

The smallest spider of Uloboridae, a new species of *Conifaber* Opell, 1982 (Arachnida: Araneae) from Brazil

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Abstract. A new species, *Conifaber manicoba* n. sp., is described based on a female from the state of Pará, Brazil. It is characterized as being the smallest uloborid female and by having the thoracic region posteriorly depressed.

Key words: Deinopoidea, Uloboridae, *Conifaber*, Neotropics, Amazon, Spider, Cribellate

Here we describe *Conifaber manicoba*, a new species of the spider genus *Conifaber* Opell, 1982. This new species, along with *Conifaber guarani* Grismado, 2004 (Paraguay and Argentina), *C. parvus* Opell, 1982 (Colombia), and *C. yasi* Grismado, 2004 (Argentina), comprise a distinctive species group within the genus (World Spider Catalog, 2016). *Conifaber* species can be easily identified by: males having a tegular spur in the palp, the shape of this sclerite is broad and flattened, presence of a longitudinal groove where the embolus lies; and females having a pair of epigynal lobes, coiled copulatory ducts, copulatory openings in the anterior inner corners of each lobe's atrium (Lubin et al., 1982; Grismado, 2004).

The terminology for morphological structures follows Opell (1979). Measurements are in millimeters. The epigynum was cleared with clove oil and examined under a Leica M80 stereoscope. Digital images were taken using a stereoscopic microscope (Leica M205A) equipped with a camera (Leica DFC425). Helicon Focus (version 5.3, Helicon Soft Ltd) software was used for refinement. The images were edited in Adobe Photoshop CS4 Extended (version 11.0.2) and illustrations were made in Adobe Illustrator CS4 (version 14.0.0). Abbreviations: ALE — Anterior Lateral Eyes; AME — Anterior Median Eyes; PLE — Posterior Lateral Eyes; PME — Posterior Median Eyes; cd = copulatory ducts, co = copulatory openings, ep = epigynal lobes, fd = fertilization duct, pp = posterior plate, s = spermatheca.

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Taxonomy

Family Uloboridae Thorell, 1869

Genus *Conifaber* Opell, 1982

Conifaber manicoba new species

Figures 1–3

Type material. HOLOTYPE: female from Novo Progresso, Altamira, Pará, Brazil, 25-XI-2005, D. F. Candiani leg., deposited in MPEG 002717.

Etymology. The specific name *manicoba* is a noun in apposition taken from a festive dish in Brazilian cuisine made with leaves of the Manioca tree, called “maniçoba”, especially from the Amazonian region.

Diagnosis. *Conifaber manicoba* new species is similar to *Conifaber parvus* by the small body size and lacking dorsal humps (Figures 1A-1B, 2D-2F; Lubin et al., 1982, figs. 20-21) but differs from this species by the thoracic region posteriorly depressed (Figures 1B-2B) and by the shape of the epigynum (Figures 3A-3H).

Male. Unknown.

Female (MPEG 002717, holotype). Total length: 1.80. Carapace: 0.66 in length, 0.52 in width. Eyes: AME-AME: 0.08 AME-ALE: 0.08 PME-PME: 0.08 PME-PLE: 0.04 ALE-ALE: 0.32 PLE-PLE: 0.24. Abdomen: 1.14 in length, 0.80 in width, 1.00 in height. Legs formula 1423. Legs measurements: I: femur 0.62/ patella 0.25/ tibia 0.58/ metatarsus 0.50/ tarsus 0.30/ total 2.25; II: 0.40/ 0.20/ 0.25/ 0.25/ 0.25/ 1.35; III: 0.33/ 0.15/ 0.15/ 0.25/ 0.23/ 1.11; IV: 0.50/ 0.20/ 0.38/ 0.35/ 0.30/ 1.73. Pale yellow pear-shaped carapace, slightly longer than wide; shallow thoracic



Figure 1. ♀ *Conifaber manicoba* n. sp., body. (A) Dorsal view. (B) Lateral view. (C) Ventral view. Scale bars: 1 mm.

furrow (Figures 1A–1B, 2A–2B). Eyes formula 4–4, ringed with black; AE and PE rows recurved; AME larger than the other eyes (Figures 2A–2B). Chelicerae pale yellow. Pick-shaped sternum pale yellow (Figures 1C–2C). Oval abdomen light whitish yellow with irregular white (guanine) spots dispersed throughout the length (Figures 1A–1B, 2D–2E); ventral abdomen pale yellow (Figures 1C,

2F). Legs pale yellow (Figures 1A–1C). Epigynum (Figures 3A–3H): Epigynal field sclerotized and wider than long (Figures 3A, 3G). Epigynal lobes present (Figures 3B–3C). Copulatory openings on the anteroventral portion (Figures 3A, 3G). Two pairs of rounded spermathecae (Figures 3D, 3F, 3H). Copulatory ducts coiled with three distinctive loops (Figures 3C, 3E, 3H).

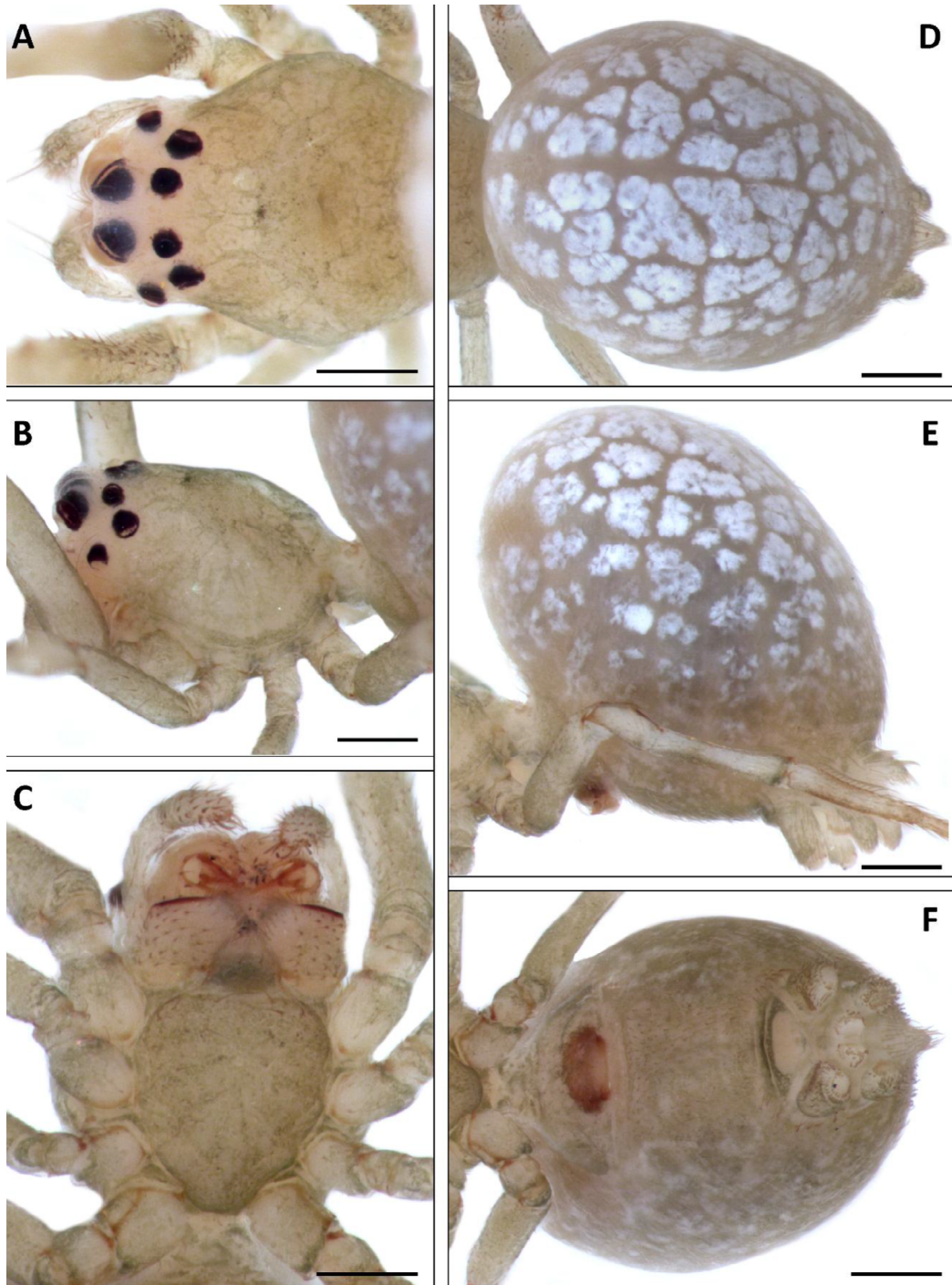


Figure 2. ♀ *Conifaber manicoba* n. sp., body. Cephalothorax: (A) Dorsal view; (B) Lateral view; (C) Sternum. Abdomen: (D) Dorsal view; (E) Lateral view; (F) Ventral view. Scale bars: 0.2 mm.

Distribution. Brazil (Pará).

Biogeographically, *Conifaber manicoba* n. sp. is the first record for the genus in Brazil, with a 2604-km gap between it and its Colombian congener, *Conifaber parvus* Opell, 1982, and it differs in its genitalia pattern. The female has

also similarities with *Conifaber guarani* and *Conifaber yasi* but differs from the first by the abdomen higher than long, and from the latter by lacking a spot on the caudal area. *Conifaber manicoba* n. sp. is so far the smallest female uloborid known and is the first report of the genus for

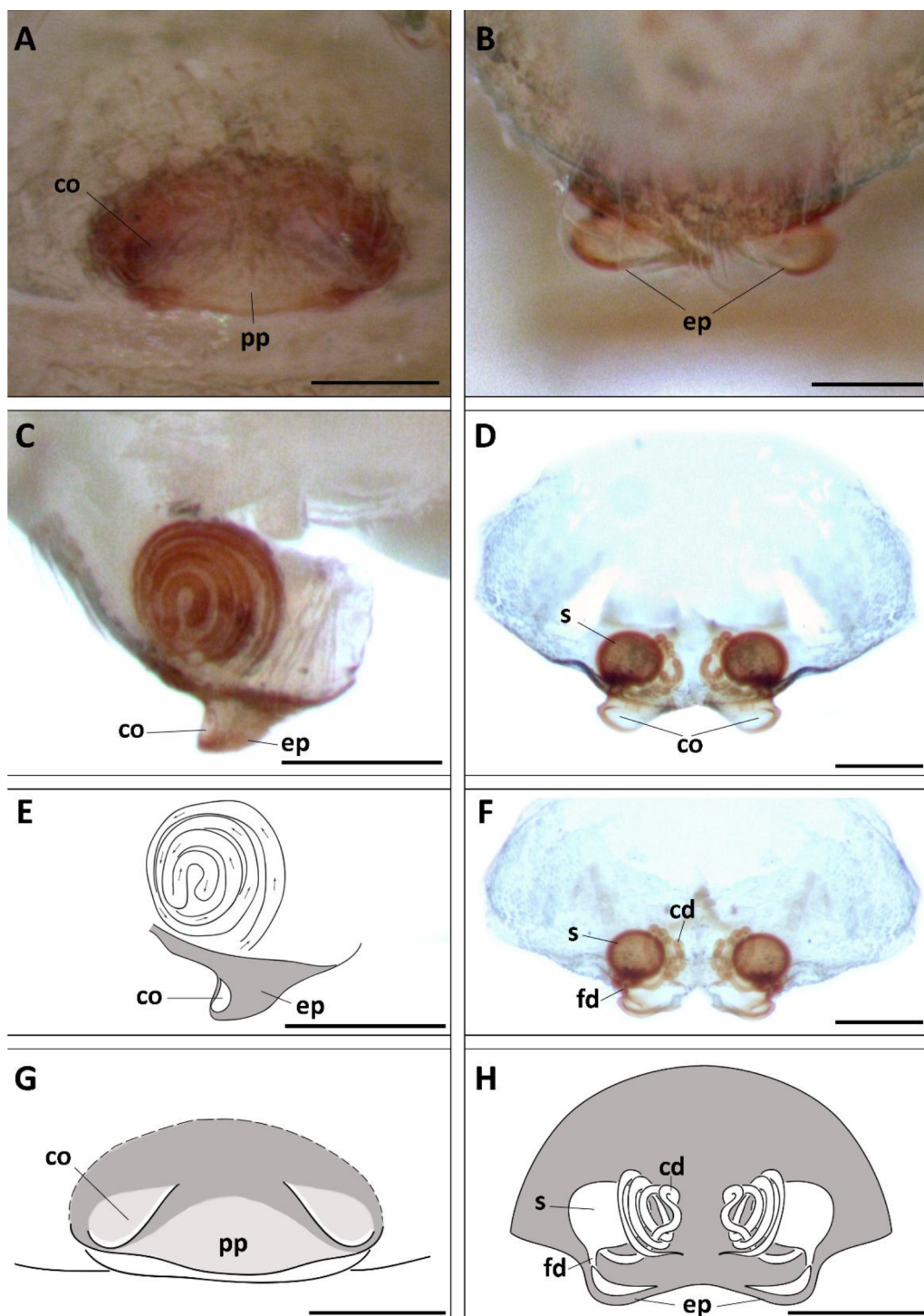


Figure 3. ♀ *Conifaber manicoba* n. sp., epigynum. (A) Ventral view. (B) Anterior view. (C) Dorsolateral view. (D) Ventral view, clarified. (E) Dorsolateral view, illustration. (F) Dorsal view, clarified. (G) Ventral view, illustration. (H) Dorsal view, illustration. Scale bars: 0.2 mm.

Brazil. The new species described herein indicates that the genus may be widely distributed throughout South America.

Nomenclatural acts

This work and the nomenclatural acts it contains have been registered in ZooBank. The ZooBank Life Science

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