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Two Additional Spider (Arachnida: Araneida) Families for Trinidad and Tobago

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NATURE NOTE

Two Additional Spider (Arachnida: Araneida) Families for Trinidad and Tobago

Currently there are 47 recorded spider families for Trinidad and Tobago as given by Sewlal and Cutler (2003), Cutler (2005) and Sewlal and Alayón (2007). During a review of the spider collection for Tobago housed at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., in July 2008, a specimen, *Drymusa* nr. *nubila* from Drymusidae was recorded. Sewlal and Cutler (2003) gave a brief description of this family and had suggested that the family might exist in Trinidad. I can now confirm its existence.

Sewlal and Cutler (2003) also inadvertently omitted Tetrablemmidae from the annotated list of spider families for Trinidad and Tobago. According to Shear (1978), specimens of this family were collected by N. A. Weber in Trinidad and are now lodged at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge. There is no locality data available to give the exact area in Trinidad and Tobago where this species is found.

Tetrablemmidae – small araneomorph spiders, with six very small, single-segmented spinnerets. Members have six eyes on the raised part of the carapace which can take on one of six patterns; however, some species are eyeless. They possess a single row of teeth on paired claws and there is abdominal sclerotization including pleural plates. The tibiae have two trichobothria and metatarsi with one trichobothria (Shear 1978). The posterior respiratory organs are absent and the anterior ones are represented by book lungs with one or two leaves and are not functional.

Cribellum and calimistrum lacking and the colulus present and is small and sclerotized. The males have strongly modified carapaces and lack knobbed apophysis projecting from posterior margin of the sternum. The palp of the female lacks a claw. Only one species is listed from Trinidad, *Tetrablemma extorre* (Platnick 2008).

An annotated description of Drymusidae was included

in Sewlal and Cutler (2003).

With the addition of Tetrablemmidae and the confirmation of the presence of the family Drymusidae, the total number of spider families known from Trinidad and Tobago now stands at 49.

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