

***Therlinya*, A New Genus of Spiders from Eastern Australia (Araneae: Amaurobioidea)**

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ABSTRACT. *Therlinya*, a new genus of cribellate amaurobioid spiders from eastern Australia, readily distinguished by its arched, unpatterned carapace, is described. It includes eleven new species: *Therlinya kiah*, *T. foveolata*, *T. bellinger*, *T. horsemanae*, *T. wiangaree*, *T. ballata*, *T. vexillum*, *T. lambkinae*, *T. angusta*, *T. monteithi*, and *T. nasuta*. All are forest dwelling species that build small sheet webs in sheltered microhabitats. Distribution maps and comments on relationships and biology are given.

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Therlinya n.gen. is one of many sheet web building amaurobioid spider groups associated with forested coastal and highland regions in eastern Australia. In particular, it is related to several undescribed genera from eastern and southwestern Australia that are characterised by the presence of longitudinal stripes on the carapace (Gray & Smith, in prep.), a feature lacking in *Therlinya*. All are forest dwelling species that build small sheet webs with funnel retreats opening from crevices or shallow burrows on logs, soil banks or under rocks.

Therlinya and its relatives can be characterised as stiphidioid spiders placed in or near the family Stiphidiidae. *Stiphidion*, the type genus of the family has characters that seem to markedly distinguish it from other stiphidioids, notably the recurved PER, the relatively long PLS and the bulbous tegulum with its distal sperm duct loop directed anti-clockwise (clockwise in *Therlinya* and *Baiami*). The Stiphidiidae has been variously constituted within the Amaurobioidea. Lehtinen (1967) limited the Stiphidiinae (placed within his Amaurobiidae) to three Australian taxa: *Stiphidion* Simon (previously placed in the Psechridae and the Dictynidae), *Tjurunga* Lehtinen and *Baiami* Lehtinen. *Tjurunga* is based upon an odd Tasmanian species (*Rubrius*

paroculus Simon, known only from the type female) which has the unusual cheliceral tooth pattern of 7+4 and a wide, distinctly cleft colulus. It may be related to another Tasmanian genus (Gray, in prep.) which has a similar colulus but a tooth pattern of 2+3. Forster & Wilton (1973) expanded their Stiphidiidae to include, besides *Stiphidion* and *Baiami*, *Corasoides* Butler, *Cambridgea* L. Koch, *Nanocambridgea* Forster & Wilton, *Procambidgea* Forster & Wilton and *Ischalea* L. Koch. Davies (1988) excluded the latter two genera from the Stiphidiidae in a review of *Stiphidion* and its relationships. *Cambridgea* and *Nanocambridgea* were recently reviewed by Blest & Vink (2000) as stiphidiid spiders but with no comments on relationships.

The presence of a grate-shaped tapetum in the posterior eyes of *Stiphidion* prompted Griswold (1993) to suggest that this genus belonged with the Lycosoidea. However, other characters (notably the presence of fused paracribellar spigots on the PMS) have supported its retention within the Amaurobioidea (Griswold *et al.*, 1999; Davies & Lambkin, 2000), inferring that the grate-shaped tapetum has arisen independently in these two superfamilies. Like *Stiphidion*, *Therlinya* and its related “striped” group of genera have grate-shaped tapeta. Griswold *et al.* (1999) also noted the

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