
First records of the jumping spider *Menemerus semilimbatus* (Araneae: Salticidae) in Chile

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The jumping spider family (Salticidae) contains more than 500 described genera and over 5,000 described species, which represents about 13% of global Araneae diversity (Platnick, 2012). Jumping spiders are small, diurnal predators which catch their prey mainly by stalking (Foelix, 1996).

The salticid fauna of Chile is relatively poor in species. A total of 21 species distributed in eight genera has been reported: *Admesturius*, *Atomosphyrus*, *Dendryphantes*, *Euophrys*, *Hurius*, *Thiodina*, *Trydarssus* and *Tullgrenella* (Richardson, 2010). Aguilera & Casanueva (2005) suggest the possible presence of cosmopolitan species which have not been reported. However, these studies have considered primarily the south of the country, and there is little knowledge of the salticid fauna of northern Chile.

The genus *Menemerus* Simon, 1868 is represented by 70 species described worldwide (Platnick, 2012). The spiders of this genus are of moderate size, ranging from 4 to 10 mm, flat-bodied and hairy, with white bands on the side margins of the carapace (Wesolowska, 1999).

One of these species is *M. semilimbatus* (Hahn, 1827), a Mediterranean species widely distributed in Europe (Morano, 2000) and Africa (Wesolowska, 1999). In the Americas, it has been reported for Argentina (Galiano, 1984), and recently it was reported for the USA, where it has been introduced into California (Manolis & Carmichael, 2010).

This paper is based on two collections in the province of Iquique, in the north of Chile. The presence of the salticid *M. semilimbatus* is reported for the first time from Chile, expanding its distribution in South America.

The spiders were identified following the work of Wesolowska (1999), who also gave size ranges for the species. The figures are Automontage images of preserved spiders. The specimens examined were deposited in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods.

Menemerus semilimbatus (Hahn, 1827)

Figs. 1–5

Specimens examined: Chile: Tarapacá, Iquique Prov., Iquique, 20°12'50"S 70°09'09"W, 20 Jan 2011, 1♀ (A. Taucare-Rios, FSCA); same location, in house, 18 Jan 2012, 1♂ (M. Ferrú, FSCA).

Diagnosis: *Female* (mean length 7.25 mm). The abdomen has a characteristic pattern, and the legs are light brown with darker rings and patches (Fig. 1). The epigyne has a notch at the posterior edge and two oval depressions situated in the anterior half, leading to the copulatory openings, which are covered with strongly sclerotized anteromedial hoods (Fig. 2). *Male* (mean length 6.35 mm). The male (Fig. 3) has the embolus closely associated with a similar appearing inner conductor that together give a forceps-like appearance (Wesolowska, 1999), and a ventrally oriented, retrolateral tibial apophysis (Figs. 4, 5). Further illustrations of both sexes can be found in Prószyński (2012).



Figures 1–2. *Menemerus semilimbatus* (Hahn) female from Iquique, Tarapacá, Chile. 1, Habitus dorsal view. 2, Epigyne ventral view.



Figures 3–5. *Menemerus semilimbatus* (Hahn) male from Sacramento, California, USA. 3, Habitus dorsal view. 4, Left palp ventral view. 5, Left palp retrolateral view.

Distribution: Distributed naturally in the Canary Islands, southern Europe, western Asia, and Africa, and introduced to Argentina, Chile, and the USA.

Menemerus semilimbatus to date only has been found in northern Chile; however, this salticid might be present throughout the country. An awareness of its potential presence may result in records from other parts of Chile.

Habitat: This species is a synanthropic spider, introduced into Chile. These spiders live inside and on the outside of houses, and in gardens.

Comments: The male from Chile is shriveled and missing both palps. A male from Sacramento, California, USA, has been substituted for illustrative purposes.

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