

On the Australian Bark Crab Spider Genus *Stephanopsis*: Taxonomic Review and Description of Seven New Species (Araneae: Thomisidae: Stephanopinae)

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ABSTRACT. Here we present a revision of the Australian species of *Stephanopsis*. The type species *S. altifrons* is redescribed and *S. aspera*, *S. depressa*, *S. monticola*, *S. elongata* and *S. scabra* are considered its junior synonyms. Males of *S. altifrons*, *S. angulata*, *S. nigra*, *S. armata*, *S. fissifrons* and *S. longimana* are described for the first time. We propose neotypes for *S. nigra* and *S. barbipes* and describe the female of the latter. Nine species are considered *species inquirendae*, *S. thomisoides* as *nomen dubium* and *S. cheesmanae* is transferred to *Phrynarachne*. Seven new species are described, new distribution records are provided and comments are made about the validity of the genus and its relationship with *Sidymella* species and other Stephanopinae genera from the Australian region.

Introduction

The family Thomisidae is composed of diurnal ambush-hunter species commonly known as “crab spiders”, due to the way they move and the size, proportion and disposition of their legs (Dippenaar-Schoeman & Jocqué, 1997). The thomisids comprise the seventh largest family of spiders with 2163 species described in 170 genera (World Spider Catalog, 2019). Among the currently accepted groups in Thomisidae, the subfamily Stephanopinae has been the focus of many recent revisions (Benjamin, 2013; Benjamin, 2015; Machado *et al.*, 2015; Benjamin, 2016; Silva-Moreira & Machado, 2016; Machado *et al.* 2017; Machado *et al.*, 2018; Prado *et al.*, 2018). However, most of its component genera are still little known and poorly diagnosed, resulting in a lack of resolution and the consistent recovery of a polyphyletic phylogeny (Benjamin *et al.*, 2008; Benjamin, 2011; Wheeler *et al.*, 2017). Despite these recent efforts to better describe the morphology and understand the phylogenetic relationships

of the group, the genus *Stephanopsis*, which gives name to the subfamily, remains in need of a taxonomic review and analyses to test its monophyly.

The genus *Stephanopsis* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1869 was erected for five newly described species, including *S. altifrons*, from Australia. It was characterized by the high cephalic region with unequally sized anterior eyes (ALE larger than AME) disposed in a strongly recurved row, opisthosoma ending in several spiniform projections and dorsoventrally depressed habitus (Pickard-Cambridge, 1869; Simon, 1895). According to Pickard-Cambridge (1869) himself, the single specimen used for the description of *S. altifrons* was dry-pinned and therefore could not be properly examined. It was not possible to determine if the specimen was adult. Moreover, this author states his own sketch of the spider as “hasty”. This may explain why the somatic characters were inadequately described, genitalic features were not mentioned at all, and the illustrations were not detailed enough making the species unidentifiable.

Keywords: taxonomy; *Stephanopsis*; *Sidymella*; Thomisidae; Araneae; biogeography; synonymies; new species

Taxonomic registration: (LSID publication) <http://zoobank.org/7EDB7F-0E3B-47D7-AA29-0906728ADA05>

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Received: 25 March 2019 **Accepted:** 4 June 2019 **Published:** 18 September 2019 (in print and online simultaneously)

Publisher: The Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia (a statutory authority of, and principally funded by, the NSW State Government)

Citation: Machado, Miguel, Renato Augusto Teixeira, and Graham A. Milledge. 2019. On the Australian bark crab spider genus *Stephanopsis*: taxonomic review and description of seven new species (Araneae: Thomisidae: Stephanopinae). *Records of the Australian Museum* 71(6): 217–276. <https://doi.org/10.3853/j.2201-4349.71.2019.1698>

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