

Amazonian Arachnida and Myriapoda

Identification keys to all classes, orders, families, some genera,
and lists of known terrestrial species

Edited by
Joachim Adis

Scientific Readers to the Editor: *R. Desmond Kime & Sergei I. Golovatch*



Amazonian primary forest near the border to Suriname (photo: *J. Adis*; arthropod drawings: *Ricardo H.M. Figueroa*; design: *Elke Bustorf*).

Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow, ISBN 954-642-118-9, 270x195, over 500 pages, extensive pictorial keys, numerous b/w morphological drawings and scanning electronic micrographs, eight colour plates, several hundred references.

Price USD 49.90. Publication date: due December 2001.

Book objectives

Amazonia encompasses nearly 6,000,000 km², twice the size of Argentina. Up to five million species of terrestrial invertebrates may inhabit the various habitats in Amazonia, particularly its enormous area of dense forest. Three out of four species which the editor of this book collected in Central Amazonian forests during the last 25 years have been new to science. This holds, with few exceptions, for both the fauna on the forest floor and in the forest canopy. Knowledge about keystone species and their specific function in the biotope is still very fragmentary. Both are required, however, to define the means for sustainable use and protection of Amazonian landscapes. Almost one fourth of the families presently known worldwide in the Arachnida and one-fifth in the Myriapoda are represented in Amazonia.

An 'Identification Manual' on Amazonian arthropods for beginners and non-specialists has been demanded for many years by students of the Post-Graduate Courses in Entomology and Ecology of the National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA) and the University of Amazonas (UA) in Manaus/Brazil. Lack of any 'Guide Book' for Amazonian Arachnida and Myriapoda may explain, at least in part, the few local taxonomists working on these groups.

Most taxonomic literature on Neotropical Arachnida and Myriapoda is strictly descriptive, keys in translated and accepted textbooks are restricted to the higher taxa, and the first introductions to Amazonian arthropods refer to specific sampling sites and are mainly devoted to insects.

On the other hand, taxonomic knowledge of Amazonian Arthropoda has become greatly improved due to investigations of the editor during the last two decades, cooperatively between INPA and the Tropical Ecology Working Group at the Max-Planck-Institute for Limnology in Plön/Germany. Together with world-leading taxonomists, a first attempt is made:

- to provide a book with illustrated keys for neophytes and anyone interested in Neotropical Arachnida and Myriapoda.
- to supply a source of references on the actual taxonomic knowledge of Amazonian Arachnida and Myriapoda.
- to introduce and recommend approved sampling techniques developed for terrestrial arthropods in the Neotropics.
- to stimulate education and research in Neotropical Arachnida and Myriapoda.