

A populational study of the cave dwelling spider *Prorachias* sp. (Araneae, Nemesiidae) in the “Lapa do Fuzil” cave, Vila Propício, state of Goiás, Brazil

Gislina Lisboa de OLIVEIRA¹ & Pedro GNASPINI²

1 Departamento de Biologia Geral, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal de Goiás, Caixa Postal 131, 74001-970 Goiânia, GO, Brazil. gispider@bol.com.br

2 Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Caixa Postal 11461, 05422-970 São Paulo, SP, Brazil. gnaspini@ib.usp.br

This study estimated the population size of *Prorachias* sp. in “Lapa do Fuzil” cave and morphometrically compared these spiders with *P. bristowei* in search for troglomorphisms. Estimates were made using the Fisher-Ford capture-recapture method. The results showed that the population in the cave varied considerably between the months sampled but was nevertheless relatively high, varying between 300 and 500 individuals. The measurements taken showed that *P. bristowei* differs significantly in form and size from *Prorachias* sp., which appendages, however, were not significantly longer than those of *P. bristowei*. *Prorachias* sp. does not appear to exhibit troglomorphisms or morphological and morphometrical differences such as ocular and pigmentation reduction, or proportional increase in the length of the appendages.