Salticidae: Antillattus and relatives

© Jun-Xia Zhang & Wayne Maddison, May 2011.

This represents a clade endemic to Caribbean within the subfamily Euophryinae. The current division of genera within this clade is based on the molecular phylogeny. They are small to medium-sized, with some (*Antillattus* spp.) usually having elongate or modified chelicerae. So far, 20 extant species are known from Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico. But more species may be discovered, especially from other islands.



Fig. 1. Distribution of *Antillattus* and relatives, from Platnick (2011) and Zhang (PhD thesis, in prep.).

Monophyly. The monophyly of the group with *Antillattus* and relatives is well supported by the molecular phylogeny (J. X. Zhang, PhD thesis, in prep.).

Amber species. None.

Dispersal. They are probably intermediate dispersers and currently known from only a few isolated islands in Caribbean. However, extensive collecting may find they are more widely distributed in the Caribbean.

Search strategy. They are foliage or tree-trunk dwellers. Collect by beating foliages and brushing tree trunks.

Similar genera. Body form and genitalia organs are similar to the other Caribbean genus *Agobardus*. However, the molecular phylogeny suggests they are not sister groups. It is sometimes hard to tell them apart especially in the field, and thus we had better to collect them both.

Needed collecting. Materials from almost all areas in Caribbean are in need especially for the DNA work.



Fig.2. A-I, some species of this clade (B and G are females); J-O, male palpi and female epigyne; P-S, female and male chelicerae.

References

Platnick, N. I. 2011. The world spider catalog, version 11.5. American Museum of Natural History, online at http://research.amnh.org/entomology/spiders/catalog/index.html

Zhang, J. X. 2011. PhD Thesis: The phylogeny and temporal divergence of Euophryinae (Araneae: Salticidae), with implication on historical biogeography and genitalic evolution. (in prep.)