

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.

References

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

A. F. Millidge
Little Farthing,
Upper Westhill Road,
Lyme Regis, Dorset

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.

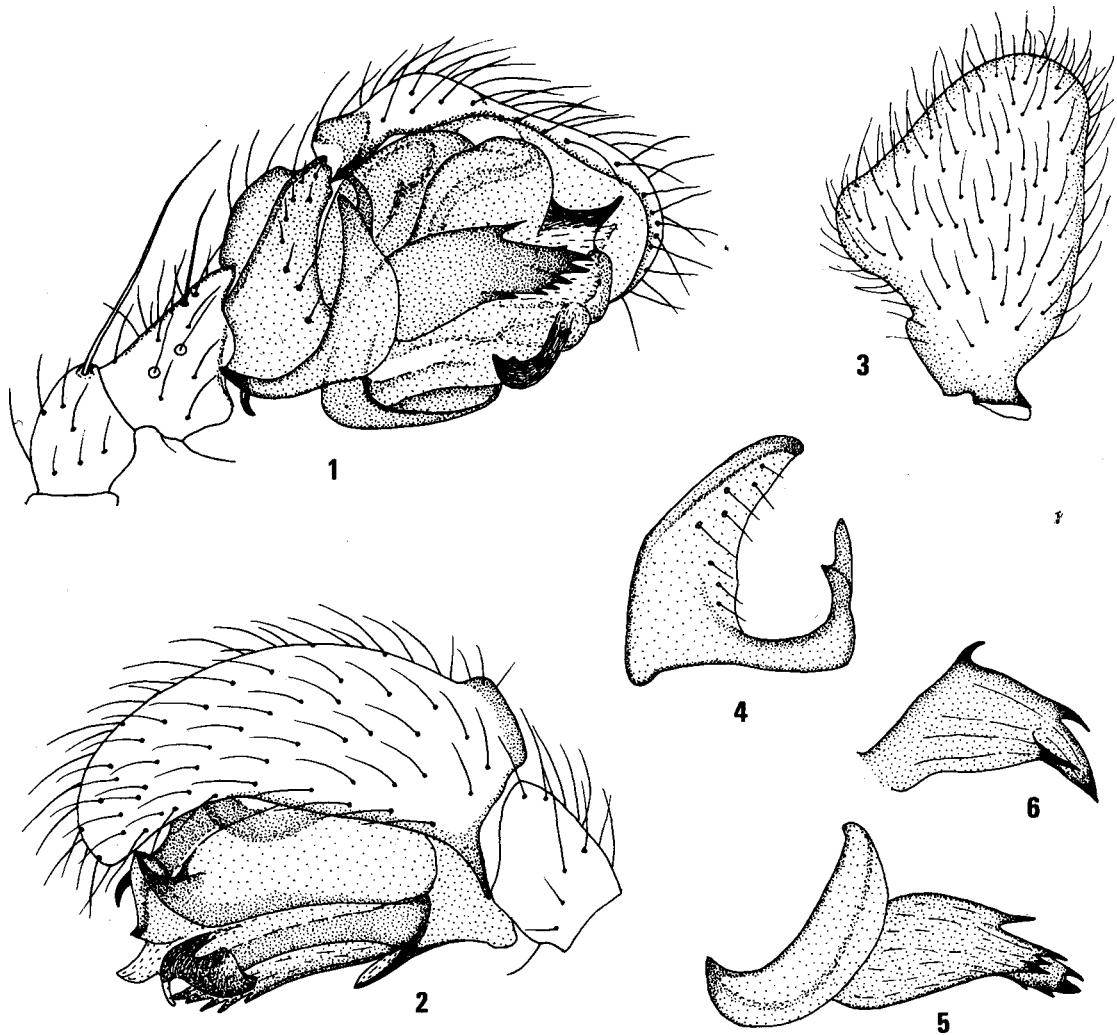
Lepthyphantes merretti n.sp.

♂ *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



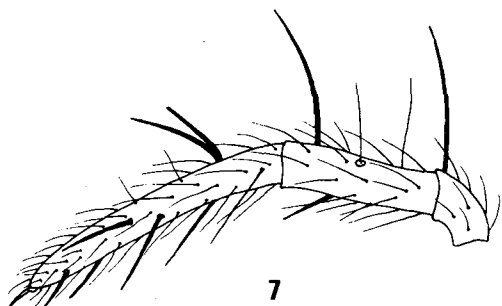
Figs. 1-5 *Lepthyphantes merretti* ♂. 1 Palp from outside. 2 Palp from inside. 3 Left cymbium from above. 4 Paracymbium from slightly behind. 5 Paracymbium and lamella from outside and below.

Fig. 6 *L. mugi* ♂. Lamella from outside and below.

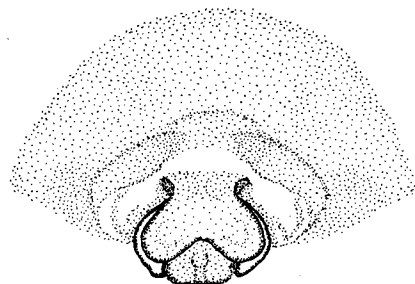
ridges. **Abdomen:** Long ovoid, usually entirely black, but one specimen with 2 faint white broken chevrons dorsally at posterior end; densely clothed with short hairs, with a few longer hairs in anterior dorsal half. **Sternum:** Yellow-brown, more or less heavily suffused with black, furnished with a few longish hairs. **Legs:** Pale brown to brown. Relative lengths IV/1/II/III: absolute lengths of segments (mm.):

	fem.	pat.	tib.	metat.	tars.	total
I	1.30	0.39	1.26	1.19	0.77	4.91
II	1.26	0.39	1.19	1.19	0.72	4.75
III	1.07	0.32	0.93	1.00	0.60	3.92
IV	1.37	0.35	1.26	1.36	0.77	5.11

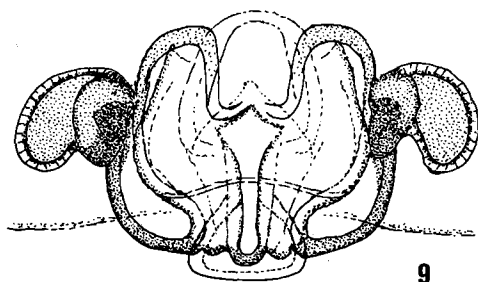
Spines as in ♂; length of basal dorsal spine on tibia I ca. 2d, on tibia IV > 3d. Metatarsal trichobothria as



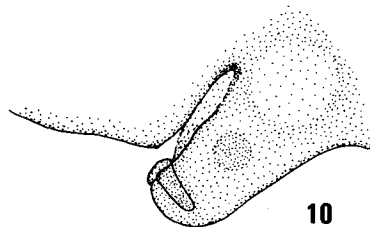
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Figs. 7-10 *Lepthyphantes merretti* ♀. 7 Palp. 8 Epigyne from below. 9 Vulva. 10 Epigyne from right side.

in ♂; tarsal claws as in ♂. *Palp*: Fig. 7, with a stout dorsal spine on patella and on tibia, tarsus long, bearing a number of stout spines and a long untoothed claw terminally. *Epigyne*: Figs. 8 and 10. *Vulva*: Fig. 9, complex in appearance.

Lepthyphantes merretti belongs to Simon's *mughi* group of the *Lepthyphantes*, and appears to be quite close to *mughi* itself. It is distinguished from that species by the lamella in the male, by the epigyne in the female, and in both sexes by the more or less unicolorous abdomen. The habitat of course is also different.

Material. One ♂ (holotype) and 4 ♀ under stones near Sass Pordoi (Sella Group of the Dolomites) at ca. 2900 m. on 16.7.73; one ♂ under a stone below Settsass (near Corvara) at ca. 2200 m. on 19.7.73. The holotype ♂ and one paratype ♀ have been deposited at the British Museum (Natural History); the remainder are held in my own collection.

Reference

SIMON, E. 1929: *Les Arachnides de France*, Vol. 6, pt. 3. Paris.