DESCRIPTION OF *PIKELINIA USPALLATA* SP. N., FROM MENDOZA, ARGENTINA (ARANEAE, FILISTATIDAE)

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**Abstract:**

*Pikelinia uspallata* sp. n. (*Araneae: Filistatidae: Prithinae*), is described from Mendoza Province, Argentina. Genitalic features suggest a close relationship with the other high Andean species of western and northwestern Argentina. New records of *P. colloncura* Ramírez & Grismado and *P. ticucho* Ramírez & Grismado are provided. Variability on the male clasping structures on second legs is reported for *P. ticucho*.

**Key words:** Araneae, Filistatidae, *Pikelinia*, new species, Argentina.

**Taxonomy:** *Pikelinia uspallata* sp. n.

**Descripción de *Pikelinia uspallata* sp. n., de Mendoza, Argentina (Araneae, Filistatidae)**

**Resumen:**

*Pikelinia uspallata* sp. n. (*Araneae: Filistatidae: Prithinae*) es descripta de la provincia de Mendoza, Argentina. Sus características genitales sugieren un cercano parentesco con las otras especies altoandinas del oeste y noroeste de Argentina. Se proporcionan nuevos registros para *P. colloncura* Ramírez & Grismado y para *P. ticucho* Ramírez & Grismado. Se reporta variabilidad en las estructuras de traba de las segundas patas para *P. ticucho*.

**Palabras clave:** Araneae, Filistatidae, *Pikelinia*, nueva especie, Argentina.

**Taxonomía:** *Pikelinia uspallata* sp. n.

**Introduction**

The filistatids are sedentary cribellate spiders, worldwidely distributed and with a rather uniform somatic morphology. This family represents one of the most basal branches of the Haplogynae (Platnick et al., 1991). Gray (1994) revised the Australian species and, in a subsequent contribution (1995) presented a cladogram where two subfamilies were proposed: Filistatinae and Prithinae. Ramírez & Grismado (1997) revised the Argentinean fauna and reanalyzed Gray’s data; after that study, three prithine genera are recognized from Argentina: *Pikelinia*, Mello-Leitão 1946, *Lihuelistata* Ramírez & Grismado 1997, and *Misionella* Ramírez & Grismado 1997, all forming a monophyletic clade united by the strongly incrassate male palpal tibia and by the cymbium partially fused to tegulum (Ramírez & Grismado 1997: 327-329).

The males of *Pikelinia* are distinguished by having a dorsal retrolateral projection of the palpial tibia, and the second metatarsus and tarsus with clasping structures. The females by having two consecutive receptacles of spermathecae. These small-sized spiders make cribellate webs under stones or in crevices of the soil, rocks, walls of caves and/or leaf litter; they are known from western South America, from Colombia to the Patagonia, including Galapagos Islands (Ramírez & Grismado, 1997: 331), principally in arid regions, although because their cryptic habits and small size, are relatively uncommon in collections.

In this contribution I describe a new species, *Pikelinia uspallata*, from Mendoza, Argentina, based on two female specimens found in an old jar of undetermined spiders stored in the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales. The females of this new species have an epigastric flap, a feature shared with *P. roigi* Ramírez & Grismado, from San Juan, *P. kolla* Ramírez & Grismado, from Jujuy and *P. puna* Ramirez & Grismado, from Salta (Ramírez & Grismado, 1997; figs. 59, 65, 76-77). Although no cladistic analysis was made within the genus, some realtionships can be inferred. Besides the epigastric flap, males of *P. roigi* and *P. kolla* share a relatively elongated palpal tibia (Ramírez & Grismado, 1997; figs. 57-58, 63-64); given that this feature is not present in other *Pikelinia* and neither in *Lihuelistata* or *Misionella*, it could be interpreted as a synapomorphy of these two species. Then, it seems that *P. roigi*, *P. kolla*, *P. puna* and *P. uspallata*...
form a monophyletic subgeneric group restricted to the high Andes of western and northwestern Argentina. On the other hand, if the female epigastric flap is associated or correlated with the elongate palpal tibia, the unknown males of *P. puna* and *P. uspallata* probably also have an elongate tibia.

New records are provided for *P. colloncura* Ramirez & Grismado and *P. ticucho* Ramirez & Grismado. Additionally, some variability on the male clasping structures on second legs is reported for *P. ticucho*.

**Material and methods**

Specimens are deposited in the Arachnological Collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Buenos Aires (MACN-Ar, Cristina L. Scioscia) and in the Cátedra de Diversidad Animal I, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales de la Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (UNC, Luis E. Acosta and Camilo I. Mattoni). The format of description follows Ramirez & Grismado (1997). Internal genitalia were cleared with cove oil. All measurements are expressed in millimeters.

**Results**

*Pikelinia uspallata* sp. n. (Figs. 1-2)

**Type material:** Female holotype and female paratype from Argentina, Mendoza Province, Uspallata, 20.X.1959, Capri leg. (MACN-Ar 10339 and 10340, respectively).

**Etymology:** The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

**Diagnosis:** By having a trilobate epigastric flap, females of *P. uspallata* resemble those of *P. roigi*, but differ by the abdominal chevroned pattern (Fig. 1), by the piriform and more separated proximal receptacles of spermathecae, and by the wider flap, with sharp, triangular lateral lobes (Fig. 2).

**Description** (female holotype): Total length 4.88. Carapace length 2.16, width 1.70. Posterior median eyes separated by more than two diameters. Palp, femur length 1.50, patella 0.58, tibia 0.92, tarsus 1.00. Legs, tibiae length/width I 3.28/0.26, II 1.92/0.26, III 1.58/0.28, IV 2.08/0.32; metatarsi length I 2.44, II 1.66, III 1.68, IV 2.08; tarsi length I 1.48, II 1.06, III 0.96, IV 1.04. Abdomen length 2.72. Spines: all metatarsi with 2 ventral apical; in addition, metatarsi I with 1 ventral prolateral. Palpi without spines.

Carapace pale yellowish-brown with tenuous dark radial design, margins with a dark line; ventrally pale yellowish brown, labium and endites turning to orange, margin of sternum with a thin brown line. Abdomen cream with distinct blackish “chevron” (Fig. 1), venter and legs yellowish-brown. Palps and legs yellowish, except palpal tarsi and metatarsi, orangish-brown.

Spermathecae with almost piriform and more separated proximal receptacles, separated by about their basal width. Wide epigastric flap with sharp triangular lateral lobes and broad, rounded median lobe (Fig. 2). All other characters are typical for the genus.

Males unknown.

**Distribution:** Known only from the type locality.

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Figs. 1. *Pikelinia uspallata* sp. n., female holotype; carapace and abdomen, dorsal view;
**Description of *Pikelinia uspallata* sp. n., from Argentina**

**Figs. 2.** *Pikelinia uspallata* n. sp., female holotype; genitalia, cleared, dorsal view.

**Figs. 3-4:** *Pikelinia ticucho* Ramírez & Grismado, male from Chancaní, right leg II; 3. retrolateral view; 4. dorsal view.

**Pikelinia colloncura Ramírez & Grismado, 1997**

NEW RECORDS: Argentina: Río Negro Province, Bariloche, under bricks, 11.I.1998, M. J. Ramírez col., 1 male (MACN-Ar 10343); same data, 2 females, 1 male and 2 immatures (MACN-Ar 10344).

**Pikelinia ticucho Ramírez & Grismado, 1997** (Fig. 3-4)


NOTE: The two males from Córdoba, although identical to other conspecific males by the genital and general somatic morphology, have striking differences on the legs II (Fig. 3-4). All the articles are relatively shorter, the tarsus is unmodified, and the metatarsus has a shallow retrolateral excavated area with short spinules that gradually increase their length proximally, similar to the disposition known in *Misionella* (Ramírez & Grismado 1997: figs. 97-98; Grismado & Ramírez 2000: figs. 1-2). All other known *Pikelinia* have the metatarsus II with two strong retrolateral spines follo-
wed by an excavated area with a patch of dorsal spines, and the tarsus has a basal retrolateral excavation. This is the first report on such variability in these characters. Interestingly, *P. ticucho* is the only species of the genus known from a relatively large geographic range (Provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Tucumán, Catamarca and Córdoba).

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**Bibliography**


