

New Desid Spiders (Araneae: Desidae) from New Caledonia and Eastern Australia

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ABSTRACT. Two related desid spider genera, *Canala* n.gen. from New Caledonia and *Colcarteria* n.gen. from eastern Australia, are described. *Epimecinus magnus* Berland, the type species of *Canala*, is diagnosed and figured. *Epimecinus longipes* Berland is removed from synonymy with *E. magnus* and referred to *Canala*. Its male is described. Newly described species are *Canala poya*, *Colcarteria carrai*, *C. yessabah* and *C. kempseyi*. The desine species *Forsterina koghiana* n.sp. from New Caledonia is described.

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Berland (1924) described six 'dictynid' species from New Caledonia in the genera *Epimecinus* Simon 1908, *Aphyctoschaema* Simon 1902 and *Syrorisa* Simon 1908. Lehtinen (1967) erected two genera, *Baiami* Lehtinen and *Forsterina* Lehtinen, into which he placed four of these species, two as synonyms (*E. magnus* Berland 1924, and its putative synonym *E. longipes* Berland 1924, in *Baiami*; *S. alticola* Berland 1924 and its synonym *A. alacris* Berland 1924 in *Forsterina*). Lehtinen (1967) placed *E. magnus* in *Baiami* (family Stiphidiidae), but Gray (1981) redefined *Baiami* as a southern Australian genus and excluded *E. magnus*. *Canala* n.gen., restricted to New Caledonia, is erected here for *E. magnus* and related species. These include *E. longipes*, which is removed from synonymy with *E. magnus*.

A related genus, *Colcarteria* n.gen., from northern New South Wales shares with *Canala* a distinctive combination of male palpal and female genitalic

characters. These include the large, curved, basal median apophysis, the origin and course of the embolus, laminate and pointed retrolateral/ventral tibial apophyses, simple receptaculate genitalia with short, diverticulate insemination ducts and lateral teeth on the epigynum. *Canala* and *Colcarteria* are tentatively allocated to the family Desidae but affinities are apparent also with the Agelenidae and Stiphidiidae (*sensu* Forster 1970, Forster & Wilton 1973).

Berland (1924) recorded both *Forsterina alticola* (Berland) and its synonym, *A. alacris* Berland, from Mont Pani in northern New Caledonia. A new species described here comes from Mont Koghi in the south. While these spiders have clear affinities with the Australian *Forsterina* fauna and the related New Zealand genus *Reinga* Forster & Wilton 1973, a full revision of the genus *Forsterina* (Gray, in preparation) will determine if separate generic status is appropriate for the New Caledonian fauna.