

Linyphiidae: *Grammonota*

J. Miller, March 2011

Grammonota is a moderately common and diverse erigonine genus in North America extending to South America; putatively endemic species have been described from several Caribbean islands. Within the Neotropics, the limits of *Grammonota* tend to become somewhat ambiguous.



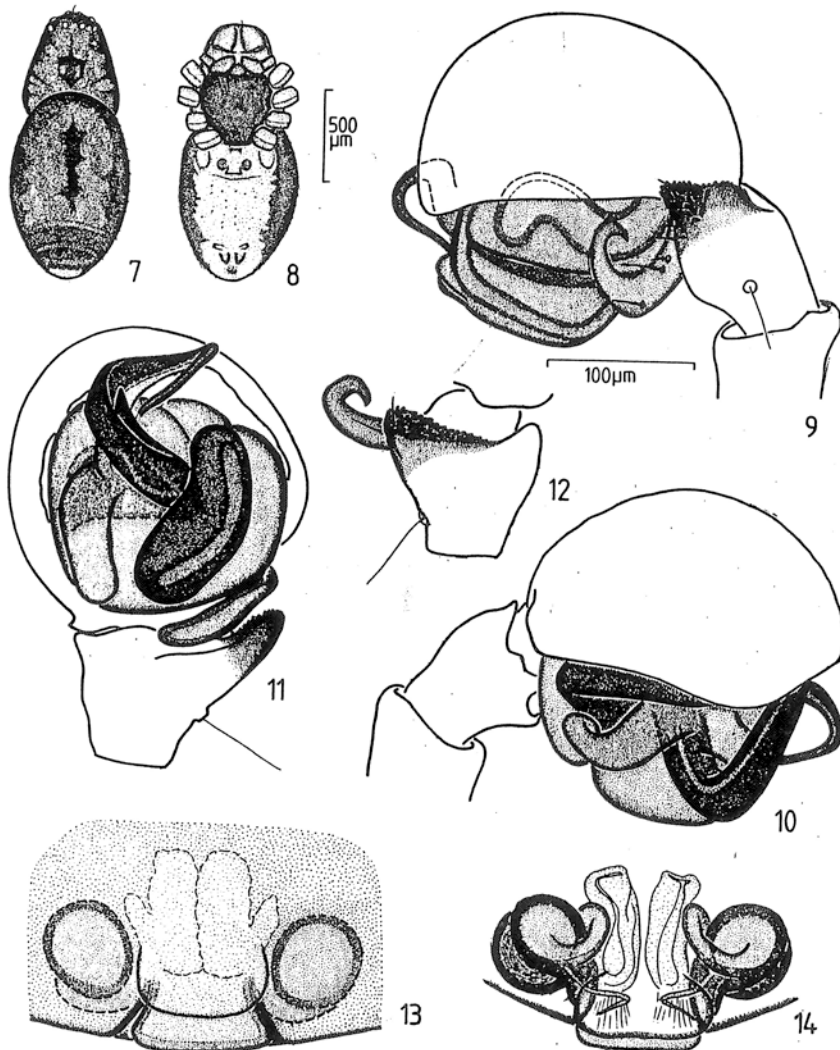
Fig 1. Distribution of *Grammonota* in the study region (based mostly on Platnick).

Monophyly. Monophyly and relationships to several other genera currently ambiguous.

Fossils. No fossil record.

Search strategy. Small spiders (1-3 mm body length), usually found at ground level (leaf litter, under stones, etc), sometimes found in higher vegetation strata.

Recognizing the group. More or less like many other erigonine linyphiids. Abdominal pattern may be present. Tibiae with one dorsal macrosetae. Dondale (1959) reported that all metatarsi have trichobothria in *Grammonota*, but that does not hold for all Neotropical taxa currently included in the genus. *Male pedipalp:* Tibial apophysis present, often rugose. Retrolateral part of cymbium with groove or excavated region, radix corkscrew-shaped, embolic membrane absent.



Similar taxa. *Grammonota* is similar to the (at least nominally) worldwide genus *Ceratinopsis* and these may intergrade; both have a corkscrew-shaped radix.

Needed collecting. All areas.

References

- Chickering, A. M. 1970. New species of *Grammonota* (Araneae, Linyphiidae) from Panama and Costa Rica. *Psyche, Camb.* 77: 347-360.
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- Müller, H.-G. & S. Heimer. 1991. Spiders from Colombia XV. The linyphiid genus *Grammonota* Emerton, 1882 in northern Colombia, with descriptions of two new species (Arachnida: Araneida). *Revue suisse Zool.* 98: 269-278.
- Miller, J. A. 2007. Review of erigonine spider genera in the Neotropics (Araneae: Linyphiidae, Erigoninae). *Zool. J. Linn. Soc.* 149(Suppl. 1): 1-263.