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Four new species of the jumping spider genus *Cytaea* Keyserling, 1882 (Araneae: Salticidae) from Australia and New Guinea

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Abstract. *Cytaea* Keyserling, 1882 is one of the most diverse genera of jumping spiders (Salticidae: Euophryini), currently comprising 40 recognised species distributed across the Australian and Oriental Realms. Despite this diversity, most species were described in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the taxonomy of the genus remains problematic, with many species still poorly documented and relationships unresolved. In recent years, revisionary work has clarified the status of several nominal taxa, but many species of *Cytaea* in Australia and New Guinea remain undescribed. Here we describe four new species of *Cytaea* from the Australasian region: *C. arche* sp. nov. (♀), *C. aoide* sp. nov. (♀), *C. melete* sp. nov. (♀), and *C. telksinoe* sp. nov. (♀). Diagnostic illustrations, photographs, and measurements are provided for all species. The discovery of these taxa contributes to a better understanding of the species diversity and distribution of *Cytaea* in one of the world's most megadiverse regions.

Introduction

Salticid spiders constitute a monophyletic family, characterised by a distinctive eye arrangement, excellent vision, diverse mating tactics, and complex jumping behaviour (Maddison, 2015; Girard *et al*., 2021). With over 6,810 described species in 689 genera (WSC, 2025), salticids are distributed worldwide, with their highest diversity occurring in tropical regions. Australia and New Guinea are among the most species-rich regions globally and are listed among the 17 megadiverse countries and recognised biodiversity hotspots. Recent estimates indicate that Australia harbours approximately 519 described jumping spider species, Papua New Guinea (269 species) and West Papua — the Indonesian part of the island — only 13 species (Metzner, 2025). According to other assessments (Żabka, 1991; Żabka, 2007; Maddison & Zhang, 2009; Szűts *et al*., 2020), the actual species richness in both Australia and New Guinea may be two to three times higher than currently documented. *Cytaea* Keyserling, 1882 is one of the most diverse genera of salticids, currently comprising 40 recognised species (WSC, 2025), and is distributed across the

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