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NEW *ALTHEPUS* SPECIES FROM SARAWAK, SUMATRA AND THAILAND (ARACHNIDA: ARANEAE : OCHYRO CERATIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Three new *Althepus* species are described: *A. lehi*, male and female, from West Sarawak; *A. suhartoi*, male and female, from Gunung Leuser in northern Sumatra, and *A. tibiatius*, male, from a cave in Thailand.

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by

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Abstract

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Introduction

The genus *Althepus* Thorell comprises small spiders, ornated with species-specific markings on carapace, abdomen and sternum. In the most typical species the legs are extremely long and thin and have numerous false joints in metatarsi and tarsi. They are found in Southeast Asian rainforests in the darkest places near the ground, such as overhanging river banks, tree-buttresses or under stone-slabs; they frequently occur in caves, although they show no signs of morphological adaptation to the underground environment. Some short-legged species have been found in the Himalaya up to 3000 m altitude (Brignoli 1973a). The spiders construct dense, flat or dome-shaped sheetwebs, above which a number of irregular catching threads; they usually keep themselves in the web, hanging upside down on the underside.

The type species *A. pictus* Thorell was found in Birma, both in a cave and outside. It was originally described in the family Pholcidae, but later placed in the family Ochyroceratidae by Fage (1912). *A. stellatus* from Java was described in the genus *Ochyrocera* (Simon 1905) but moved in *Althepus* by Fage (op.cit.). Recently, four new species were described by Brignoli (1973a, b, c) from Nepal, southern India and Mindanao respectively, the latter from a cave. Unfortunately, only the males of *Althepus pictus* Thorell and *A. machadoi* Brignoli are known at present. Many more species all over southern Asia still await description; the males and females of three of these are described here.

***Althepus lehi* n.sp. (figs. 1-6)**

Material examined: 1 male, holotype, 2 males, 2 females, paratypes,

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