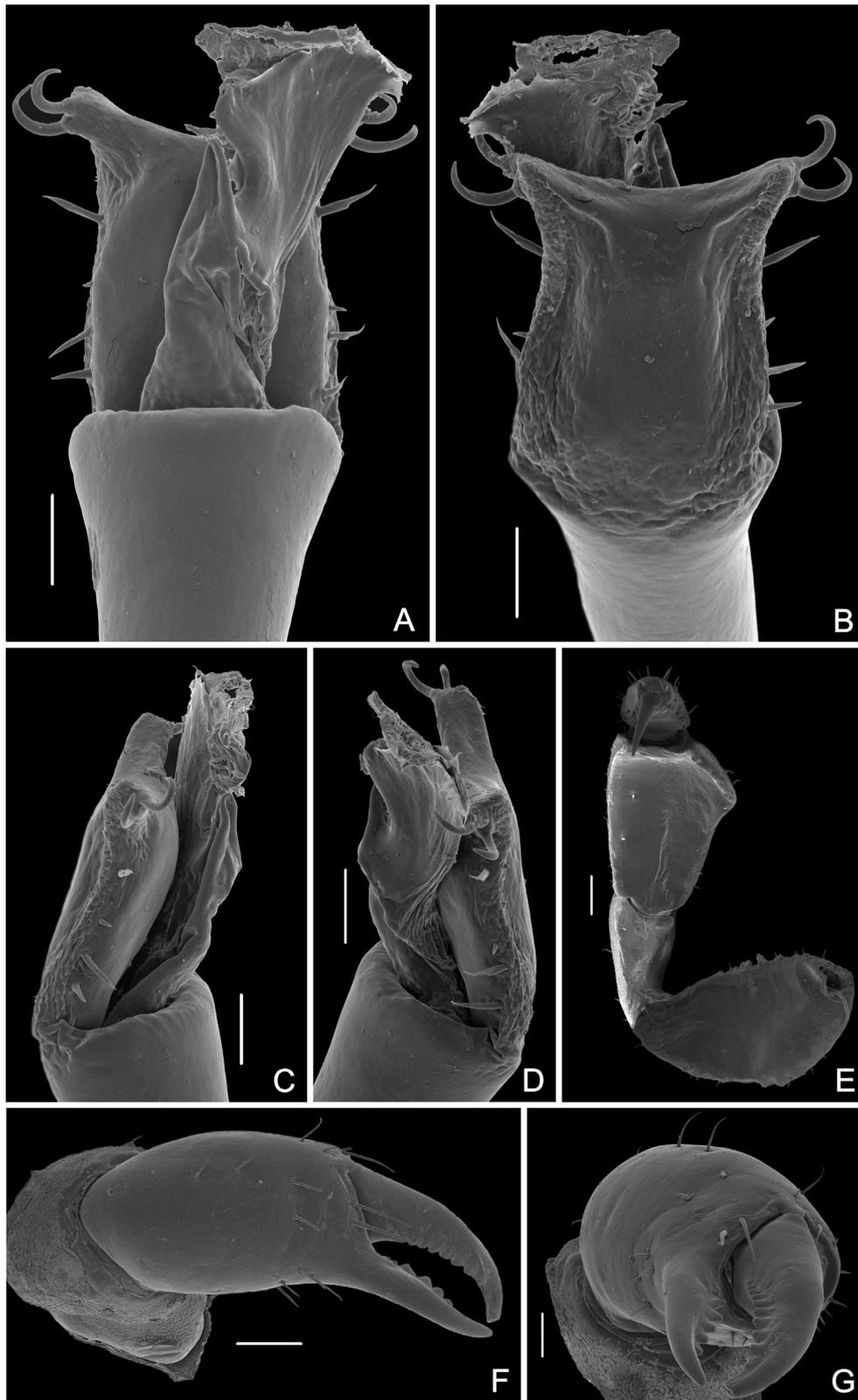


Fig. 12. *Libitia iguaque* sp. nov., ♂ (MNRJ 17379). A–D. Distal part of penis. A. Dorsal view. B. Ventral view. C. Left lateral view. D. Right lateral view. E. Right pedipalp, ventral view. F–G. Left chelicera, dorsal and frontal view, respectively. Scale bars: A–D = 50 μ m; E–F = 200 μ m; G = 100 μ m.

Description

Male holotype (MNRJ 19765)

MEASUREMENTS. CL = 1.5, AL = 2.6, CW = 2.7, AW = 3.6, IOD = 0.6, Fe I = 2, Ti I = 1.3, Fe II = 3, Ti I = 2.1, Fe III = 2.8, Ti III = 1.6, Fe IV = 2.9, Ti IV = 2.5.

DORSUM (Fig. 11A–D). Dorsal scutum alpha-type, areas I–III, anterior and posterior margin of scutum, and lateral margins with granules. Free tergites with rows of granules and anal operculum finely granular. Posterior margin of dorsal scutum convex. Marginal lateral grooves of areas I and II with fragmented yellow rails.

VENTER. Free sternites finely granular; coxae II–IV finely and uniformly granular; coxa I with longitudinal row of tubercles and smooth area corresponding to lace area of pedipalp. Anal operculum finely granular.

CHELICERAE (Fig. 12F–G). Basichelicerite finely and uniformly granular covered without notable tubercles, ectodistal small setiferous protuberance; movable finger with row of eight sharp teeth; fixed finger with seven triangular teeth (the middle teeth are larger).

PEDIPALPS (Fig. 12E). Trochanter with strong ventral apophysis. Femur dorsally convex without pronounced dorsal keel or tubercles, with ventral row of three well-formed setiferous tubercles and a mesodistal process. Patella with mesal keel. Shallow slit along tibia mesal surface, separating dorsal and ventral sides.

LEGS (Fig. 11E–F). Coxa IV granulated with distal prodorsal small apophysis. Femur IV substraight, with two longitudinal ventral rows of small tubercles along entire length. Tarsal counts: 6(3)/8-7(3)/6/6.

COLOR (Fig. 11). Body background Strong Yellowish Brown (74) mottled in Deep Yellowish Brown (75), ladder mask Pale Greenish Yellow (104). Appendages (except coxae) Brilliant Yellow (83).

Female

Similar to males, with coda longer. Basitarsomeres I, III and IV not enlarged. Tarsal counts (MNRJ 19379): 6(3)/7-6(3)/6/6.

Variation

No remarkable variation was encountered in spots of DS in the specimens examined.

Genus *Metalibitia* Roewer, 1912

Metalibitia fusca (Simon, 1879) comb. nov.

Libitia fusca Simon, 1879: 217.

Libitia fusca – Roewer 1912: 12; 1923: 294; 1928: 552. — Mello-Leitão 1932: 53. — Kury 2003: 65.

Material examined

Type

“SOUTH AMERICA” • ♂; without further locality data; MNHN (Coll Simon N° 2795) (one unsexed specimen examined by photograph).

Records

“Paraguay”, without further locality data (Roewer 1928). Brazil, “Pará”, without further locality data (Mello-Leitão 1932).

Remarks

We tentatively propose the new combination based on the external morphology (although examination of penis morphology is imperative to be certain) of the male type (MNHN) by the following features: (1) outline of dorsal scutum gamma-type; (2) eyes poorly spaced and ocularium without depression (“Mamelon oculaire assez grand, ovale transverse, bas, légèrement granuleux.” Simon 1879); (3) areas I–III with paramedian tubercles and (4) dorsal scutum and coxa IV without yellow spots. The impossibility to examine the holotype thoroughly and the “doubtful origin” of the specimen described by Simon does not allow us to verify whether this species corresponds to another already described species. It is very difficult to conclude whether the records provided by Roewer (1928) and Mello-Leitão (1932) are correct because both localities match with those of various species of *Metalibitia* (Coronato & Pinto-da-Rocha 2017).

Genus *Paecilaemella* Roewer 1925

Paecilaemella multimaculata (Wood, 1869) revalidated, comb. nov.

Fig. 13

Gonyleptes multimaculatus Wood, 1869: 438, pl. 24, fig. 10 [junior subjective synonym of *Cosmetus cordatus* Gervais, 1844 by Butler (1873); synonymy disclaimed here].

Cynorta itacoaiensis H. Soares, 1970: 324. **syn. nov.**

Gonyleptes multimaculatus – Cokendolpher & Peek 1991: 95.

Cranaus multimaculatus – Simon 1879: 241.



Fig. 13. Living specimen of *Paecilaemella multimaculata* (Wood, 1869) (CHNUFP) from Cruzeiro do Sul, Acre (photo courtesy of Leonardo Carvalho).

Type data

Gonyleptes multimaculatus: Type(s), whereabouts unknown, from “Napo and Maravon” [Napo and Marañon rivers] [possibly the confluence of both rivers, near Iquitos, Loreto, Peru].

Cynorta itacoaiensis: ♂, holotype (MNRJ 5059, examined), from Brazil, Amazonas, Upper Itacoaí River.

Material examined

BRAZIL • 1 ♀; Acre, Cruzeiro do Sul, proximidades do Aeroporto Internacional de Cruzeiro do Sul, rodovia AC-405; 7.595972° S, 72.766528° W; 190 m a.s.l.; 30 Oct. 2016; L.S. Carvalho leg.; CHNUFPI 2317.

Remarks

The synonymy of *Gonyleptes multimaculatus* with *Cosmetus cordatus*, established by Butler (1873), is not supported here because the former possess the following features (Fig. 13): (1) large body (> 6 mm); (2) main solid white spot mostly occupying the cephalothorax; (3) scattered white dots on abdomen, free tergites and coxa IV; (4) long and smooth legs (femur IV longer than the total length of the dorsal scutum); (5) dorsal scutum beta-type and (6) tarsal counts more numerous (6/14/8/9). All those features also show that *Gonyleptes multimaculatus* does not belong to the genus *Libitia*, better fitting the diagnosis of the recently revalidated genus *Paecilaemella* (see Kury & Medrano 2018). The specimens of *Gonyleptes multimaculatus* examined by Wood (1869) were damaged and did not allow an unambiguous diagnosis as a cosmetid, since the pedipalps are missing. Butler (1873), besides his precipitated specific synonymy, already showed the relation of the species with cosmetids. After a century, H. Soares (1970) described *Cynorta itacoaiensis* from the Itacoaí River in upper Amazonas with a description and an illustration that entirely match those of Wood’s species. Therefore, we propose that *Cynorta itacoaiensis* H. Soares, 1970 is a junior synonym of *Paecilaemella multimaculata* (Wood, 1869) comb. nov.

Discussion

Although cosmetids are conspicuous and showy animals with a remarkable diversity (second largest family in Neotropics), its taxonomy is in very bad shape. Little has changed in the conformation of the family as a whole (except for the recent transfer from Gonyleptidae of the genus *Platygyndes* Roewer, 1943 by Pinto-da-Rocha & Hara 2011) and the subfamilies remain characterized by a single and variable feature since early 20th century. Nonetheless, the internal conformation is under constant and fundamental changes as re-diagnoses of diverse genera, generic synonyms or new combinations (Kury & Barros 2014; García & Kury 2017; Kury & Medrano 2018).

Here, we recognize and diagnose the genus *Libitia*, providing important morphological information such as the size and details of the wattle in the penial stylus, that in cosmetids goes from an extremely reduced membrane with just a few “stylar barbs” (defined in Medrano & Kury 2018) as in *Sibambea* Roewer, 1917 to the extremely incassated one without stylar barbs in species of *Libitia*. Other cosmetids with a similar external appearance to species of *Libitia* and inhabiting high landscapes in the Andes of Ecuador and Colombia (Fig. 14), such as *Ambatoiella*, *Eulibitia* and *Rhaucus*, may be differentiated from *Libitia* by their penial morphology which possesses a small wattle with stylar barbs.

Besides the relationship of this genus with *Eulibitia* and *Ambatoiella* (Medrano & Kury 2018), *Libitia* also shows a remarkable resemblance with the genus *Oligovonones* Caporiacco, 1951, sharing characteristics such as: (1) dorsal scutum alpha-type with slight constrictions, (2) spots in marginal part of the grooves (3) mesotergum unarmed and flat and (4) legs short and uniformly tuberculated, without spines.

The morphology of tarsomeres was shown in Medrano & Kury (2017) for different Andean cosmetids and seems to be very useful to diagnose some genera. Tarsomeres (counts) were widely used in opilionological taxonomy almost as an exclusive character to define if one species belonged to one genus or another, reaching its extreme with Goodnight & Goodnight (1953). Although an exaggerated splitting vision may carry unjustifiable synonyms and taxonomical chaos (as already happened), the careful use of tarsal counts and other morphological traits may have a phylogenetic signal in suprageneric groups. Here we recognize a reduction in the number of basitarsomeres in legs I, III and IV in most species of *Libitia*. On the other hand, leg II by having a sensory function and being subject to environmental pressures is different from ambulatory legs (Martens 1978) and shows a remarkable intra- and interspecific variation in the number of basitarsomeres, so we recommend mainly the use of legs I, III and IV for taxonomic purposes.

The eastern cordillera in Colombia possesses great abundance of Páramos. Nonetheless, most of material present in biological collections is from areas near Bogotá. The complexity of the territory,

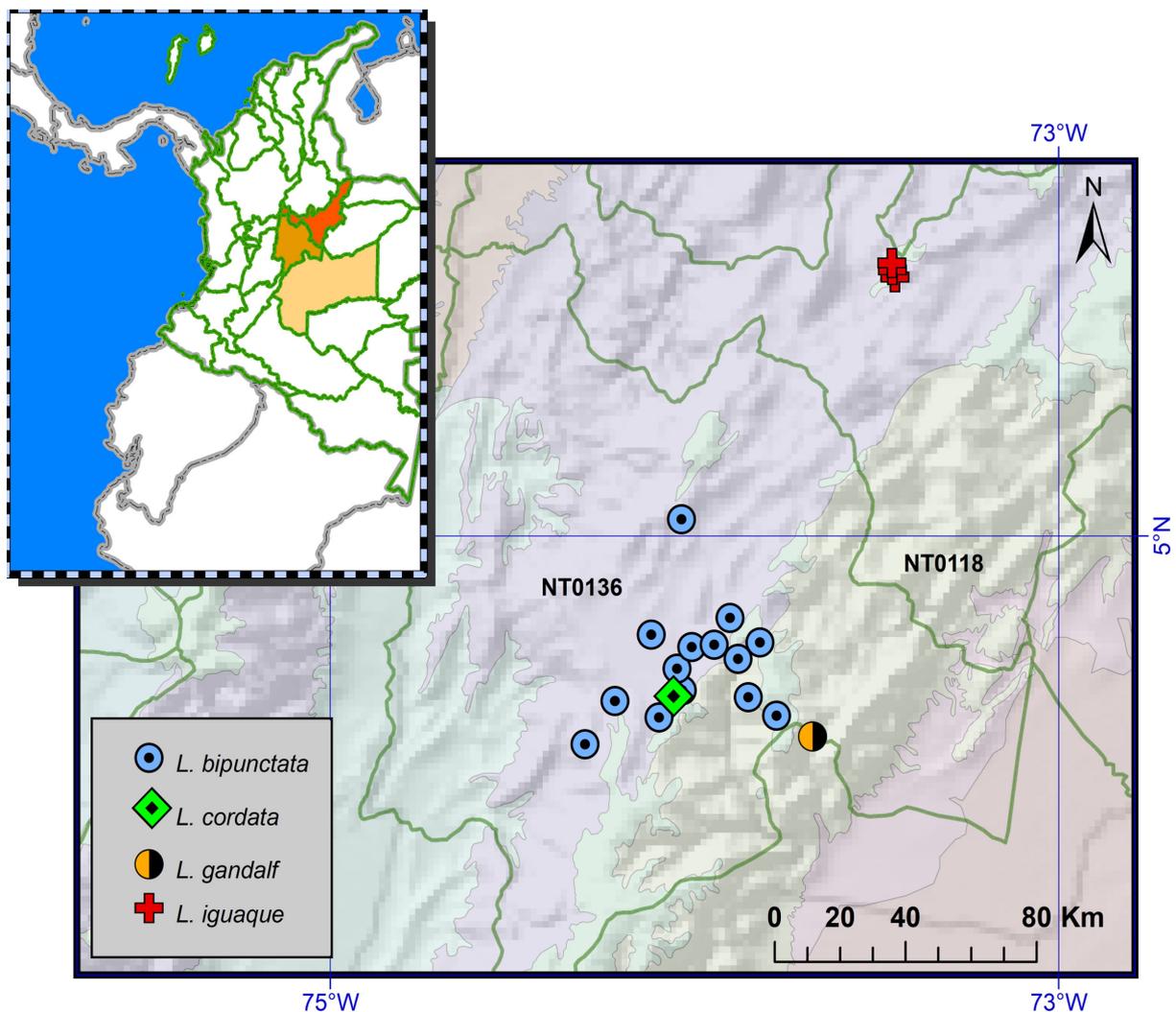


Fig. 14. Central Colombia, showing the distribution of species of *Libitia* Simon, 1879 (inset: NW South-America, for context). Highlighted Colombian departments are from north to south: Boyacá (red), Cundinamarca (orange) and Meta (yellow).

low connectivity (roads) and security complexity, make these zones almost inaccessible and it is expected that new species of *Libitia* or even not yet discovered genera will be encountered in future investigations.

Acknowledgements

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