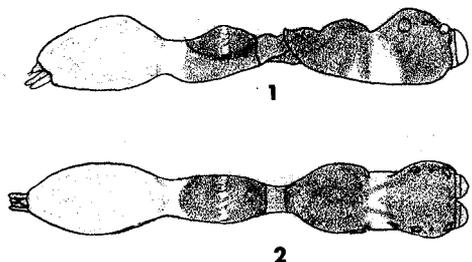


**SYNEMOSYNA BICOLOR IS THE FEMALE OF SYNEMOSYNA
AMERICANA (ARANEAE, SALTICIDAE)**

The salticid genus *Synemosyna* is one of the better known American genera of antlike spiders. There has been considerable confusion concerning species identification within the genus, because of the great differences in color and pattern between local populations of the same species, or even within the same population. Galiano (M. E. 1966. Rev. Mus. Argentina Cien. Nat., Entomol., Buenos Aires, 1:339-380) has discussed this problem in her revision of the genus. The Peckhams (G. W. and E. G. 1885. Proc. Nat. Hist. Soc. Wisconsin 1885: 23-42) first described *S. americana* for two males from Guatemala. *S. bicolor* was described by them (Peckham, G. W. and E. G. 1892. Occ. Pap. Nat. Hist. Soc. Wisconsin 2: 1-83) for two females from Venezuela. Both were originally described as members of the genus *Simonella*, now considered a synonym of *Synemosyna* (Galiano 1966). Pickard-Cambridge (F. O. 1905. Biologia Centrali-Americana, Araneidea 2: 166-312) sent male and female specimens of *Synemosyna* to the Peckhams for identification. They determined these Panamanian specimens to be *S. americana*. Pickard-Cambridge commented that the females were certainly *S. bicolor* and that the males seemed to belong with the females. However, he did not believe that the males were *S. americana*, because of color differences and a few structural differences, none of which involved the palpal tarsus. He also mistakenly illustrated the palpus of *S. americana* as that of the male of his new species, *S. decipiens* (the male of which is currently unknown). Galiano (1966) stated that a male identified in the Paris Natural History Museum as *S. bicolor* was in fact, *S. americana*, and indicated the possibility that both species on further study might be united.

I recently examined a collection of antlike salticids from northeastern Colombia collected by John Kochalka. Amongst them were several *Synemosyna*, including a male, female, and two immatures from the same locality on the same date (Colombia, Dept. Magdalena, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Rio Frio, 533 meters elevation, trail, low-medium vegetation, 23 April 1975). The genitalia of the female is that of *S. bicolor*, the genitalia and the chelicerae of the male are those of *S. americana*. Both share the same color pattern, although the male is darker with the yellow areas on the prosoma reduced. A female collected on the same site, but on 1 May 1975, has the genitalia of *S. bicolor*, with the same color pattern as the specimens taken in April, but with the light prosomal areas somewhat expanded. The color pattern is different than that previously described, and is illustrated in figures 1 and 2. The specimen illustrated is the female collected on 23 April.

Figs. 1-2.—*Synemosyna americana* female from Colombia. Dark areas on prosoma are dark brown, pale areas are yellow. The area of the opisthosoma anterior to the constriction is dark brown with a brown scutum dorsally. This scutum is crossed at midpoint by a narrow band of white scales. The constriction is white, and the posterior portion of the opisthosoma is pale gray brown. 1, right lateral view; 2, dorsal view. Total length 5.4 mm.



On the basis of the specimens, and the contiguous range of the species involved, the following synonymy is established, *Synemosyna bicolor* (Peckham and Peckham) = *Synemosyna americana* (Peckham and Peckham) NEW SYNONYMY. Complete previous synonymies and diagnostic illustrations will be found in Galiano (1966).

The specimens are in the collections of John Kochalka, and I wish to thank him for the opportunity to examine his collection.

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Manuscript received July 1980.