

Notas

New records of *Stemmops cambridgei* and *Stemmops ornatus* (Araneae: Theridiidae) from Guatemala

Nuevos registros de *Stemmops cambridgei* y *Stemmops ornatus* (Araneae:
Theridiidae) en Guatemala

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Abstract: Two spider species belonging to the family Theridiidae, *Stemmops cambridgei* Levi, 1955 and *Stemmops ornatus* (Bryant, 1933), are newly recorded from Guatemala.

Keywords: Central America, Distribution, Leaf litter.

Resumen: Dos especies de arañas pertenecientes a la familia Theridiidae, *Stemmops cambridgei* Levi, 1955 y *Stemmops ornatus* (Bryant, 1933), se registran por primera vez en Guatemala.

Palabras clave: América Central, Distribución, Hojarasca.

Theridiidae Sundevall, 1833, commonly known as cobweb spiders and comb-footed spiders, is a highly diverse spider family comprising 131 genera and 2,583 species worldwide (World Spider Catalog, 2025). The theridiid genus *Stemmops* Pickard-Cambridge, 1894, comprises 29 species, most of which are found in the Americas (World Spider Catalog, 2025). According to the latest spider species list for Guatemala (Herrera-Jordan, 2023), only two *Stemmops* species have been recorded: *S. bicolor* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1894 and *S. questus* Levi, 1955. Here, we provide new distributional data for two additional *Stemmops* species, both collected while sifting leaf litter in a tropical forest in Guatemala.

All specimens studied are deposited in the Colección Nacional de Arácnidos (CNAN, curator: E. González), at Instituto de Biología, UNAM. Species identification was based on the works of Bryant (1933), Chamberlin & Ivie (1944), Chamé-Vázquez et al. (2020), and Levi (1955, 1964). Copulatory organs were imaged with an Amscope MU2000 camera coupled to an Amscope B660 microscope and stacked with Helicon Focus. Prior to imaging, the epigyne was cleared with clove oil.

Family Theridiidae Sundevall, 1833

Genus *Stemmops* Pickard-Cambridge, 1894

***Stemmopscambridgei* Levi, 1955**

(Fig. 1a-b)

Distribution (Fig. 2). This species was known from Mexico and Honduras (World Spider Catalog, 2025).

Specimens examined. **Guatemala:** *Chiquimula:* Esquipulas, El Durazno, El Gigante (14.83825°N, 89.66762°W, 1551 m), oak-pine forest, leaf litter sifting, M. Barrios, M. Bustamante *leg.*, 7/VIII/2013, 1 ♀ (CNAN). *Alta Verapaz:* Carcha, San Pablo Xicoc, Hidroelectrica Renacer (15.48106°N, 90.23499°W, 1332 m), oak-pine forest, leaf litter sifting, M. Barrios *leg.*, 20/XII/2013, 3 ♀ (CNAN). Same as preceding, except (15.48669°N, 90.18735°W, 1135 m), riparian forest, 21/XII/2013, 1 ♂ 3 ♀ (CNAN).

Comments. This finding represents the first country record for Guatemala, filling a distributional gap between southern Mexico and northern Honduras (Levi, 1955; Chamé-Vázquez et al., 2020).

***Stemmopsornatus* (Bryant, 1933)**

(Fig. 1c)

Distribution (Fig. 2). Previously, this species was known only from the United States (World Spider Catalog, 2025).

Specimens examined. **Guatemala:** *Alta Verapaz:* Carcha, San Pablo Xicoc, Hidroelectrica Renacer (15.48669°N, 90.18735°W, 1135 m), riparian forest, leaf litter sifting, M. Barrios *leg.*, 21/XII/2013, 1 ♂ (CNAN).

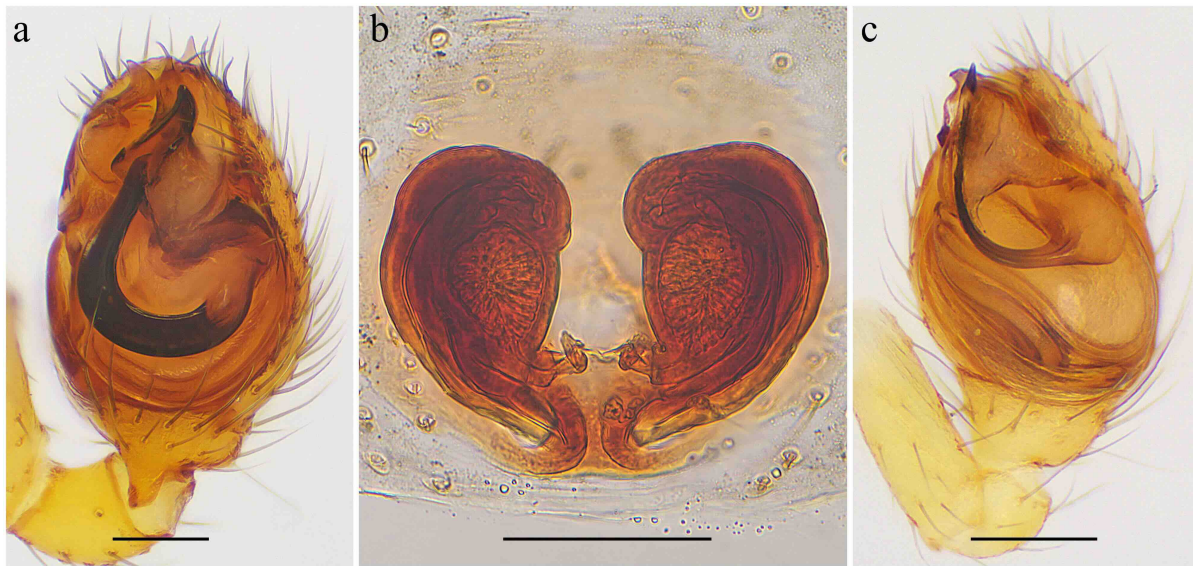


Figure 1.

Stemmops cambridgei and *Stemmops ornatus* genitalia.

a. *Stemmops cambridgei* male palp, ventral view. b. *Stemmops cambridgei* vulva, dorsal view. c. *Stemmops ornatus* male palp, ventral view. Scale bars= 0.1 mm.

Comments. This finding represents the first country record for Guatemala and the southernmost confirmed record in the Americas. While Levi (1955) primarily documented this species from the eastern United States, he later suggested a potential distribution extending from "the eastern United States possibly to Panama" (Levi, 1964: 74). This new record confirms the presence of this species in Central America.

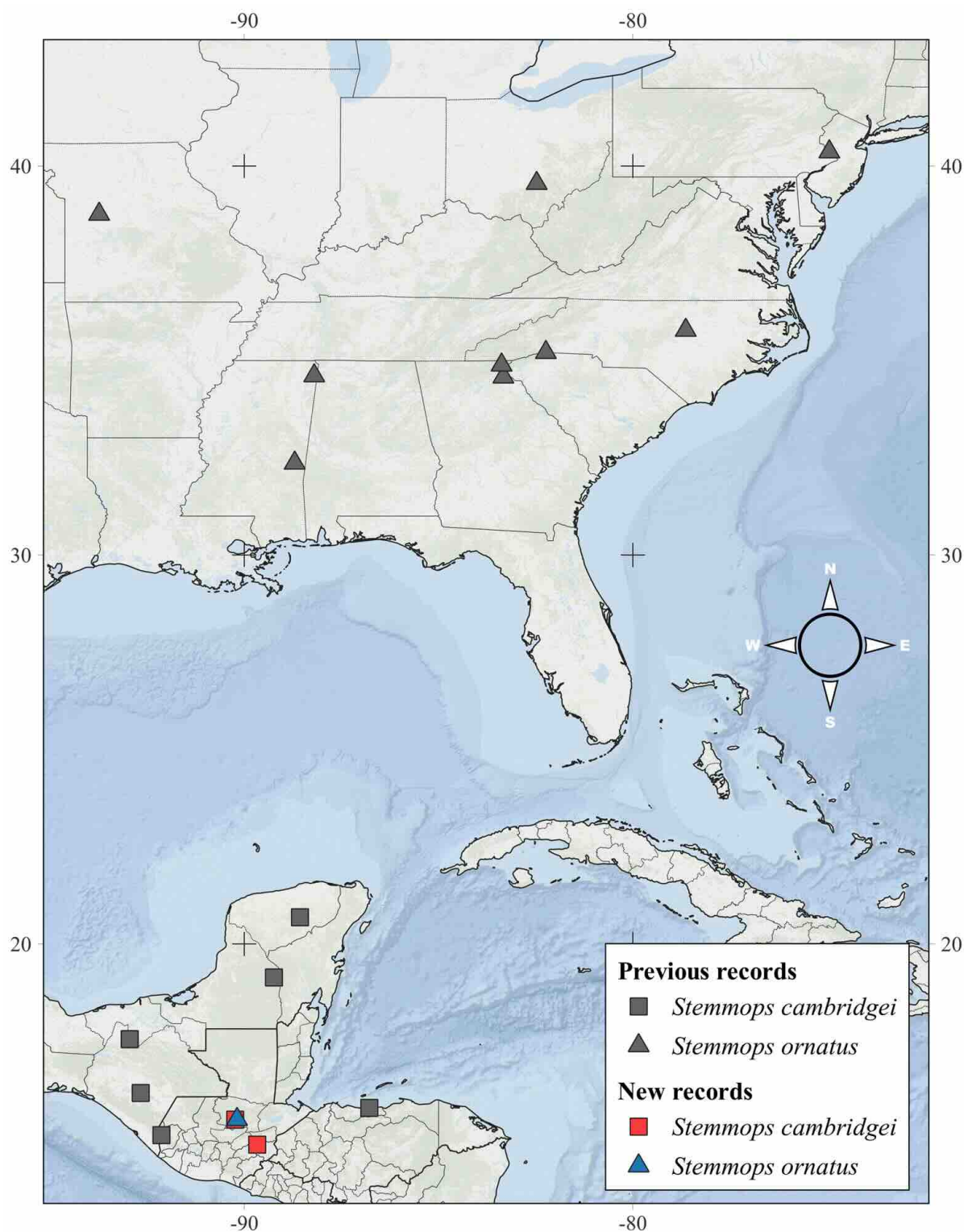


Figure 2.

Distribution of *Stemmops cambridgei* (squares) and *Stemmops ornatus* (triangles) based on records from the current paper, Bryant (1933), Chamberlin & Ivie (1944), Chamé-Vázquez et al. (2020), and Levi (1955).

Additionally, the abdomen of the examined male exhibits some variation from previous descriptions. While typically characterized by whitish spots (Bryant, 1933; Chamberlin, & Ivie, 1944), these markings appear diffuse and are not clearly visible in our specimen. This observation aligns with Levi (1955), who noted a color variation within the species. Furthermore, the conductor tip is wider and more coniform than that illustrated by Levi (1955: fig. 22).

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