

Nota postuma

Andrés Felipe García Rincón (1988–2023): a young Colombian star extinguished

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Selfie taken in Tolima year 2012.

On the fateful morning of May 18th, 2023, Arachnology lost Andrés García, who untimely passed away in Rio de Janeiro. Andrés, the cherished only child of Orlando and Magdalena, first drew breath in Bogotá, Colombia on September 7th, 1988 – a date that fortuitously aligns with the anniversary of Brazilian independence. From the very beginning, his journey was intertwined with a deep con-



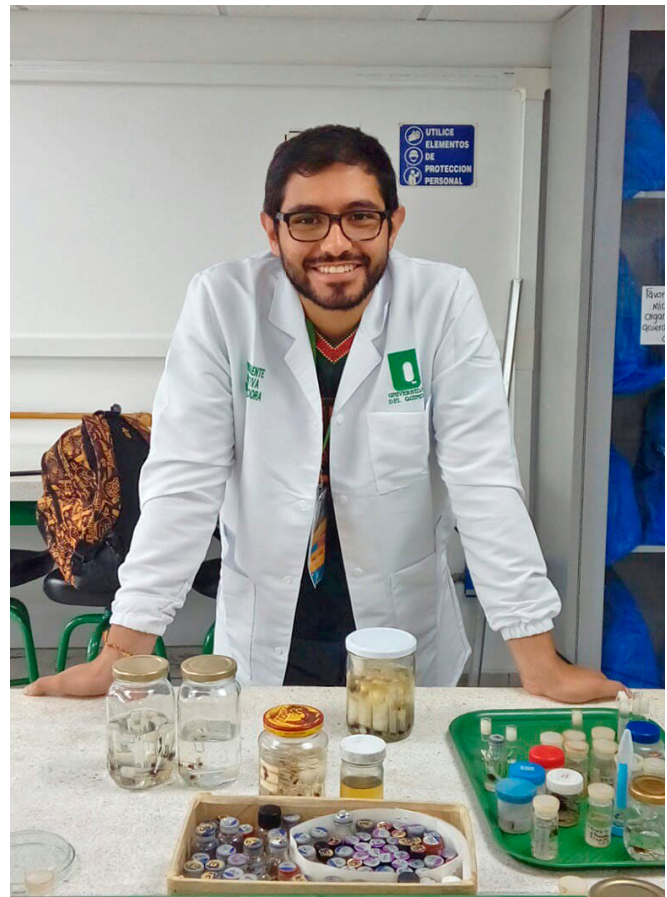
Andrés, passing on his knowledge to the young students of a rural community in Altaquer, Nariño, Colombia. Photo by M. Medrano (2012).

nection to the vibrant spirit of the largest country in the Tropics, where he met his wife, Jádila, and made his life.

Andrés always demonstrated a brilliance in his passion for the natural world. In addition to zoology, he became interested in botany from the time he graduated, a passion that he maintained and continued to nurture. After graduating from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 2012 under the guidance of Dr. Eduardo Florez, a pioneering figure in the advancement of arachnology in Colombia, Andrés García embarked on his Brazilian journey, where he spent all the rest of his short life. Andrés pursued his Master of Science degree at the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (finished 2016), under the mentorship of Adriano B. Kury. It was during this time that he revised the cosmetid genus *Rhaucus*, a project for which he received the award for the best poster presentation on systematics at the V Latin American Congress of Arachnology in 2017. He quickly published his thesis as a paper and moved on to his Ph.D. with the family Agoristenidae, a group that he studied deeply and mastered in a short time, becoming a world authority on its taxonomy. Following the successful completion of his Ph.D. in 2021, Andrés embarked on a new chapter as a postdoctoral researcher, immersing himself in the elusive world of Cryptogeobiidae. In addition to his formal scholarship projects, he delved into studying

the diversity of other harvestmen families, including Ampycidae, Kimulidae, Cranidae, Manaosbiidae, Gonyleptidae (unpublished), and even the armored tiny spiders of the Tetrablemmidae family.

Andrés's contributions extended beyond his academic achievements. His ability to foster collaboration and build networks shone throughout his career. Recognizing the importance of supporting and nurturing the next generation of Colombian researchers, Andrés actively established a network of collaborators, particularly among young aspiring scientists. His mentorship and guidance served as a beacon of inspiration, empowering these individuals to pursue their own scientific endeavors. This impetus did not appear as a consecrated researcher, he had it from a young age. With the sacrifice of his parents, Andrés studied at a Jesuit school in Bogotá (Colegio Mayor de San Bartolomé), with which he visited distant parts of the city as a missionary, witnessing different realities and the sense of collaboration in society.



During the course on arachnids that he taught at the University of Quindío, Colombia. Photo by Jádila Prando (2018).

Moreover, Andrés embraced the power of modern technology and social media platforms as tools for scientific outreach. He created and managed an Instagram account dedicated to promoting and popularizing the study of Opiliones (@enmihumildeopilion), captivating audiences from diverse backgrounds. Through engaging visuals and accessible explanations, Andrés skillfully bridged the gap between scientific research and the wider public, sparking curiosity and fostering a deeper appreciation for these creatures.

He was actively involved in organizing the VII Latin American Congress of Arachnology to be held in Bogotá in 2024. In an effort to make the event more accessible to aspiring students interested in arachnology, Andrés generously offered to teach a virtual mini-course on species distribution mapping. His selfless contribution (translated into fundraising) aimed to reduce the registration fees and enable the participation of a greater number of emerging students.

García, a patronymic surname of Basque origin derived from Gaztea, meaning ‘young,’ perfectly encapsulates the essence of Andrés. His family and closest friends will remember him as the wanderer, passionate about reading, traditional music, dancing, small towns, basketball, soccer, jokes and silly faces even at the worst moments, and stories over a cup of coffee in a bakery. The world will remember him as a young, accomplished arachnologist, whose scientific career was tragically cut short. This loss leaves us contemplating the immeasurable potential and invaluable contributions he would undoubtedly have made in the years to come.

List of taxa described by Andrés García

Opiliones Sundevall, 1833

family Agoristenidae Šilhavý, 1973

subfamily Leiosteninae Šilhavý, 1973

Avima Roewer, 1949

Avima tuttifrutti **García** & Pastrana-Montiel, 2021

Avima wayuunaiki **García**, González Vargas & Gutiérrez Estrada, 2022

Barinas González-Sponga, 1987

Barinas guanenta **García** & Ahumada-C., 2022

Barinas piragua Ahumada-C. & **García**, 2020

Leptostygnus Mello-Leitão, 1940

Leptostygnus yarigui **García** & Villarreal, 2020

Muscopilio Villarreal & **García**, 2021

Muscopilio onod Villarreal & **García**, 2021

Paravima Caporiacco, 1951

Paravima lokura **García** & Villarreal, 2023

Paravima magistri **García** & Villarreal, 2023

Paravima toloro **García** & Villarreal, 2023

family Cosmetidae Koch, 1839

subfamily Cynortinae Mello-Leitão, 1933

Cynorta Koch, 1839

Cynorta pictoides Kury & **García**, 2016

subfamily Metergininae Medrano, Kury & Mendes, 2021

Rhaucoides Roewer, 1912

Rhaucoides atahualpa Medrano, **García** & Kury, 2022

Rhaucoides nasa Medrano, **García** & Kury, 2022

Rhaucus Simon, 1879

Rhaucus florezi **García** & Kury, 2017

family Cranidae Roewer, 1913

Phalangodus Gervais, 1842

Phalangodus briareos Villarreal & **García**, 2016

Phalangodus cottus Villarreal & **García**, 2016

Phalangodus kuryi Villarreal & **García**, 2016

Phalangodus gyes Villarreal & **García**, 2016

Zalmoxoidea Sørensen, 1886

Hevelia Kury, **García** & Ahumada-C., 2023

Hevelia crucis Kury, **García** & Ahumada-C., 2023

family Kimulidae Pérez-González, Kury & Alonso-Zaraza-ga, 2007

Usatama Kury, **García** & Medrano, 2019

Usatama infumatus Kury, **García** & Medrano, 2019

Araneae Clerck, 1757

family Tetrablemmidae O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1873

Caraimatta Lehtinen, 1981

Caraimatta brescoviti **García**, Martínez & Ahumada-C., 2019

List of Arachnida papers published by Andrés García up to date

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