



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT **American Arachnological Society** Paula Cushing, AAS

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## **DADDY LONGLEGS BATTLE FOR TERRITORY**

**DENVER—April 16, 2018—** Pull a leg off a daddy longlegs (Arachnida, Opiliones) and you just might be preventing a male from getting his girl. In an [article](#) just published in the *Journal of Arachnology*, Solimary García-Hernández and [Glauco Machado](#) describe fighting matches between male daddy longlegs.

Like long-legged boxers, the males of a species found in Colombia whip each other with their long second pair of legs. Fights last up to 15 minutes. The winner rules the territory where a harem of females can then lay their eggs in peace, protected from the harassment of other males by their macho territorial rulers. And the male fighter extraordinaire gets to mate with all the females in his territory.

The reproductive behavior of the Colombian daddy longlegs is remarkably similar to other non-related species that live in Brazil. The reasons of this similarity are not yet fully understood. However, the authors of the paper suggest that similar ecological conditions in the Amazonian and the Atlantic forests may have favored similar evolutionary responses in these two fascinating groups of arachnids.

### **About the American Arachnological Society**

The American Arachnological Society was founded in 1975 to further the study of arachnids (spiders and their relatives), foster closer cooperation and understanding between amateur and professional arachnologists, and to publish the [Journal of Arachnology](#), one of the premier scientific journals presenting current research about arachnids. Connect with the AAS on its [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

**NOTE: Photos and video available**

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