

RESEARCH NOTE

ON *JOSA ALBA* MELLO-LEITÃO (ARANEAE, ANYPHAENIDAE)

Mello-Leitão (1945) described a male anyphaenid from Misiones, Argentina, and placed it in the then monotypic genus *Josa*, established by Keyserling (1891) for *Anyphaena pilosa* Keyserling (1879), a species known only from Colombia. Keyserling's original description of *A. pilosa* indicates the presence of a retrolateral apophysis on the male palpal femur of the same form found in the type species of the genus *Haptisus* Simon (1897), *Anyphaena citrina* L. Koch (1866, Fig. 134). The peculiar femoral apophysis is probably a synapomorphic character and *Haptisus* should probably be considered a junior synonym of *Josa* (J. A. Kochalka, *in litt.*). The male described by Mello-Leitão, however, lacks a femoral apophysis, and his illustration of the male palp strongly suggests that of a *Wulfila*. Through the courtesy of Dra. Olga M. Blanco of the Museo de La Plata, I have recently been able to examine the type of *Josa alba* and can confirm that it does indeed have the pale coloration and extremely elongated legs characteristic of *Wulfila*. As the name *Wulfila alba* is preoccupied by a North American species (see Platnick 1974:245), a replacement name is offered with the redescription below.

I am indebted to Mr. John A. Kochalka of the University of Vermont for much informative discussion on South American anyphaenids and to Dr. Mohammad U. Shadab of the American Museum of Natural History for providing the illustrations. The format of the description follows that of Platnick (1974); all measurements are in millimeters.

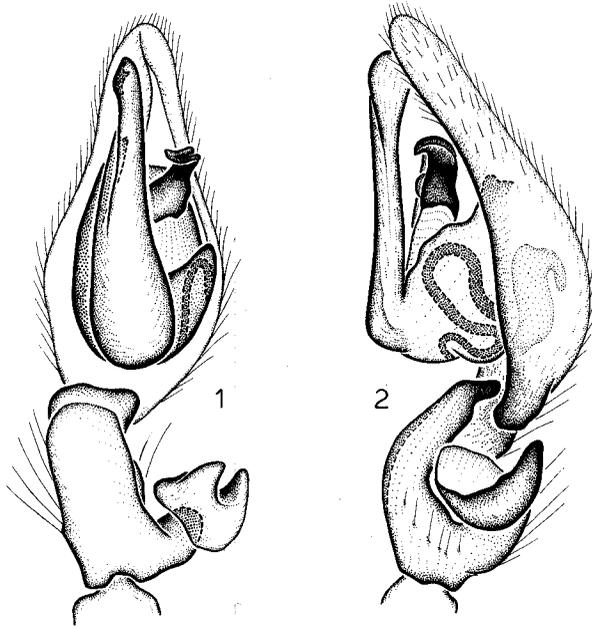
Wulfila argentina, new name

Figures 1-2

Josa alba Mello-Leitão, 1945:264, Fig. 50 (male holotype from Puerto Victoria, Misiones, Argentina, in Museo de La Plata, examined). Roewer, 1954:541. Preoccupied by *Wulfila alba* (Hentz).

Diagnosis.—*Wulfila argentina* seems closest to *W. tantilla* Chickering (known from Texas south to Panama); in both species the retrolateral tibial apophysis has a broad and rounded bifurcated tip (cf. Platnick 1974, Figs. 85, 86). The former species can be easily distinguished by its much larger median apophysis (Figs. 1, 2).

Male.—Entire body, except for orange palpal tibia and tarsus, pale yellow. Total length 3.13. Carapace 1.55 long, 1.12 wide; cephalic width 0.58, clypeal height 0.07. Eyes: diameters, AME 0.04, ALE 0.09, PME 0.07, PLE 0.09; anterior eye row 0.35 long, straight; posterior row 0.50 long, procurved; MOQ length 0.24, front width 0.10, back width 0.28; interdistances, AME-AME 0.03, AME-ALE 0.04, PME-PME 0.13, PME-PLE 0.08, ALE-PLE 0.05. Sternum 0.92 long, 0.67 wide. Chelicerae 0.54 long, with 5 promarginal teeth and 7 retromarginal denticles. Abdomen 1.87 long, 1.22 wide. Epigastric furrow 0.74 from tracheal spiracle, spiracle 0.70 from base of spinnerets. Tibial lengths and indices: I missing; II 1.73, 7; III 0.96, 13; IV 2.02, 7. Ventral spination: tibiae I missing, II 2-2-0, III 2-1-0, IV 2-2-0; metatarsi I missing, II-IV 2-2-0. Coxae I with proximal, coxae II with proximal and distal spurs on venter. Palpus as in Figs. 1, 2.



Figs. 1-2.—*Wulfila argentina*: 1, palp, ventral view; 2, palp, retrolateral view.

Female.—Unknown.

Distribution.—Known only from northern Argentina.

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Norman I Platnick, Department of Entomology, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024.