

An ongoing debate in biogeography centers around the relative importance of dispersal and vicariance in the evolutionary history of the terrestrial world's biota. Especially interesting are old lineages that do not readily cross oceanic barriers, for these may reflect ancient and more recent geological events at global and local scales. Here we present a preliminary biogeographical analysis of *Deinopis*, a circumtropical spider genus that provides a test of the importance of vicariance versus dispersal during the ancient breakup of Gondwana and the formation of present-day Caribbean islands. We utilized mtDNA COI and estimated dated phylogenetic hypotheses using Bayesian Inference. We employed two fossil calibration points setting the minimal ages of Uloboridae + Deinopidae and Deinopidae. Finally, we reconstructed possible ancestral areas using maximum likelihood methods. We found much deeper phylogenetic structure than is captured by current taxonomy and thus report results without species names. The preliminary LaGrange analysis reconstructs an African origin for the genus, a South American origin for Caribbean taxa, and a Caribbean origin for North American taxa. The divergences between Old and New World taxa occurred around 50 million years ago, however, with low precision rendering hypothesis testing inconclusive. The timing of subsequent Caribbean divergences appear to be consistent with geologic events such as GAARlandia, and clade structure is consistent with our understanding of the history of the formation of Caribbean islands. Future work will increase the South American, Central American, Australian, and African taxon sample aiming to better address the biogeographic origins of this fascinating genus.