

6. A List of the Spiders of the Genus *Acrosoma*, with Descriptions of new Species. By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Received March 6, 1873.]

In the present paper I have made a complete list of the species hitherto described of this truly remarkable genus: five new species are added, one or two of them being most extraordinary forms.

The spines on the members of this group are doubtless protective, either, as (probably) in the case of the *Gasteracanthæ*, to render them like the thorny leaves, knots of shrubs, acacias, &c., or, as (probably) in the present genus, to render them unpalatable morsels for insectivorous birds and reptiles. It is a fact, Mr. Bates says, that the *Acrosomata* spin their webs in the most exposed situations, where they are sure to be seen by any passing enemy.

Genus ACROSOMA, Perty.

1. ACROSOMA CYANOSPINUM.

Epeira cyanospina, Lucas, Dict. Pitt. d'Hist. Nat. iii. p. 70, pl. 140. f. 3 (1835).

Plectana cyanospina, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 178. n. 42 (1837).

British Guiana (*Schomburgh*); Rio Negro (*Wallace*); Pará (*Bates*). B.M.

We have a variety from Pará in which the four anterior spines are red.

2. ACROSOMA FURCATUM.

Aranea armata, Olivier, Enc. Méth. iv. p. 205. n. 24.

Aranea taurus, Fabricius, Ent. Syst. ii. p. 424. n. 64.

Plectana furcata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 176. n. 40 (1837).
Haiti.

Seems allied to *P. cyanospina*.

3. ACROSOMA MACRACANTHUM.

Plectana macracantha, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 183. n. 52 (1837-39).

Acrosoma spinosum, Koch (nec Linn.), Arachn. iii. p. 56, pl. 92. f. 210 (1836).

Pará (*Bates*); Brazil (*Doubleday*).

B.M.

4. ACROSOMA DEFENSUM, n. sp.

Cephalothorax elongate, broadly expanded in the centre, with median transverse depression as in *A. macracantha*: abdomen longitudinally subovate, deeply excavated in front and truncated behind, with ten acute spines:—two vertical, rather short at base, springing from either side of the sinus; two on a prominent transverse ridge, at about one third the length of the abdomen from the base, longer,

but also vertical; the other six at end of abdomen—the first two longest, bent almost horizontally downwards over the abdomen and widely divergent, the second pair springing laterally from the posterior angles of the abdomen, the third pair immediately below the origin of the second, springing from the ventral surface backwards, and slightly divergent: ventral surface with three or four longitudinal and transverse submarginal sulci.

Colours. Cephalothorax black, with testaceous margin; falces and maxillæ black above, becoming pitchy towards their extremities; labium ochraceous, clouded with brown; sternum and legs black; abdomen dark red above, coarsely punctured in the centre; spines pitchy; ventral surface brownish red, with regions of spinnerets and epigyne blackish.

Pará (*Wallace*). One specimen.

B.M.

A remarkable species, allied to *A. macracanthum* of Walckenaer. It differs entirely in the relative length of the spines—first pair 1 line, second $1\frac{1}{3}$ line, third 3 lines, fourth 2 lines, fifth $1\frac{1}{4}$ line.

5. ACROSOMA SPINOSUM.

Aranea triangulari-spinosa, De Geer, *Insectes*, vii. p. 321, pl. 39. f. 9, 10.

Aranea spinosa, Linnæus, *Syst. Nat.* p. 1037. n. 47 (1766).

Plectana spinosa, Walckenaer, *Apt.* ii. p. 172. n. 33 (1837).

Sp. ead.? Pará (*Grahame*).

B.M.

6. ACROSOMA VIGORSII.

Acrosoma vigorsii, Perty, *Delect. Anim.* p. 194, pl. 38. f. 8 (1830); Koch, *Arachn.* vi. p. 123, pl. 209. f. 520 (1839).

Pará (*Bates*).

B.M.

7. ACROSOMA ARMATUM.

Plectana armata, Walckenaer, *Apt.* ii. p. 179. n. 43 (1837).

Acrosoma armatum, Koch, *Arachn.* xi. p. 65, pl. 376. f. 885 (1845).

Haiti (*Tweedie*).

B.M.

8. ACROSOMA FORCIPATUM.

Acrosoma forcipatum, Thorell, *Öfvers. Vetensk. Akad. Förhandl.* xvi. p. 300. n. 1 (1859, edit. 1860); Eug. Resa, *Zool. Arachn.* i. p. 25 (1868).

“Cuba” (*Thorell*).

Seems allied to *A. armatum*, Koch.

9. ACROSOMA ACULEATUM.

Aranea aculeata, Fabricius, *Ent. Syst.* ii. p. 417. n. 37.

Aranea elongato-spinosa, De Geer, *Ins.* vii. p. 323, pl. 39. f. 11, 12.

Plectana aculeata, Walckenaer, *Apt.* ii. p. 180. n. 44 (1837).

Surinam. —?

B.M.

The type of this species is in the Banksian Collection.

10. ACROSOMA VESPOIDES.

Plectana vespoides, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 196. n. 72 (1837-39).

"Cayenne" (*Walckenaer*).

Seems allied to *A. aculeatum*.

11. ACROSOMA SEXSPINOSUM.

Epeira sexspinosa, Hahn, Monogr. der Spinn. iii. pl. 4. f. A.

Acrosoma sexspinosa et furcata, Hahn, Arachn. ii. p. 18, pl. 43. f. 107 (1834).

Plectana squamosa, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 185. n. 54 (1837-39).

Acrosoma militare, Koch (nec Fabr.), Arachn. iv. p. 12, pl. 112. f. 258 (1837).

Guiana, Surinam, Cayenne (*Walckenaer*); Colombia (*Goudot*).

B.M.

12. ACROSOMA KIRBYI.

Acrosoma kirbyi, Perty, Delect. Anim. p. 194, pl. 38 (1830).

Pará (*Bates*).

B.M.

13. ACROSOMA FLAVOMACULATUM.

Acrosoma flavomaculatum, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 77, pl. 2. f. 10 (1863, edit. 1864).

Haiti (*Tweedie*).

B.M.

14. ACROSOMA BOVINUM.

Acrosoma bovinum, Thorell, Öfvers. Vetensk. Akad. Förhandl. xvi. p. 301. n. 2 (1859, edit. 1860); Eug. Resa, Zool. Arachn. i. p. 26 (1868).

"Alabama" (*Thorell*); Philadelphia (*E. Doubleday*); New York.

B.M.

15. ACROSOMA OBTUSO-SPINUM.

Acrosoma obtuso-spinum, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 76, pl. 2. f. 9 (1863, edit. 1864).

"St. Andres, Mexico" (*Keyserling*).

Belongs to the *A. bovinum* group.

16. ACROSOMA ACUTUM.

Plectana acuta, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 172. n. 34 (1837); Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, pl. 2. f. 4 (1863).

"Cayenne" (*Walckenaer*). —?

B.M.

17. ACROSOMA FLAVEOLUM.

Acrosoma flaveolum, Koch, Arachn. vi. p. 126, pl. 210. f. 522 (1839).

"Brazils" (*Koch*); Mexico (*Cuming & F. Smith*).

B.M.

18. ACROSOMA ARMIGERUM.

Acrosoma armigerum, Koch, Arachn. iv. p. 11, pl. 92. f. 257 (1837).

"Brazils" (*Koch*); sp. ead.? St. Paulo (*Bates*).

B.M.

19. ACROSOMA RUBICUNDULUM.

Acrosoma rubicundulum, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 74, pl. 2. f. 7 (1863, edit. 1864).

"Bogota" (Keyserling).

Belongs to the *A. armigerum* group.

20. ACROSOMA PUNGENS.

Plectana pungens, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 173. n. 35 (1837); Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, pl. 2. f. 5 (1863).

"Cayenne" (Walckenaer).

A broad species, somewhat like *A. flaveolum* in form, but spined more like *A. armigerum*.

21. ACROSOMA BICOLOR.

Acrosoma bicolor, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 73, pl. 2. f. 6 (1863, edit. 1864).

"Bogota" (Keyserling); sp. ead.? Venezuela (Dyson). B.M.

22. ACROSOMA MILITARE.

Aranea militaris, Fabricius, Ent. Syst. ii. p. 416.

Plectana militaris, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 174. n. 37 (1837).

South America.

According to Walckenaer, this species resembles *A. spinosum*, but has only four spines.

23. ACROSOMA RUBROCINCTUM, n. sp.

Cephalothorax truncate in front and prominent, depressed and expanded behind, with central transverse quasi-suture; abdomen trapezoidal, sinuated in front, and bearing two short obtuse spines, one on each anterior angle, projecting slightly on either side of the cephalothorax; two strong subconical widely divergent acuminate spines directed obliquely from each posterior angle; ventral surface longitudinally wrinkled. Length of abdomen 2 lines; width at widest part $1\frac{1}{4}$ line; entire length $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines; anterior spines $\frac{1}{4}$ of a line, posterior $1\frac{1}{4}$ line.

Colours. Cephalothorax, falces, maxillæ, and legs reddish castaneous, labium pale castaneous, sternum pitchy: abdomen above brownish olivaceous, encircled by reddish castaneous including spines; below black, with an orange spot on each side of the spinnerets; spines reddish castaneous.

Brazil. One specimen.

B.M.

A small and obscure species of the *P. crassispinum* group.

24. ACROSOMA RUFOPUNCTATUM, n. sp.

Cephalothorax as in preceding species; abdomen trapezoidal, with two short obtuse spines, one on each anterior angle, projecting obliquely outwards on either side of cephalothorax; two strong subconical, widely divergent acuminate spines directed obliquely outwards from each posterior angle, and nearly horizontal; ventral surface concentrically wrinkled. Length of abdomen 2 lines; width

at widest part $2\frac{1}{4}$ lines; entire length $2\frac{2}{3}$ lines; anterior spines $\frac{1}{4}$ of a line; posterior spines $1\frac{1}{4}$ line.

Colours. Cephalothorax, falces, sternum, maxillæ, and legs reddish castaneous; labium shining ochraceous; abdomen above olivaceous, encircled with orange and covered with red impressed punctures, about thirty in number; anterior spines orange, posterior dark castaneous; ventral surface olivaceous, with six large orange spots arranged in a nearly equilateral triangle on either side; spines as above.

Jamaica.

B.M.

Allied to the preceding species, and to *A. guerinii* of Keyserling.

25. ACROSOMA GUERINII.

Acrosoma guerinii, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 79, pl. 2. f. 12 (1863, edit. 1864).

"Bogota" (*Keyserling*).

26. ACROSOMA SAGITTATUM.

Plectana sagittata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 174. n. 38 (1837); Abbot, Georgian Spiders, f. 50.

Georgia.

B.M.

27. ACROSOMA CRASSISPINUM.

Acrosoma crassispinum, Koch, Arachn. iii. p. 55, pl. 92. f. 209 (1836).

"America" (*Koch*). — ?

B.M.

28. ACROSOMA GLADIOLA.

Plectana gladiola, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 182. n. 51 (1837-39).

Acrosoma aculeatum, Koch (nec Fabr.), Arachn. iii. p. 58, pl. 93. f. 211 (1836).

Venezuela (*Birschell*).

B.M.

29. ACROSOMA PLANUM.

Acrosoma planum, Koch, Arachn. iii. p. 81, pl. 99. f. 228 (1836).

Colombia (*Goudot*).

B.M.

30. ACROSOMA ACUTO-SPINUM.

Acrosoma acuto-spinum, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 69, pl. 2. f. 2.

"Bogota" (*Keyserling*).

Probably not distinct from *Acrosoma planum*.

31. ACROSOMA TRIANGULARE.

Acrosoma triangulare, Koch, Arachn. iii. p. 78, pl. 99. f. 226 (1836).

Var.? *Acrosoma excavatum*, Koch, *l. c.* p. 80, pl. 99. f. 228 (1836).

"Brazils" (*Koch*); sp. ead.? Ecuador (*Buckley*).

B.M.

I doubt whether *A. excavatum* is identical with *A. triangulare*, although Walckenaer has unhesitatingly called it a yellow variety.

32. ACROSOMA DIFISSUM.

Plectana difissa, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 181. n. 47 (1837-39).

Acrosoma bifurcatum, Koch, Arachn. vi. p. 124, pl. 209. f. 521 (1839).

Var. *Acrosoma gilvulum*, Koch, Arachn. xi. p. 67, pl. 376. f. 886 (1845).

"Brazils" (Koch); Columbia (Goudot).

B.M.

33. ACROSOMA LUCASII.

Acrosoma lucasii, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 68, pl. 2. f. 1 (1863, edit. 1864).

"Bogota" (Keyserling).

I doubt if this is distinct from *A. difissum*.

34. ACROSOMA FLABELLATUM.

Plectana flabellata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 192. n. 65 (1837-39).

"South America" (Walckenaer).

Seems to come very close to *A. difissum*.

35. ACROSOMA SWAINSONII.

Acrosoma swainsonii, Koch, Arachn. vi. p. 121, pl. 209. f. 519 (1839).

"Brazils" (Koch); sp. ead.? Columbia (Goudot).

B.M.

36. ACROSOMA GRACILE.

Epeira gracilis, Walckenaer, Tabl. des Aran. p. 65. n. 50; Hist. Nat. des Araign. iii. pl. 5; Apt. ii. p. 193. n. 66 (1837); Abbot's Georgian Spiders, f. 47 & 48.

Georgia.

B.M.

37. ACROSOMA CRASSUM.

Acrosoma crassum, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 78, pl. 2. f. 11 (1863, edit. 1864).

Bogota (Goudot).

B.M.

38. ACROSOMA PICTUM.

Acrosoma pictum, Koch, Arachn. iii. p. 61, pl. 3. f. 214 (1836).
Columbia (Goudot).

B.M.

39. ACROSOMA DE GEERII.

Plectana de geerii, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 174. n. 36 (1837).

Aranea spinosa, var., De Geer, Ins. vii. p. 322.

"Surinam" (Walckenaer).

Seems nearly allied to *A. pictum*.

40. ACROSOMA ALATUM.

Plectana alata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 193. n. 67 (1837-39).

"Province of St. Catharine, Brazil" (Walckenaer).

Allied to *A. pictum*.

41. ACROSOMA MATRONALE.

Acrosoma matronale, Koch, Arachn. xi. p. 68, pl. 376. f. 887 (1845).

"Mexico" (Koch). —?

B.M.

We received this species in a miscellaneous collection chiefly from India and Arabia; so that it is impossible to know where it came from.

42. ACROSOMA AUREOLUM.

Acrosoma aureolum, Koch, Arachn. iii. p. 60, pl. 93. f. 213 (1836).

"Brazils" (Koch).

Allied to *A. matronale*.

43. ACROSOMA BIFURCATUM.

Acrosoma bifurcata, Hahn, Arachn. ii. p. 65 (1834).

Epeira sexspinosa, Hahn, Monogr. der Aran. iii. pl. 4. f. B.

Acrosoma sexspinosa, Hahn, Arachn. ii. pl. 68. f. 158 (1834).

"Surinam, Brazil" (Hahn).

A peculiar-looking form, allied to *A. fissispinum*.

44. ACROSOMA REDUVIANUM.

Plectana reduviana, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 201. n. 78 (1837-39); Abbot's Georgian Spiders, f. 49.

? *A. digitatum*, Koch, Arachn. vi. pl. 210. f. 523 (1839).

New York.

B.M.

45. ACROSOMA BISICATUM.

Plectana bisicata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 192. n. 64 (1837-39).

Sp. ead.? Brazil.

B.M.

46. ACROSOMA FISSISPINUM.

Acrosoma fissispinum, Koch, Arachn. iii. p. 54, pl. 92. f. 208 (1836).

Brazil.

B.M.

47. ACROSOMA ELONGATUM.

Acrosoma elongatum, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 75, pl. 2. f. 8 (1863, edit. 1864).

"Bogota" (Keyserling).

A curiously shaped species of the *A. fissispinum* group.

48. ACROSOMA DUPLICATUM.

Plectana duplicata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 194. n. 68 (1837-39).

"Brazil" (Walckenaer).

Apparently allied to *A. fissispinum*.

49. ACROSOMA ASCIATUM.

Plectana asciata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 194. n. 69 (1837-39).

"Brazil" (Walckenaer).

Allied to *A. duplicatum*.

50. ACROSOMA BULLATUM.

Plectana bullata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 191. n. 63 (1837-39).

"Guyana, Cayenne" (*Walckenaer*).

Approaches *A. fissispinum* in the character of its spines.

51. ACROSOMA RACEMINUM, n. sp.

Cephalothorax elongated, rugose, somewhat expanded behind; caput prominent; oculiferous tubercles very prominent; femora of legs coarsely rugose; abdomen elongated, subovate, with deep sinus in front, emitting on either side a small obtuse spine or prolongation; the entire posterior three fourths of the abdomen are almost concealed by a double cluster of large bulbous protuberances twenty in number, arranged in a waved double series on either side with their apices turned upwards or outwards; ventral surface rugose, wrinkled, with a large globular protuberance behind spinnerets.

Colours. Cephalothorax, falces, maxillæ, and labium reddish castaneous; sternum fulvous; legs reddish castaneous, banded with darker castaneous; abdomen dirty testaceous, the apices of the bulbous protuberances reddish; ventral surface fulvous, with region of spinnerets brownish.

Orinoco. One specimen.

B.M.

Seems allied to *A. bullatum*.

52. ACROSOMA MAMMILLATUM, n. sp.

Cephalothorax as in preceding species; abdomen broader, with deeper sinus in front, but similar prolongations; the twelve anterior protuberances converted into short acutely tipped spines—two in the centre of abdomen, directed forwards and inwards, the others projected irregularly outwards from the sides; the six posterior arranged in a single vertical series of three at the end of the abdomen and consequently at some distance from the others; ventral surface with a hemispherical protuberance at back of spinnerets.

Colours. Cephalothorax dirty reddish testaceous, with eye-eminences, two spots forming a square with the lateral eye-eminences, and a submarginal streak black; falces and labium pitchy; sternum testaceous; maxillæ and legs reddish testaceous, more or less banded with dull black; abdomen ochraceous, spotted all over with black.

Santarem (*Bates*). One specimen.

B.M.

Allied to the preceding species.

53. ACROSOMA STELLATUM.

Plectana stellata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 171. n. 32 (1837).

"Carolina" (*Walckenaer*).

Seems to belong to the *A. bullatum* group.

54. ACROSOMA INCISUM.

Plectana incisa, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 195. n. 71 (1837-39).

"Brazil" (*Walckenaer*).

Seems from the description to approach *A. bullatum*; but

Walckenaer says its general form is somewhat similar to that of *Gasteracantha globulata*.

55. ACROSOMA PENTACANTHUM.

Plectana pentacantha, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 170. n. 31 (1837).
Pará. B.M.

56. ACROSOMA STELLIGERUM.

Acrosoma stelligerum, Thorell, Öfvers. Vetensk. Akad. Förhandl. xvi. p. 301. n. 3 (1859, edit. 1860); Eug. Resa, Zool. Arachn. p. 26 (1868).

Hab. — ?

Abdomen with five red spines; does not seem to differ from the *P. pentacantha* of Walckenaer.

57. ACROSOMA SLOANII.

Plectana sloanii, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 200. n. 76 (1837-39).
Araneus cancriformis major, Sloane, Hist. of Jamaica, ii. p. 197.
n. 14, pl. 235. f. 3.
Jamaica.

58. ACROSOMA TRANSITORIUM.

Acrosoma transitorium, Koch, Arachn. vi. p. 119, pl. 208. f. 518 (1839).

"Brazils" (*Koch*).

A very distinct form, with long oblique process terminating the abdomen above.

59. ACROSOMA AFFINE.

Acrosoma affine, Koch, Arachn. vi. p. 131, pl. 210. f. 525 (1839).
"Brazils" (*Koch*).

A species with broad abdomen, having somewhat the character of a *Gasteracantha*.

60. ACROSOMA PATRUELA.

Acrosoma patruela, Koch, Arachn. vi. p. 130, pl. 210. f. 524 (1839).

"Brazils" (*Koch*).

A species with broad abdomen, terminating at each posterior angle in two short spines.

61. ACROSOMA SACCATUM.

Acrosoma saccatum, Koch, Arachn. iii. p. 59, pl. 93. f. 212 (1836).

"Brazils" (*Koch*).

Closely allied to *A. patruela* of Koch.

MICRATHENA, Sundevall.

1. MICRATHENA CLYPEATA.

Epeira clypeata, Walckenaer, Tabl. des Aran. p. 67. n. 61; Hist. Nat. des Aran. i. f. 3.

Micrathena clypeata, Sundevall, Consp. Arachn. p. 14 ; Koch, Arachn. iv. p. 38, pl. 119. f. 272 (1837).

Plectana clypeata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 197. n. 74 (1837-39).
Pará, Santarem, Ega (*Bates*). B.M.

2. MICRATHENA BREVISPINA.

Acrosoma brevispinum, Keyserling, Sitzungsber. der Isis zu Dresden, p. 70, pl. 2. f. 3 (1863, edit. 1864).

"Bogota" (*Keyserling*).

Seems chiefly to differ from *Micrathena clypeata* in having four short spines on each side of the abdomen, and in the dark colour of the anterior two thirds of its upper surface.

3. MICRATHENA? TRISERRATA.

Plectana triserrata, Walckenaer, Apt. ii. p. 158. n. 13 (1837).

Aranea tetracantha, Pallas (nec Linn.), Spic. Zool. fasc. ix. pl. 3. f. 16, 17.

Guyana, Surinam.

Seems to be a *Micrathena*.

4. MICRATHENA? ARGOIDES.

Plectana argoides, Doleschall, Natuurk. Tijd. Nederlandsch-Indië, xiii. p. 425 (1857).

"Amboina" (*Doleschall*).

Somewhat like *Acrosoma elongatum* in appearance.

5. MICRATHENA BUFONINA.

Micrathena bufonina, Simon, Rev. et Mag. de Zool. p. 20 (1867).
Gilolo (*Simon*).

6. MICRATHENA? SQUAMMOSA.

Micrathena squamosa, Simon, Hist. Nat. des Araign. p. 293. f. 137 (1864).

"Brazil" (*E. Simon*).

More like *Cærostris* than the type of *Micrathena*.

7. On the Tail-Feathers of *Momotus*.

By OSBERT SALVIN, M.A. &c.

[Received April 1, 1873.]

In a valuable paper on the Motmots, recently published in 'The Ibis' (1872, p. 383), Dr. Murie throws doubts upon the reputed fact that such of these birds as possess racket-shaped terminations to the central rectrices themselves remove the webs of these feathers. He briefly refers to the subject thus:—

"The story has found credence that they (*i. e.* such Motmots as possess this character) nibble off the occasionally absent vanes of the long middle tail-feathers; but this notion has been contradicted."



Butler, Arthur G. 1873. "A list of the spiders of the genus *Acrosoma*."
Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London 1873, 420–429.

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