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New Records of Daddy-Longlegs Spiders (Pholcidae) from the Lesser Antilles, West Indies

Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal and Christopher K. Starr

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New Records of Daddy-Longlegs Spiders (Pholcidae) from the Lesser Antilles, West Indies

Pholcidae are a worldwide family of about 1000 described species (Platnick 2007), commonly known as daddy-longlegs spiders. Most species are characterized by very long, thin legs, globular abdomens, and loose tangle webs. Four species are presently recorded from the Lesser Antilles (Huber 2000, 2007). *Physocyclus globosus* (Taczowski) is very commonly found in buildings in the New World tropics; it is recorded from St. Vincent, and one of us (CKS) has found it abundant in Dominica. *Mecolaesthus* is a genus of 13 described species, likewise widespread in the New World tropics. In the Lesser Antilles, three species are known from Dominica, Guadeloupe and St. Vincent. In addition, Simon (1894) recorded *Modisimus glaucus* (Simon) from St. Vincent; however, this is probably either a mistaken identification or a locality error (B. Huber, pers. comm.). Our purpose here is to extend the known pholcid fauna of the Lesser Antilles arising out of collections on the islands of Anguilla (JNS and CKS), Grenada (JNS), St. Kitts (JNS) and Nevis (JNS and CKS) during 2006 and 2007.

We found *P. globosus* on all three islands, and it is very likely found in most of the inhabited Lesser Antilles.

Like *P. globosus*, *Smeringopus pallidus* (Blackwall) is an anthropophilic spider widespread in the New World tropics and subtropics (Huber 2007). It is relatively large for the family, with a body length of 7 to 9 mm, a circular carapace and an elongate, light brown abdomen with a distinctive pattern consisting of three longitudinal bands of brown dots. We found *S. pallidus* in Anguilla in caves and abandoned buildings, consistent with its known preference for dark areas.

Modisimus is a genus of 57 described extant ranging from the western USA to Panama and all of the Greater Antilles (B. Huber, pers. comm.). In this genus the eye region is distinctly elevated above the carapace to form an eye turret. Specimens were collected in St. Kitts in secondary forest and rainforest along the Crater Trail, in evergreen dry forest at West Farm, and in coastal vegetation between Cayon and Keys, Grenada in riparian vegetation around Grand Etang Lake and in montane forest along the trail on Mt. Qua Qua, and in Anguilla in gardens and around caves at Katouche Bay. Two species of *Modisimus* were found, the first on Anguilla and the second on both St. Kitts and Grenada. Given this variety of habitats, it is notable that we did not find any *Modisimus* sp. on the island of Nevis, very close to St. Kitts (Sewlal and Starr 2007).

It is also noteworthy that, while *Smeringopus* and *Modisimus* are widely distributed on the neotropical mainland, the Greater Antilles, and now the Lesser Antil-

les, we have not yet found any member of either genus in Trinidad and Tobago. The other genera known from the Lesser Antilles, *Mecolaesthus* and *Physocyclus*, are present in Trinidad.

Voucher specimens are deposited in the Land Arthropod Collection at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad.

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Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal and Christopher K. Starr
Dept. of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.
E-mail: jo_annesewlal@yahoo.com