

Three new wafer trapdoor spiders from Brazil

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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:](#)

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