

ON THE SYNONYMY OF *THAUMASTOBELLA MOUREI*
MELLO-LEITÃO AND *ILDIBAHA ALBOMACULATA*
KEYSERLING (ARANEAE, ARANEIDAE)

The little known araneid genus *Thaumastobella* was created by Mello-Leitão in 1945. It is monotypic, based on a single adult female from Paraná province in Brazil. Because the abdomen of the type specimen is sclerotized, provided with dorsal spines and a sclerotized ring around the spinnerets, Mello-Leitão assigned the new genus to the subfamily Gasteracanthinae. Since then, little has been published on the genus. Brignoli (1983) listed it as a genus on which nothing had been published since the original description. Levi (1985) pointed out that the status of the genus is uncertain and that no representatives other than the type specimen are known. Levi later informed me (in litt. 1990) that the type specimen is regarded as lost. However, based on the description and the three drawings provided by Mello-Leitão (1945), Levi believed the type to be an immature *Micrathena*.

In connection with an ongoing revision of the genus *Gasteracantha* and a phylogenetic analysis of the subfamily Gasteracanthinae I have been looking for the type material of all gasteracanthine genera. Since *Thaumastobella* was originally placed in the gasteracanthines I also searched for that material. In a recently published catalog of type material deposited in "Museu de História Natural "Capão da Imbuia", Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil (Pinto-da-Rocha & De Fátima Caron 1989) I suddenly found the type species *Thaumastobella mourei* listed under the family Salticidae. The material was made available to me and an examination revealed that *Thaumastobella mourei* is in fact conspecific with *Micrathena saccata* (C. L. Koch, 1836). *Thaumastobella* Mello-Leitão, 1945 is therefore a junior synonym of *Micrathena* Sundevall, 1833 and *Thaumastobella mourei* Mello-Leitão, 1945 a junior synonym of *Micrathena saccata* (C. L. Koch, 1836). The holotype matches perfectly with the description and illustrations of *Micrathena saccata* given by Levi (1985:490). *Micrathena saccata* is already known from Brazil, but not further south than Matto Grosso and this is therefore the southernmost record of the species.

The generic name *Ildibaha* was synonymized with *Micrathena* by Levi (1985) who also stated

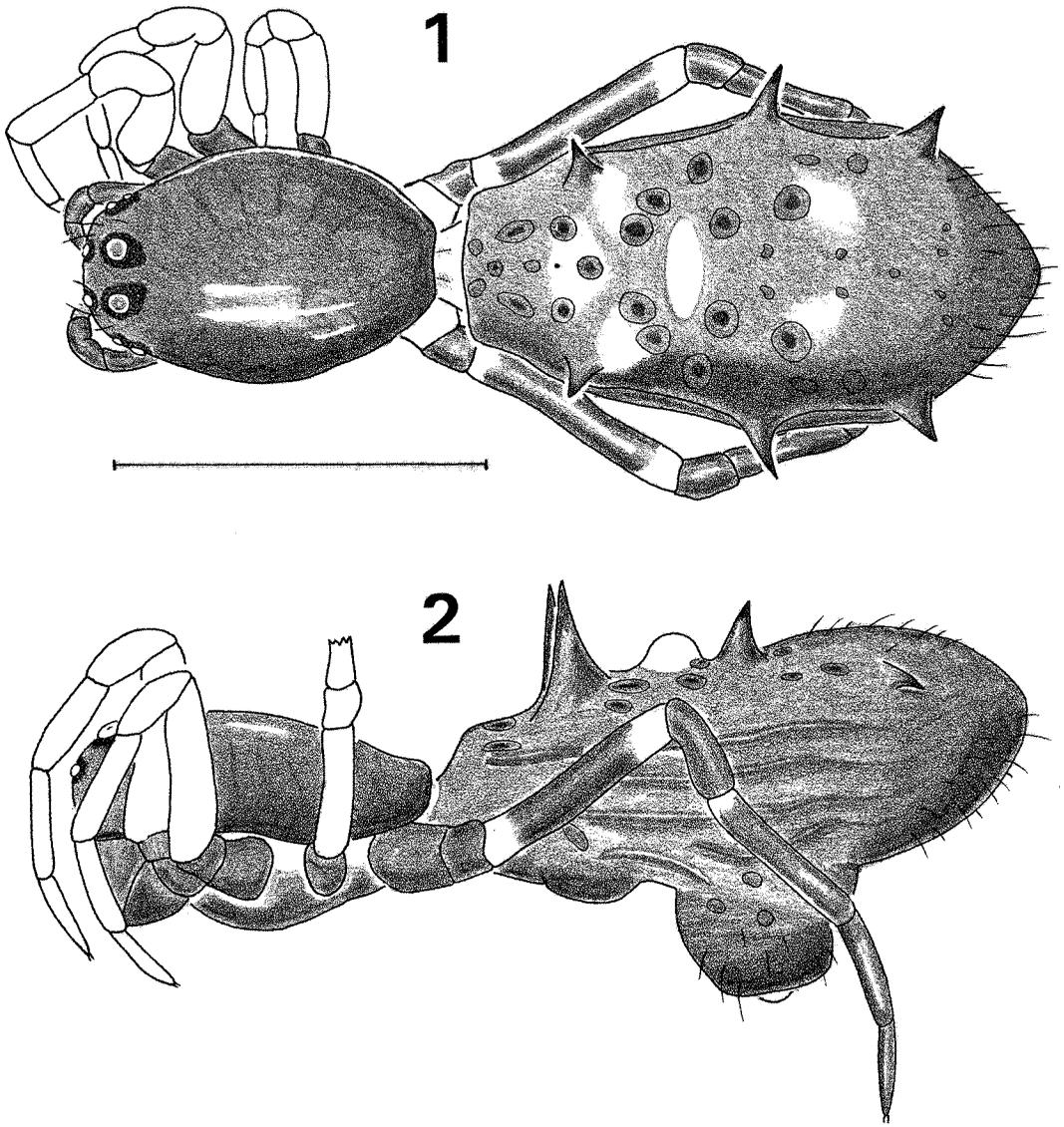
that the type material of *Ildibaha* (*Ildibaha albomaculata* Keyserling, 1892) is lost. Based on Keyserling's description and figure (Keyserling 1892:31, Tab. II fig. 29 & 29a, b) Levi concluded that *Ildibaha albomaculata* is a junior synonym of *Micrathena flaveola* (C. L. Koch, 1839) or a related species of the *triangularispinosa* species group. I recently found the syntypes of *Ildibaha albomaculata* in the collection of the Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien (NMW) and was able to examine them.

The material consists of three juvenile syntypes (originally four according to the acquisition ledger in NMW) from Blumenau, Brazil (26°55'S: 49°07'W). Two of the specimens are slightly smaller (2.40 & 2.48 mm) and darker than the third (2.68 mm), and the habitus of the two smaller specimens is almost identical with the juvenile specimen illustrated by Levi (1985, fig. 506, 507, *Micrathena acuta*) with only four abdominal spines. The third specimen is lighter and provided with 6 dorsal abdominal spines (Figs. 1, 2). I agree with Levi (1985) that *Ildibaha albomaculata* is conspecific with a species in the *triangularispinosa* species group, but do not think it is possible to state which particular species until more juvenile material of all known species is available.

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Figures 1, 2.—Habitus of *Ildibaha albomaculata* Keyserling, juvenile syntype from Brazil: 1, dorsal view; 2, lateral view. Scale line = 1 mm.

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