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A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *SPINOCTENUS* HAZZI, POLOTOW, BRESCOVIT, GONZÁLEZ-OBANDO ET SIMÓ, 2018 (ARANEAE: CTENIDAE) FROM PANAMA

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Summary. A new species *Spinoctenus leleji* sp. n. is described from Panama based on a male specimen. This is the first record of the genus *Spinoctenus* from Panama and the second record of this genus outside South America. The new species is most similar to *S. tequendama* Hazzi, Polotow, Brescovit, González-Obando et Simó, 2018, but differs by the structure of the male palp and the shape of metatarsus IV. Photographs of the habitus and copulatory organs are provided. The type locality of the new species is mapped.

Key words: wolf spiders, taxonomy, faunistics, first country record, Isthmus of Panama, Neotropical region.

М. М. Омелько. Новый вид рода *Spinoctenus* Hazzi, Polotow, Brescovit, González-Obando et Simó, 2018 (Araneae: Ctenidae) из Панамы // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2026. N 554. С. 19-24.

Резюме. Из Панамы по самцу описан новый вид *Spinoctenus leleji* sp. n. Это первое указание рода *Spinoctenus* для Панамы и вторая находка этого рода за пределами Южной Америки. Новый вид наиболее сходен с *S. tequendama* Hazzi, Polotow, Brescovit, González-Obando et Simó, 2018, но отличается строением пальпы самца и формой предлапки IV. Приведены фотографии габитуса и копулятивных органов. Типовое местообитание нового вида показано на карте.

INTRODUCTION

The family Ctenidae Keyserling, 1877, commonly known as tropical wolf spiders or wandering spiders, currently comprises 614 species in 48 genera worldwide (World Spider Catalog, 2026). Ctenid spiders primarily inhabit tropical and subtropical regions and are nocturnal, free-ranging hunters that do not use webs to capture their prey (Jocqué & Dippenaar-Schoeman, 2006).

The genus *Spinoctenus* Hazzi, Polotow, Brescovit, González-Obando & Simó, 2018 currently comprises 12 species. Eleven of them were described from South America and are endemic to Colombia (Hazzi *et al.*, 2018). The only species of the genus known outside South America, *S. ginae* Viquez, 2020, was described from Cocos Island, Costa Rica (Viquez, 2020). The species described here represents the first record of *Spinoctenus* from Panama,

the first record of the genus from continental Central America and the second record of the genus outside South America. Thus, the diversity and distribution of *Spinoctenus* in Central America remain poorly known.

While examining material collected in Panama, a single male specimen of *Spinoctenus* was found that could not be assigned to any known species. This specimen is similar to *S. tequendama* Hazzi, Polotow, Brescovit, González-Obando et Simó, 2018, but differs from it by the structure of the copulatory organs and the shape of metatarsus IV. Comparison with published descriptions and illustrations confirmed that the material represents a previously undescribed species.

The main aims of this paper are to describe this new species, illustrate its diagnostic morphology, compare it with similar congeners, and provide the first record of the genus *Spinoctenus* from Panama.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Specimen was photographed with a Nikon Z6 camera mounted on a WeMacro vertical stand and equipped with Laowa Aurogon FF 10–50X NA0.5 Supermicro APO, Laowa 25 mm f/2.8 2.5–5X Ultra Macro, and Laowa 100 mm f/2.8 2X Ultra Macro APO lenses; image capture was controlled using Helicon Remote software. Photographs were taken in dishes filled with alcohol, with soft white paper or cotton at the bottom. Digital images were montage using Zerene Stacker (<https://zerenesystems.com/cms/stacker>) software package. Distribution map was produced using SimpleMappr (Shorthouse, 2010). All measurements are in millimeters. Length of leg segments were measured on the lateral side, and are shown as: femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus (total length). Spination pattern is given in the following formula: the sum of all spines is listed for the dorsal, prolateral and retrolateral sides; ventral spines are listed in pairs and counted including apical ones. The type of the new species is deposited in the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia (ZMMU; curator K.G. Mikhailov).

Abbreviations used in text and the format of description follow Omelko & Fomichev (2024) and Hazzi *et al.* (2018) with some modifications: ALE – anterior lateral eye, AME – anterior median eye, C – conductor, Cy – cymbium, CO – cymbial outgrowth; d – dorsal, EH – embolic hook, Em – embolus, EP – embolic process, Fe – femur, FP – folded process of the embolus, Mt – metatarsus, p – prolateral, Pa – patella, PLE – posterior lateral eye, PME – posterior median eye, r – retrolateral, RTA – retrolateral tibial apophysis, St – subtegulum, TA – tegular apophysis, Te – tegulum, Ti – tibia, Tr – tarsus, v – ventral.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW SPECIES

Family Ctenidae Keyserling, 1877

Subfamily Cteninae Keyserling, 1877

Genus *Spinoctenus* Hazzi, Polotow, Brescovit, González-Obando et Simó, 2018

DIAGNOSIS. The genus *Spinoctenus* was established by Hazzi *et al.* (2018) for a group of Neotropical ctenids characterized in males by three synapomorphies: an embolus with a folded process, a tegulum with a median sclerotized process, and an RTA curved internally close to the cymbium. Females were diagnosed by the structure of the epigyne and vulva, including a reduced posterior area of the median sector, a less sclerotized and slightly excavated anterior area, and large, strongly sclerotized copulatory ducts (Hazzi *et al.*, 2018).

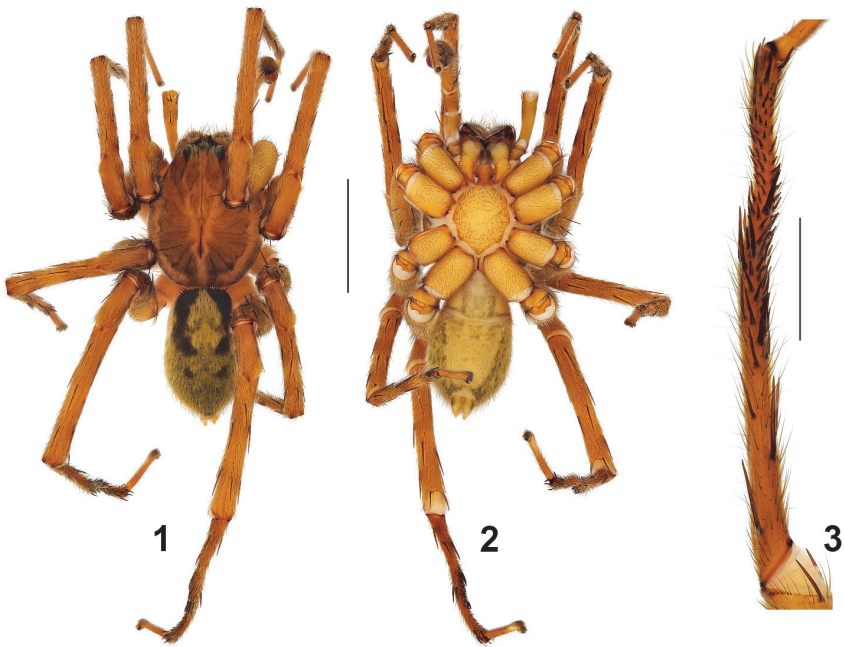
Spinoctenus leleji Omelko, sp. n.

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/255F9E92-9853-4C29-B217-D55A2380623C>

Figs 1–13

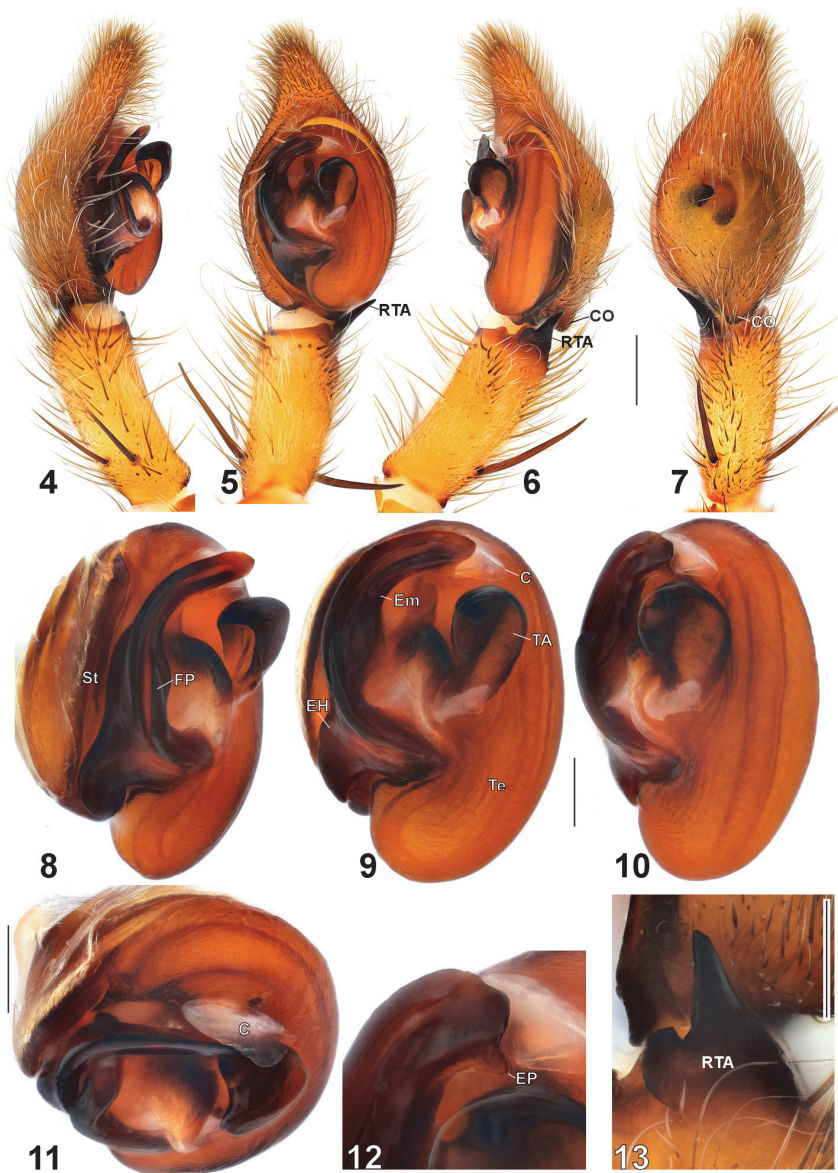
MATERIAL. Holotype: ♂, **Panama:** Panama Prov., Cerro Azul, env. of La Semilla Ecolodge, 09°11'06"N, 79°24'47"W, h=700 m., forest litter, 19.II 2022, M.M. Omelko leg. [ZMMU].

DIAGNOSIS. The male of *Spinoctenus leleji* sp. n. differs from most congeners, except *S. tequendama* Hazzi, Polotow, Brescovit, González-Obando & Simó, 2018, by the short cymbial tip, with the bulb length/cymbial tip length ratio of 2.3 (vs. 1.2–1.8 in other species of the genus). The new species can be distinguished from *S. tequendama*, which has a similar bulb length/cymbial tip length ratio of 2.1, by the embolus (Em) with a broad apical part (vs. narrow); absence of an internal bulge of the embolus (vs. present); and by the curved metatarsi IV (vs. straight; cf. Figs 3, 5, 9 and Hazzi *et al.*, 2018: figs 25B, 27K, 29J).



Figs 1–3. Male habitus (1–2) and metatarsus IV (3) of *Spinoctenus leleji* sp. n. 1 – dorsal; 2 – ventral; 3 – retrolateral. Scale bars: 5 mm for 1–2; 2 mm for 3.

DESCRIPTION. Male (Figs 1–2). Total length 11.45. Prosoma 6.16 long, 4.76 wide. Opisthosoma 5.40 long, 3.23 wide. Carapace brown, cephalic region slightly darker, with orange-brown median band extending from eye area to posterior slope. Lateral bands orange-brown. Clypeus light brown. Chelicerae dark brown, with 3 promarginal and 5 retromarginal teeth. Labium dark brown; 0.9 long, 0.7 wide. Endites yellowish brown. Sternum yellowish orange, slightly darker marginally, without pattern. Dorsal part of opisthosoma yellowish brown, with yellow cardiac mark anteriorly and black stripes on the sides of it; posterior half



Figs 4–13. Male palp (4–7), bulb (8–11), apical part of embolus (12) and retrolateral tibial apophysis (13) of *Spinoctenus leleji* sp. n. 4, 8 – prolateral; 5, 9 – ventral; 6, 10, 12, 13 – retrolateral; 7 – dorsal; 11 – anterior. Scale bars: 0.5 mm for 4–7; 8–11, 0.25 mm for 13. Abbreviations: C – conductor, CO – cymbial outgrowth; EH – embolic hook, Em – embolus, EP – embolic process, FP – folded process of the embolus, RTA – retrolateral tibial apophysis, St – subtegulum, TA – tegular apophysis, Te – tegulum.

with couple of black spots. Lateral sides of opisthosoma yellowish, with several small dark gray spots. Ventral part of opisthosoma yellowish, with few tiny spots. Spinnerets yellowish dorsally and ventrally, gray laterally.

Eye diameters: AME 0.29, ALE 0.16, PME 0.34, PLE 0.34; interdistances: AME–AME 0.13, AME–ALE 0.35, PME–PME 0.18, PME–PLE 0.43, AME–PME 0.08, ALE–PLE 0.22. Clypeus height at AME 0.19, at ALE 0.50.

Leg and palp measurements: Palp: 2.91, 1.40, 1.55, -, 2.15 (8.01). Leg I: 5.80, 2.61, 6.43, 5.42, 2.05 (22.31). Leg II: 5.66, 2.57, 5.75, 5.03, 1.89 (20.90). Leg III: 5.27, 2.10, 4.76, 4.81, 1.76 (18.70). Leg IV: 6.40, 2.12, 6.28, 7.91, 2.30 (25.01).

Palp coloration: Fe, Pa and Ti light brown; Cy dark brown. Legs coloration: Fe I–IV light brown, dorsal side with darker poorly visible spots; Pa I–IV brown; Ti I–IV light brown; Mt I–III light brown; Mt IV brown; Tr I–IV light brown.

Palp spination: Fe 3d 1p 1r; Pa 1p; Ti 2p 1r. Legs spination: Fe I 3d 3p 2r; Fe II 3d 4p 4r; Fe III 3d 4p 4r; Fe IV 3d 4p 3r. Pa I spineless; Pa II 1p 1r; Pa III 1p 1r; Pa IV 1p 1r. Ti I 1p 1r 5-5v; Ti II 1(2)p 2r 5-5v; Ti III 3d 2p 2r 3-3v; Ti IV 2d 2p 2r 3-3v. Mt I 2p 2r 3-3v; Mt II 2p 2r 3-3v; Mt III 4p 5r 3-3v; Mt IV 5p 2-2v, retrolateral side with numerous irregular spines.

Palp as shown in Figs 4–13. Tibia slightly shorter than cymbium. RTA with two branches: ventral short and blunt, dorsal long and pointed. Cymbium with short, rounded dorsal outgrowth (CO). Bulb elongated, length/width ratio 1.4. Subtegulum (St) long, partly hidden by Em. Tegulum (Te) rounded, smooth. Tegular apophysis (TA) drop-shaped in ventral view, originating almost from center of bulb. Conductor (C) large, membranous. Embolus (Em) C-shaped, with broad apical part, deep medial groove and large hook (EH); originating at 8-o'clock position; tip pointed, with small triangular process (EP).

Female is unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Type locality only (Figs 14–15).

ETYMOLOGY. The species is named in honour of Prof. Arkady S. Lelej (Vladivostok), a distinguished Russian entomologist in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the taxonomy, systematics and biogeography of aculeate wasps (Hymenoptera).



Figs 14–15. Collecting locality of *Spinoctenus leleji* sp. n. The frame on Fig. 14 refers to the content of Fig. 15.

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