

# John Lennon commemorated by naming a new tarantula species from South America after him

October 20 2014

---

A newly described tarantula species from Western Brazilian Amazonia was named *Bumba lennoni* in honor of John Lennon, a founder member of the legendary band the Beatles. The new species is part of the tarantula family *Theraphosidae* which comprises the largest spider species in the world. The study was published in the open access journal *ZooKeys*.

The name of the [new species](#) came across when the authors of the study Fernando Pérez-Miles, from the University of the Republic, Uruguay, and Alexandre Bonaldo and Laura Miglio, both from the Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi, Brazil, found out that they are all great fans of the Beatles music.

The genus, *Bumba*, which is proposed as replacement of the old one *Maraca*, already taken and used for *Orthoptera*, also has a story behind the choice of name. The new name is taken from Brazilian theatrical folk tradition of the popular festival called Boi-bumbá (hit my bull), which takes place annually in North and Northeastern Brazil.

The new species, as other tarantulas, has defensive urticating hairs on the abdomen which produce irritation upon contact with the skin or sensible tissues.

The specimens used in the study were captured manually or in traps

during the night in Caxiuaná, Pará, Brasil, which suggest they could be mainly nocturnal animals.

**More information:** Perez-Miles F, Bragio Bonaldo A, Miglio L (2014) *Bumba*, a replacement name for *Maraca Pérez-Miles*, 2005 and *Bumba lennoni*, a new tarantula species from western Amazonia (Araneae, Theraphosidae, Theraphosinae). *ZooKeys* 448: 1-8. DOI: [10.3897/zookeys.448.7920](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.448.7920)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: John Lennon commemorated by naming a new tarantula species from South America after him (2014, October 20) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-10-john-lennon-commemorated-tarantula-species.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.