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NOTES ON THE SPIDER GENUS *PARATHEUMA* BRYANT (ARACHNIDA, ARANEAE)

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ABSTRACT

The spider genus *Paratheuma* Bryant is transferred from the Gnaphosidae to the Desidae; *Corteza* Roth and Brown is newly synonymized with *Paratheuma*. *Paratheuma isolata* Bryant is transferred to *Syrisca* (Clubionidae).

INTRODUCTION

Because the traditional taxonomic system of spider families is a phenetic and not a phylogenetic classification, revisionary studies occasionally turn up species and genera which have been placed far from their closest relatives; an excellent example of this was the discovery by Reiskind and Levi (1967) that the ant-mimicking theridiid genus *Anatea* had been erroneously described in the Clubionidae, an unrelated family which contains many ant-mimicking species. In the course of a series of revisions of the American gnaphosid fauna, a similar case has been discovered. Of the two species placed by Bryant (1940) in her new genus *Paratheuma* and assigned by her to the Gnaphosidae, one actually belongs to the Desidae and the other to the Clubionidae. As a result of this discovery, a recently established desid genus (*Corteza* Roth and Brown) must unfortunately be synonymized.

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Family Desidae Pocock

Genus *Paratheuma* Bryant

Paratheuma Bryant, 1940:387 (type species by original designation *Eutichurus insulanus* Banks). Roewer, 1954:353.

Corteza Roth and Brown, 1975:2 (type species by original designation *Corteza interaesta* Roth and Brown). NEW SYNONYMY.

Placement—Bryant placed *Paratheuma* in the subfamily Anagraphidinae (Gnaphosidae), stating that "In 1928, Petrunkevitch placed all Drassids with long spinnerets together under the subfamily *Anagraphidinae*" (1940:387). Her placement of the genus

seems to have been based on the "long" (actually two-segmented) posterior spinnerets, but Petrunkevitch's grouping was based on the presence of long (one-segmented) *anterior* spinnerets. No gnaphosids have posterior spinnerets composed of two equal segments, and this character, along with the presence of three tarsal claws, should have immediately indicated to Bryant that *Paratheuma* could not possibly belong to the Gnaphosidae. The projecting chelicerae, acuminate endites, indistinctly defined cephalic region, and slightly advanced position of the tracheal spiracle indicate that the genus actually belongs to the Desidae.

Synonymy—Although the type of *Eutichurus insulanus* Banks is lost, study of a Cuban specimen agreeing with Banks's description and illustration, identified as that species by Banks, and described as *Paratheuma insulana* (Banks) by Bryant indicates that the species is congeneric with *Corteza interaesta* Roth and Brown, described from Sonora, Mexico. *Paratheuma insulana* differs from the generic diagnosis and description given for *Corteza* by Roth and Brown (1975) only in having a slightly higher clypeus (equal to two-thirds of the anterior lateral eye diameter), a few light dorsal femoral spines, and more abundant ventral spination on the distal leg segments; characters of the tracheal system and heart ostia listed by those authors have not been examined in the single specimen available. The two species agree in having anteriorly produced and separated chelicerae, in the number and arrangement of the cheliceral teeth, and in the structure of the endites, spinnerets, colulus, and genitalia (Figs. 1-4).

Paratheuma insulana (Banks)

Figs. 3, 4

Eutichurus insulanus Banks, 1902:270, Fig. 3 (female holotype from the Bermuda Islands, no specific locality, not in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, lost). Bonnet, 1956:1845.

Paratheuma insulana: Bryant, 1940:387, Fig. 148. Roewer, 1954:353.

Diagnosis—*Paratheuma insulana* may be distinguished from *P. interaesta* by the smaller and more angular lateral rims of the epigynum (compare Figs. 1 and 3) and by the vertically oriented epigynal ducts (compare Figs. 2 and 4).

Male—Unknown.

Female—Described by Bryant (1940). Epigynum as in Fig. 3, vulva as in Fig. 4.

Material Examined—Cuba: La Habana: Santiago de las Vegas (Horne and Houser, collectors), one female, deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Distribution—Reported from Cuba, Haiti, and the Bermuda Islands.

Paratheuma interaesta (Roth and Brown), new combination

Figs. 1, 2

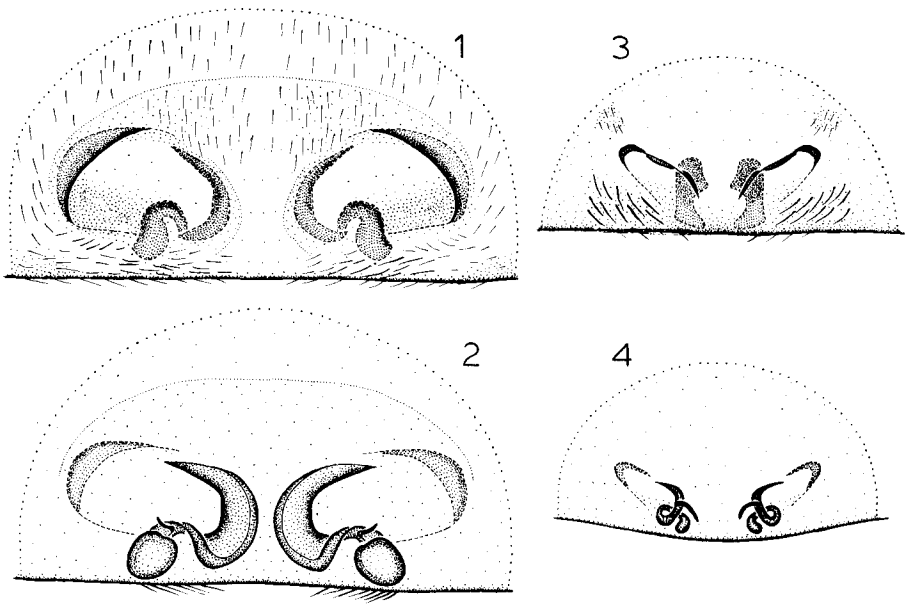
Corteza interaesta Roth and Brown, 1975:3, Figs. 3-10 (male holotype and female allotype from Pelican Point, Sonora, Mexico, in the American Museum of Natural History, examined).

Family Clubionidae Wagner

Genus *Syrisca* Simon

Syrisca isolata (Bryant), new combination

Paratheuma isolata Bryant, 1940:388, Fig. 170 (male holotype from Isla de Pinos, Cuba, in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, examined).



Figs. 1, 2.–*Paratheuma interaesta* (Roth and Brown): 1, Epigynum, ventral view; 2, Vulva, dorsal view.

Figs. 3, 4.–*Paratheuma insulana* (Banks): 3, Epigynum, ventral view; 4, Vulva, dorsal view. All drawings to same scale.

Placement–Bryant noted that this species is closer to *Syrisca hirsuta* Petrunkevitch, described from Panama and recorded from Puerto Rico, than to *Paratheuma insulana*, but argued that both *Syrisca* species should be placed in the Gnaphosidae "because of the separated spinnerets and the impressed maxillae" (1940:389). As the posterior spinnerets of *S. isolata* are composed of two equal segments, and the endites depressed only along the labium (not diagonally as in gnaphosids), Bryant's placement of the species is untenable. The male palp, illustrated by Bryant (1940:Fig. 170), is well within the range of the American species now placed in *Syrisca*, and the species probably represents the male of *S. insularis* (Lucas), known only from females from Cuba. The American *Syrisca* are greatly in need of revision, both to establish the identities and relationships of the species and to determine whether they are really congeneric with the type species, *S. pictilis* Simon, described from Africa.

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