The "Striped" Group of Stiphidiid Spiders: Two New Genera from Northeastern New South Wales, Australia (Araneae: Stiphidiidae: Amaurobioidea)

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ABSTRACT. Borrala and Pillara, two new genera of putative "stiphidiid" spiders from forest habitats in northern New South Wales, are described. They include eight new species: Borrala dorrigo, B. webbi, B. longipalpis, B. yabbra and Pillara karuah, P. coolahensis, P. macleayensis, P. griswoldi. Brief comments on characters and relationships are given. These genera form part of a generic group characterized by the presence of a palpal tegular lobe and grate-shaped tapeta in the posterior eyes.

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Borrala n.gen. and Pillara n.gen. are part of a distinctive group of putative stiphidiid spiders that are found in southern and eastern Australia and north to Papua New Guinea. They are characterized by the presence of a basal tegular lobe on the male palp and grate-shaped tapeta in the posterior eyes (characters they share with Therlinya Gray & Smith), as well as a posteriorly raised carapace. The longitudinal stripe pattern on the carapace serves as a useful field diagnostic character for the widely distributed "striped" group of genera, although it is not exclusive to them.

The genera dealt with here are known only from forest habitats of the Great Dividing Range between the Hunter River and the Border Ranges in northeastern New South Wales. The data available suggests that most of the species described here have fairly localized distributions. A second manuscript will deal with several additional "striped" group genera.

Material and methods

Specimen examinations, measurements and drawings were made using a Wild M5 or Leica M12 microscope with graticule and drawing attachment. The left male palp is illustrated. Epigynal preparations were cleared in 8% potassium hydroxide or lactic acid, before mounting in glycerol for microscopic examination. Specimen preparations for scanning electron microscopy were air dried from 100% acetone.

Abbreviations and definitions. "Tegular window" refers to the gap between the proximal embolus and the lower edge of the conductor. Carapace length for each measured specimen is followed by a range value in parentheses. BL, body length; CL, carapace length; CW carapace width; CapW, caput width; LL, labium length; LW, labium width; SL, sternum length; SW, sternum width; EGW, eye group width; AME, anterior median eyes; ALE, anterior lateral eyes; PME, posterior median eyes; PLE, posterior lateral eyes; MOQ, median ocular quadrangle; AER, anterior eye row; PER, posterior eye row; RTA, retrolateral tibial apophysis; RVTA, retrolateral ventral tibial apophysis; MA, median apophysis; Co, conductor; CyF, cymbial flange; E, embolus; TL, tegular lobe; TW, tegular window. ALS, anterior lateral spinneret; PMS, posterior median spinneret; PLS, posterior lateral spinneret; Spigots: MAP, major ampullate; mAP; minor