

Three new wafer trapdoor spiders from Brazil

November 20 2013



This image shows the female *Fufius lucasae* described for the first time in this study. Credit: Rogerio Bertani

Scientists discover three new gorgeous species of the wafer trapdoor genus *Fufius* – *F. minusculus*, *F. jalapensis*, and *F. candango*. The discovery of the three new species, published in the open access journal *ZooKeys*, paves the road to understanding the morphological variability of the species in this little known mygalomorph genus.

The family Cyrtaucheniidae is a widespread family of [spiders](#), known also as wafer trapdoor spiders. Many, but not all, make wafer-like doors to their burrows, while others build the cork-like doors found commonly in the true trapdoor spiders. Little is known about the biology of the enigmatic [genus](#) *Fufius*, but among the curiosities is that instead of burrows these spiders live in silken tubes in crevices, carefully prolonged with silk.

The mygalomorph neotropical genus *Fufius* comprises ten species, widely distributed from Guatemala in Central America to southeastern Brazil, in South America. This new study describes three beautiful new species from Brazil, alongside the re-description of the previously known *F. funebris* and the first description of a female *F. lucasae*.

"What is curious about the genus *Fufius* is the wide distribution of the species. Normally, mygalomorphs have a very restricted distribution. Furthermore, the genus has species living in contrasting environments as the Amazon, Savannah, and Brazilian Atlantic forest. This makes the genus a potential model for biogeographic studies," comments one of the authors Dr. Rogerio Bertani.



This image shows a female *Fufius lucasae*. Credit: Rogerio Bertani

"The relationship with other mygalomorph spiders is also unclear, and several authors considered the genus to belong in very distinct families. The 3 [new species](#) described in the paper as well as the redescription of an old species and the description of a female of another species formerly known from male specimen aids in understanding the morphological variability of the [species](#) in this little known mygalomorph genus," concludes Dr. Bertani.

More information: Ortega DRM, Nagahama RH, Motta PC, Bertani R (2013) Three new species of *Fufius* Simon, 1888 (Araneae, Cyrtaucheniidae) from Brazil with the redescription of *Fufius funebris* Vellard, 1924 and description of the female of *Fufius lucasae* Guadanucci & Indicatti, 2004. *ZooKeys* 352: 93–116. [DOI:](#)

[10.3897/zookeys.352.6189](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.352.6189)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: Three new wafer trapdoor spiders from Brazil (2013, November 20) retrieved 1 June 2023 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-11-wafer-trapdoor-spiders-brazil.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.