

Notes on the Ant-mimic Genus *Anatea* Berland (Araneae: Theridiidae) and Two New Species from Tropical Australia

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ABSTRACT. The taxonomic history of the New Caledonian myrmecomorph spider, *Anatea formicaria* Berland (Hadrotarsinae: Theridiidae) is summarized, new records are presented and the female is figured for the first time. Two new species provisionally assigned to the genus are described from north-eastern Australia, *A. monteithi* Smith sp. nov. and *A. elongata* Smith sp. nov. Some undescribed *Anatea* species occurring on New Caledonia are shown, and aspects of hadrotarsine anatomy and ant specialization are discussed.

KEYWORDS. *Anatea formicaria*; myrmecomorphy; myrmecophagy; New Caledonia; Queensland; taxonomy

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The New Caledonian hadrotarsine spider, *Anatea formicaria* Berland, 1927, is thought to be a morphological ant mimic, or myrmecomorph (Berland, 1927; Reiskind & Levi, 1967; Cushing, 1997). Myrmecomorphs are especially prevalent in families such as Salticidae and Corinnidae (Cushing, 1997) but there are few in Theridiidae, with only five species in four genera listed by Cushing (1997; the sixth species listed appears to be a lapsus). Whilst most myrmecomorph spiders gain

the “extra” body section (a “petiole”) as well as sometimes a postpetiole from constrictions in the cephalothorax or abdomen and / or colour (Reiskind, 1972), *A. formicaria* is unusual in that the primary modification is to the pedicel, which is not only elongated, but has an ant-like “node” (Figs 1, 5). Most hadrotarsines have not been thought of as particularly ant-like, although there are certain aspects of the anatomy of many species that could aid them hiding among

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