

Some notes on *Pardosa occidentalis* Simon (Araneae, Lycosidae)

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Known for over eighty years only from the female holotype, *Pardosa occidentalis* seemed to be a species confined to Portugal (Algarvia) (Simon, 1881; Tongiorgi, 1966).

Recently, however, several populations of this species have been found in France, near Montpellier and Avignon (Ledoux, 1973 a, b). This made possible the description of the male and observations about the ecology of the species. Meanwhile I have had the chance to discover, in the collection of the Natural History Museum of Florence, a female specimen that is undoubtedly identifiable with *P. occidentalis*. The specimen was collected in Sardinia near Guspini (Cagliari) on 3 May 1924. I have also been able to study another specimen, also a female, sent to me by Dr M. Bigot (Marseille); it was found, together with several specimens of *Pardosa cribrata* Simon, at Camargue (Mouths of Rhone) on 3 July 1972.

With the available data, it is now possible to trace the probable distribution area of the species. It comprises the southern regions of the Iberian peninsula, the south of France and the west coast of Sardinia. The possibility of the presence of *P. occidentalis* in North Africa (Morocco and Algeria) cannot be excluded.

Only one species of the *P. monticola* group, *Pardosa angusta* Denis, has hitherto been described from North Africa (Denis, 1956). Owing to the close resemblance and the high variability of many species of the *P. monticola* group, it is often difficult, on the basis of only one specimen, to give a reliable judgment about its possible relationships. This is the case with *P. angusta* of which only the female holotype is known. Nevertheless, I regard this species as closely related to *P. occidentalis*. Indeed, there are considerable similarities between *P. angusta* and *P. occidentalis*, particularly in the carapace colour pattern and in the shape of the septum of the epigynum.

P. angusta differs from *P. occidentalis*, however, in having the light lateral bands on the carapace more regular, that is less serrated on the upper margin. Moreover, although the length to width ratio of the septum of the epigynum of both species is higher than in any other species of the *P. monticola* group, in *P. occidentalis* the septum is obviously lengthened and the sides are rather straight and parallel (Fig. 1), whereas the septum of *P. angusta* (Fig. 2) becomes wider posteriorly and the sides are sinuous.

The differences in colour pattern of the carapace of the specimen I described and of those observed by Ledoux (1973 a) are evidently caused by the prolonged stay in alcohol of the holotype of *P. occidentalis*.

As regards the relationships within the species of the group, *P. monticola* has undoubtedly a common stem with both of the above mentioned species.

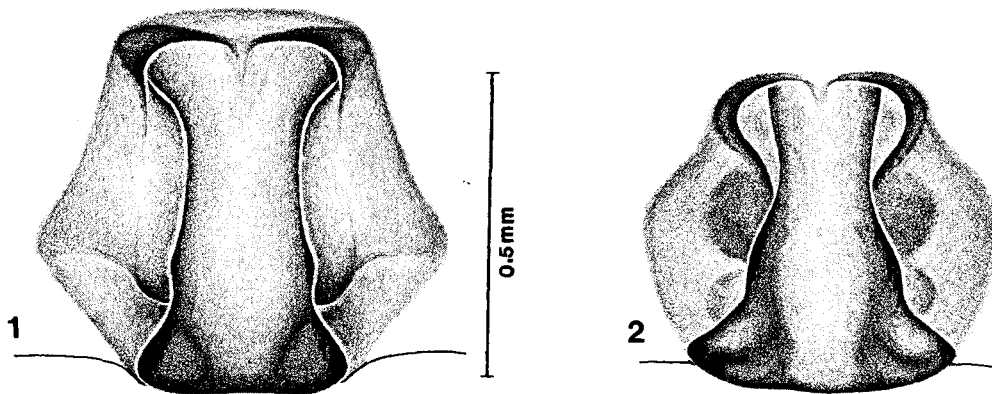


Fig. 1. *Pardosa occidentalis* Simon; epigyne of a specimen from Sardinia. Fig. 2. *Pardosa angusta* Denis; epigyne of the holotype.

These brief remarks, besides providing further data on the knowledge of *P. occidentalis*, also draw attention to the fact that the species of the *P. monticola* group can now be more clearly defined (morphologically and geographically) than was possible a few years ago. In my opinion a critical review of the distribution areas of the individual species of the group is today possible and desirable.

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A new species of Linyphiid spider, *Lepthyphantes merretti*, from the Dolomites

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During a short holiday spent in the Dolomites in the summer of 1973 several specimens were taken of a *Lepthyphantes* species of the *mughi* group (Simon 1929, p. 575). The species does not correspond with any described species, and neither Dr K. Thaler (Innsbruck) nor Prof. Dr F. Miller (Brno) (to both of whom I am indebted for advice) recognised the species as belonging to the Alpine or Carpathian fauna. I am therefore describing the species as new.

Lepthyphantes merretti n.sp.

♂ *Total length* 2.25 mm. *Cephalothorax*: Length 1.13 mm., width 0.89 mm. Greyish brown, suffused with varying amounts of black in the fovea, striae and margins and ocular area; the head bears several stout curved bristles. *Chelicerae*: With weak stridulatory ridges. *Abdomen*: Cylindrical, black with no pattern, clothed with fairly long hairs. *Sternum*: Almost black, furnished with a few longish hairs. *Legs*: Brown. Relative lengths I/IV/II/III: absolute lengths of segments (mm.):

	fem.	pat.	tib.	metat.	tars.	total
I	1.37	0.32	1.32	1.32	0.81	5.14
II	1.26	0.32	1.21	1.21	0.71	4.71
III	1.07	0.29	0.89	1.05	0.60	3.90
IV	1.30	0.32	1.23	1.37	0.77	4.99

Femora with one dorsal spine near apex, I with an additional prolateral spine in distal half; all femora with 2 rows of long bristles ventrally. Tibiae I-IV with 2 spines dorsally, 4 spines (roughly in 2 pairs) ventrally, one prolateral spine and one retrolateral spine both in distal half of segment. Metatarsi I-IV with one dorsal spine; I-III with a trichobothrium, position on I 0.22. Tarsal claws long, virtually untoothed. *Palp*: Figs. 1 and 2. Brown, as legs. Patella with long spine, tibia with shorter spine. Cymbium (Fig. 3) with conical projection on prolateral side, and a dark pointed projection posteriorly. Paracymbium with anterior branch slightly bifid at extremity (Fig. 4); posterior branch with a number of stout bristles. Lamella (Figs. 1 and 5) with 2 branches, each with several saw-like teeth: quite distinct from the lamella of *L. mughi* (Fickert) (Fig. 6).

♀ *Total length* 3.0 mm. *Cephalothorax*: Length 1.18 mm., width 0.90 mm. Pale brown, suffused with varying amounts of black in fovea, striae, margins and ocular area; the ocular area and the head bear a number of hairs. *Chelicerae*: With weak stridulatory