

Recent molecular phylogenetic data (van Elst 2020) indicate that *M. mendax* is a complex of at least four species that appear to separate over an east to west geographical gradient - one in Texas, one that ranges from Colorado to Chihuahua, one in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, and one in the Death Valley area of Nevada and California (see adjoining map). The first problem involves determining the identity of the true *M. mendax*, because the type locality is Colorado Springs, Colorado, and no samples have been sequenced from that locale. Samples from the type locality would then be *M. mendax* and all other clades would be new species to describe.

Snelling (1976) also discussed variation in hair length in *mendax*, indicating that series from Colorado, northern New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California have shorter hairs on the pronotum and second tergum than those from the mountains of the Edwards Plateau in Texas and southern Arizona. He also discussed a north to south cline in hair length. Moreover, all of these patterns need to be examined using numerous additional sequences from across the geographic range of this complex that also include samples from mountain ranges in which short and long hair forms co-occur.