

Spiders from the Philippines II. On two species from Palawan Island (Araneae)

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During the *Noona Dan* Expedition only two species of Segestriidae and Mimetidae were collected in the Philippines, both on Palawan island; as our knowledge of the Oriental species of these families is still very poor, I thought it would be of interest to publish a note on this material.

I thank Dr S. L. Tuxen and Dr B. Petersen (Zoologisk Museum, København) for the loan of this material and Mrs M. Helou for help given in the preparation of the illustrations.

Fam. Segestriidae

Ariadna snellemani (van Hasselt, 1882)

Material: Philippines, Palawan, Brookes Point, Uring Uring, 18 August 1961, Noona Dan Exp. 1961-62, 1 ♂.

Redescription (♂): prosoma reddish brown, dorsally very finely granulated, almost hairless; 6 equal eyes in the normal disposition, lateral diads separated from the central one by 4/5 of the diameter of one eye. Labium normal, sternum ovate, yellowish brown, smooth, with some hairs. Chelicerae reddish brown, with, as normally 3-1 teeth. Palp, see Fig. 1. Legs yellowish brown; tarsi I-II scopulated, metatarsi II scopulated in the distal half; leg I, see Fig. 2; spination legs II-IV: femora II-III with 1 pl (prolateral) spine; tibiae II with 2 pl, 2 v (ventral, 1 pl, 1 rl-retrolateral-), 2 a (apical, 1 pl, 1 rl); tibiae III with 2 rl, 1 a (rl); metatarsi II with 2 pl; metatarsi III with 2 rl, 2 d (dorsal, 1 pl, 1 rl), 2 a (1 pl, 1 rl); metatarsi IV with 2 a (1 pl, 1 rl); other segments spineless. Opisthosoma not well preserved; dorsally whitish purple, the white parts form many very narrow concentric stripes along the sides of the abdomen; ventrally lighter coloured, especially in the genital region; spinnerets whitish; colulus small.

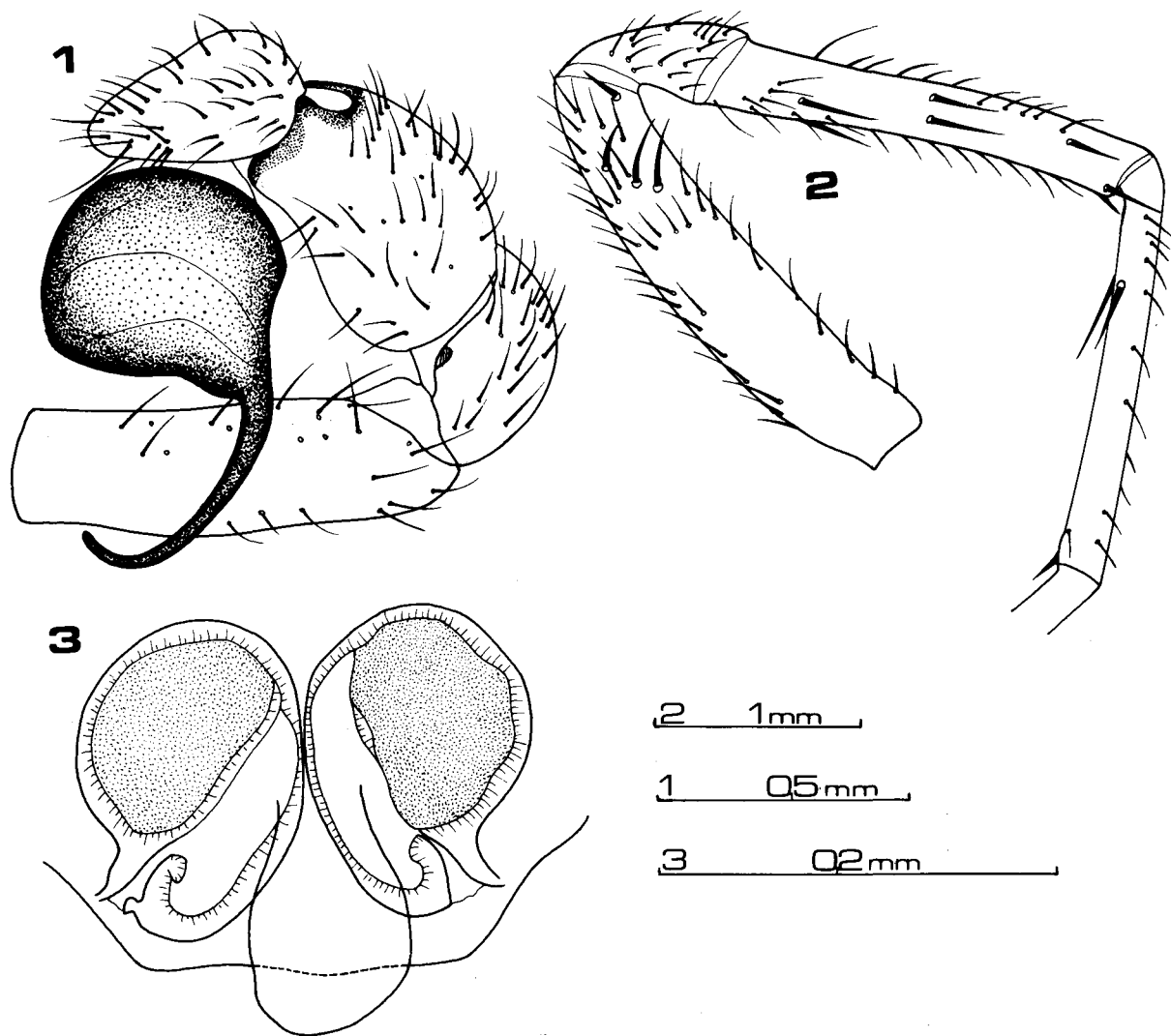
Dimensions (in mm, slightly approximated): prosoma 2.30 long, 1.62 wide; opisthosoma (shrunk) 2.12 long. Total length: 4.42.

Legs	Femora	Patellae	Tibiae	Metatarsi	Tarsi	Total
I	2.12	0.80	1.90	1.85	0.87	7.54
II	1.87	0.80	1.75	1.75	0.80	6.97
III	1.42	0.75	1.10	1.30	0.60	6.17
IV	1.80	0.80	1.55	1.45	0.62	6.22

Discussion: to this species, described and later recorded, only on ♀♀ from Sumatra (Muara Labu – type.loc. –, Ajer Mancior) and Pulu Berhala, Kritscher (1957), for reasons unknown to me (geographical ?) attributed a ♂ from Krakatoa which seems identical to this ♂ from Palawan. I am not fully satisfied by this identification; Thorell in his very extensive redescription of the ♀ of *A. snellemani* (1890: 387-391) wrote that its prosoma was black and “laevissimus et nitidissimus... pilis tenuibus sub-erectis sat dense sparsus”; the spination of this ♀ was as follows: femora I with 1 pl, tibiae I with 1.2.2.2., tibiae II (only one side) with 1 v and 2 a, tibiae III with 1 va (ventro-apical), metatarsi I with 7 pairs of spines, metatarsi II with 5 pairs, metatarsi III with 1.2. v and 1 rl; its opisthosoma was ‘supra nigro, colorem violaceum vel cyaneum paullulo sentienti’.

All this in my opinion amply justifies my doubts; unfortunately, Beatty's revision (1970) has revealed that most morphological characters in this group seem to be difficult to use and sometimes even of doubtful value, especially chaetotaxy, colour and dimensions. I have doubts over some of Beatty's conclusions: from my own – still unpublished – experiences of other Segestriidae and the closely related Dysderidae, the female genitalia (which are difficult, but not impossible to examine) offer very good characters (incidentally, Beatty's interpretation – 1970: 449 – of these genitalia is quite wrong); I would have preferred if Beatty had checked also the genitalia of all the species he described, most of which seem astonishingly variable in chaetotaxy, colour and dimensions.

If we accept Beatty's conclusions, all the descriptions of ♀ *Ariadna* are practically useless and it is impossible to match ♂♂ and ♀♀ from different localities; we must wait for the rare chance of finding a couple in the same biotope. As most species of this genus have been described on the ♀ (♂♂ are exceedingly rare), non-revisional work on this genus would be impossible; what is still worse, I doubt strongly whether a revision would be helpful in many



Ariadna snellemanni (van Hasselt, 1882) – Fig. 1: ♂ palp; Fig. 2: leg I.
Mimetus ridens n.sp. – Fig. 3: vulva.

cases (e.g. that of the generotype, *A. insidiatrix* Audouin & Savigny).

For the moment I cannot bring any conclusive evidence against Beatty's theses: so, even if there are strong reasons for doubting the correctness of the identification of these ♂♂ from Krakatoa and Palawan, for the moment they shall pass as *A. snellemanni*. I write "pass" as, following Beatty, they could also be attributed to some other species of roughly the same region of which only the ♀ is

known, as e.g. *A. javana* Kulczynski, 1911 (known from Java, Tjibodas), *A. monticola* Thorell, 1897 (Burma, Carin Chebà Mts.), *A. papuana* Kulczynski, 1911 (New Guinea, Moso). Of these, following the descriptions, *A. javana* especially seems near to *A. snellemanni*. Only the two Japanese species, *A. lateralis* Karsch, 1881 and *A. insulicola* Yaginuma, 1967 (following Yaginuma, 1970, *A. orientalis* Dönitz and Strand, 1906, is identical with *A. lateralis*), of which the ♂♂ are known, can be –

luckily – excluded.

Fam. Mimetidae

Mimetus ridens n.sp.

Material: Philippines, Palawan, Mantalingajan, Tagabung, 1150 m, 19 September 1961, Noona Dan Exp. 1961-62, 1 ♀ (holotypus). N.B.: in the same locality, 19-20 September 1961, were also collected a mutilated ♀ (without abdomen) and a juvenile ♀, almost certainly conspecific.

Description ♀, (♂ unknown): prosoma yellowish, darkened in the ocular region, on the clypeus, and in the middle of the thoracic region, with many long hairs; nearly equal eyes (AM: AL/PL/PM = 8: 6), anterior row procurved, posterior row recurved, AL separated from the AM by 5/6 of the radius of the AL, AM separated from each other by 5/8 of their radius, PL separated from the PM by their radius, PM separated from each other by 5/6 of their radius. Clypeus clearly shorter than the length of the eye region. Labium triangular, as long as wide; sternum yellowish, heart-shaped, smooth, ending with an obtuse point. Chelicerae and palps with no peculiarities; legs I-II incurved and with the usual spines; all legs yellowish, with brown annulations on femora, tibiae and metatarsi. Opisthosoma (in the type) hairy, somewhat egg-shaped (not in good condition!), slate coloured with irregular black and white spots. Epigynum with a small scapus; vulva, see Fig. 3.

Juvenile ♀: as above; opisthosoma clearly triangular, with angular “humps”, mostly slate coloured, a few darker spots and – dorsally – the following white patches: one on the side of each hump, two others cephalad of these, one large between the humps and one caudad of this last.

Dimensions (in mm, slightly approximated): prosoma 1.20 long, 1.00 wide; opisthosoma (somewhat shrunk) 1.42 long. Total length: 2.62.

Legs	Femora	Patellae	Tibiae	Metatarsi	Tarsi	Total
I	2.05	0.55	1.85	2.25	0.82	7.52
II	1.67	0.47	1.45	1.62	0.75	5.96
III	1.12	0.37	0.95	0.80	0.60	3.84
IV	1.20	0.37	0.95	1.00	0.67	4.19

N.B.: metatarsi and tarsi I-II (incurved) are measured by their extremities.

Derivatio nominis: the Latin adjective “ridens” means “laughing”.

Discussion: up till now, as far as I know, no Mimetid was known from the Philippines (nor from Indonesia); a few species are known from Malaya, Vietnam, Korea and Japan. It is best to compare *M. ridens* n.sp. with all of these; the classification of the Mimetids at genus level is not at all satisfactory; most species have been assigned to *Mimetus* or *Ero* following Simon, i.e. without considering the genitalia; the result of this is a considerable confusion, *Ero japonica* Bösenberg and Strand, 1906 for instance, following Simon (1895: 946) should belong to *Mimetus* and not to *Ero*, but to transfer it back to this last genus would be rash in my opinion, as quite probably it does not even belong to *Ero* but possibly to another undescribed genus. The assignation of “my” new species to *Mimetus* is only provisional. Of the already known species *Mimetus margaritifera* Simon, 1901 (Malaya, Kelantan, Kuala Aring) seems very peculiar by its original diagnosis and has many humps on the abdomen; *Ero furunculus* Simon, 1909 (Vietnam, Cam Nang), described on a juvenile ♀ has four humps on the abdomen (“*furuncula*” as in Roewer’s catalogue, is a fault: the name (correctly spelt by Simon) is a diminutive of the male noun “fur” and means “small thief”); *Phobetinus investis* Simon, 1909 (Vietnam, Luc-Nam and forest near Kha-lé) is very different from *M. ridens* n.sp. in all characters (epigynum, form and colour of the abdomen). Of the more northern species, *Ero foliata* L. Koch, 1878 is (and probably shall remain) *species inquirenda* (it was described on juveniles); *Mimetus japonicus* Uyemura, 1938 is very different in colour (see Yaginuma, 1971); *M. testaceus* Yaginuma, 1960 is very different in epigynum and vulva (cf. Paik, 1967). Somewhat near to *M. ridens* n.sp. seem to be *Ero japonica* Bösenberg and Strand, 1906 (see also Paik, 1967), *E. kompirensis* Strand, 1918 and *E. koreana* Paik, 1967 which can all be distinguished from it by the genitalia and/or the colour.

Summary

Ariadna snellemani (van Hasselt, 1882) known previously only from Indonesia is recorded for the first time from the Philippines; the ♂ is redescribed and illustrated; some observations are made on

taxonomic problems in the genus *Ariadna*. *Mimetus ridens* n.sp. ♀ (♂ unknown) typ.loc.: Palawan, Mantalingajan is described; it is apparently close to the Japanese species around *Ero japonica* Bösenberg and Strand, 1906; it can be distinguished from the already known species by colour, general morphology and/or genitalia.

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Dr Arthur Merton Chickering died on 24 May 1974 in Keene, New Hampshire. He was born on 23 March 1887 in Vermont, received his BPh from Yale University in 1913 where he was a student of Petrunkevitch, an MS degree in 1916 from the University of Wisconsin, and a PhD in 1927 from the University of Michigan for insect cytological studies. It was after he received his PhD that Chickering became interested in tropical American spiders. Chickering taught at Albion College, Michigan from 1918 until his retirement in 1957 and was associated with the Museum of Comparative Zoology from 1953 until 1971 when his health began to fail. His main contributions have been to the taxonomy of Central American and West Indian spiders. A complete list of his publications will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Transactions of the American Microscopical Society, a publication of an organization of which he was treasurer for 27 years.

Herbert W. Levi



A. M. Chickering, 1959

Photo: H. W. Levi