Records of the Australian Museum (2002) Vol. 54: 257–268. ISSN 0067-1975

Salticidae (Arachnida: Araneae) from the Oriental, Australian and Pacific Regions, XV. New Species of Astieae from Australia

MAREK ŻABKA

Katedra Zoologii AP, 08-110 Siedlce, Poland
zabka@ap.siedlce.pl

ABSTRACT. Eight new species of Astieae spiders are described: *Arasia mullion, Helpis abnormis, H. kenilworthi, H. risdonica, H. tasmanica, Sondra bickeli, S. brindlei* and *S. samambrayi*. *Arasia aurea* (Koch) is transferred to the genus *Sondra*. Remarks on relationships of Astieae are provided and distributional maps of studied species are given.

ŻABKA, MAREK, 2002. Salticidae (Arachnida: Araneae) from the Oriental, Australian and Pacific regions, XV. New species of Astieae from Australia. *Records of the Australian Museum* 54(3): 257–268.

The group Astieae was proposed by Simon (1901) for nine Old and New World genera. The most comprehensive study of the group was provided by Wanless (1988). He described as new the genera *Jacksonoides, Sondra* and *Tauala* and excluded *Charippus* Thorell, *Lagnus* Koch, *Aruana* Strand, *Agelista* Simon, *Anaurus* Simon, *Lapsias* Koch and *Titanattus* Peckham & Peckham from Simon's list. Wanless also suggested that *Adoxotoma*, described by Simon (1909) in Astieae, should be excluded. My studies indicate that the genus should be retained within the group (Żabka, 2001).

More recently, two additional papers dealt with the Astieae (Żabka, 1995; Gardzińska, 1996), the former describing *Megaloastia* from Western Australia, and the latter dealing with new species of *Arasia, Helpis* and *Tauala*. Currently Astieae comprises the following genera: *Astia, Arasia, Helpis, Adoxotoma, Jacksonoides, Megaloastia, Sondra* and *Tauala*. The first three of which are found in Australia, on adjacent islands (Patoleta & Żabka, 1999), and in New Guinea; *Helpis* is found also in New Zealand (Żabka, in prep.). The other genera are recorded from Australia only.

Whether the group, as it is now formed, is monophyletic or not is a matter for future study. At least *Astia, Arasia, Helpis, Adoxotoma* and *Megaloastia* seem closely related, sharing similar body form, cheliceral dentition and genitalic structure. *Tauala* and *Sondra* differ in cephalothorax proportions (EFL:CL, CL:CW) and carapace form (box- rather than pear-shaped) whereas *Jacksonoides* has some genitalic similarities to *Aruana* (see Wanless, 1988).

Except for *Adoxotoma*, the cheliceral dentition is of the pluridentati pattern and is generally quite consistent within the Astieae. In *Adoxotoma* an intermediate pluri-fissidentati stage is present (Żabka, 2001).

Material and methods

The material is deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AMS); specimens were collected during biological surveys conducted by the Museum. Specimens have been examined using methods described previosuly (Żabka, 1991a).

Abbreviations used are: AEW, anterior eyes width; AL, abdomen length; AMS, Australian Museum, Sydney; BB, B. Baehr; CL, cephalothorax length; CW, cephalothorax width; EFL, eye field length; GC, G. Cassis; GM, G. Milledge; *j*, (or, when more than one, *jj*) unsexed juvenile specimens; MG, M. Gray; MŻ, M. Żabka; NSW, New South Wales; PEW, posterior eyes width.