THE SPIDER GENUS *BILLIMA* SIMON*

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Simon (1908) described the species *Billima attrita* which he placed in the subfamily Theridiosomatinae. Recently I noticed that Bonnet (1959, p. 5042) placed the genus in the subfamily Argiopinae. As I just revised the American species of the subfamily, an examination of the type specimen appeared in order.

I would like to thank Prof. M. Vachon and M. Hubert for the loan of the specimen from the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

Billima attrita is a theridiid. It does not belong in the family Araneidae (= Argiopidae) or to the Theridiosomatidae as it lacks a colulus, has only one tooth on the chelicerae, and the labium is not rebordered. All members of both the Araneidae and Theridiosomatidae have a large colulus, and usually have numerous teeth on the chelicerae and a rebordered labium. *Billima attrita* belongs to the genus *Theridion* (Levi and Levi, 1962). A description is presented here and the species is illustrated for the first time.

Theridion Walckenaer

Theridion Walckenaer, 1805. Type species designated by Int. Comm. Zool. Nomencl. Opinion 517, 1958: *Aranea picta* Walckenaer 1802.

Theridion is listed in the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology. *Billima* Simon, 1908. Type species by monotypy *B. attrita*. NEW SYNONYMY.

Theridion attrita (Simon)

Figs. 1-4

Billima attrita Simon, 1908, p. 430. Female lectotype here designated and juv. male paralectotype from "Stat. 109 Subiaco N." [Perth, West. Australia] in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, examined. — Bonnet, 1955, p. 887. Not *Theridion attritum* Nicolet 1849 (= *Anelosimus attritus*).

Description. Carapace yellowish with black line all around. Sternum yellow-orange with gray pigment. Legs yellow with darker marks on venter. Dorsum of abdomen whitish with a median darker longitudinal band, irregular in outline and bordered on each side by a white band (Fig. 1); venter black with a white transverse pigment band (Fig. 2). Eyes subequal in size. Anterior median eyes slightly more than one diameter apart, their radius from laterals.

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Figs. 1-4. *Theridion attritum* (Simon), female. 1. Dorsum of abdomen. 2. Venter of abdomen. 3. Female genitalia, dorsal view. 4. Epigynum.

Posterior eyes their diameter apart. Labium attached to sternum with indistinct seam. One tooth on anterior border of chelicerae. Legs quite short, abdomen subovate (Fig. 1). Epigynum has a central circular depression containing the openings (Fig. 4). Connecting ducts of epigynum coiled (Fig. 3). Total length, 2.2 mm. Carapace 0.7 mm long, 0.7 mm wide. First femur, 0.8 mm, patella-tibia 1.0 mm, metatarsus 0.7 mm, tarsus 0.4 mm. Second patella and tibia 0.8 mm, third 0.5 mm, fourth 0.8 mm.

This species is surprisingly similar to *Theridion melanurum* Hahn of Europe and *Theridion varians* Hahn. However, it is much smaller and the internal ducts differ in structure (Fig. 3). The ventral transverse band on the abdomen (Fig. 2) would be unusual in American and European *Theridion* species.

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