

**Revisions of Genera in the *Asteron*-complex
(Araneae: Zodariidae).
Asteron Jocqué and the New Genus *Pseudasteron***

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ABSTRACT. The genus *Asteron* Jocqué is revised. It now contains 8 species: the type species *A. reticulatum* Jocqué and seven species here described as new: *A. biperforatum* n.sp., *A. grayi* n.sp., *A. hunti* n.sp., *A. inflatum* n.sp., *A. quintum* n.sp., *A. tasmaniense* n.sp. and *A. zabkai* n.sp. A key to the species is provided. The new genus *Pseudasteron* n.gen. is erected for a single new species *P. simile* n.sp.

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The genera treated in the present paper are part of the medium size, mainly tropical spider family Zodariidae which has its highest diversity in Africa and Australia. The majority of the Australian genera, and the entire *Asteron* complex are endemic to the continent. Very little is known about the biology of these taxa but it would seem that, like most other representatives of the family, these small spiders are adapted to semi-arid areas or to regions with at least a pronounced dry season.

This is the second of a series of papers that seeks to define generic limits within the *Asteron*-complex. Initially two species were described by Jocqué (1991) in the genus *Asteron*. Baehr & Jocqué (2000) explained the reasons why this complex group has to be split. The present paper delimits the genus *Asteron* and describes several new species in it. It also erects the new genus *Pseudasteron* which has many characters in common but clearly differs from *Asteron* by characters of the secondary genitalia.

Materials and methods

The format of the descriptions follows Jocqué & Baehr (1992). All measurements are in mm. Institutions from which material was borrowed are abbreviated as follows:

- AMS Australian Museum, Sydney (M. Gray)
- KBIN Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen (L. Baert)
- MV Museum Victoria, Melbourne (C. McPhee)
- QM Queensland Museum, Brisbane (R. Raven)
- USNM United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institute, Washington (J. Coddington)
- ZSM Zoologische Sammlung des Bayerischen Staates, München (B. Baehr)

Other abbreviations include: NP, National Park; Ra, [mountain] range; Rd, road; SF, State Forest.