

Some new or little-known Erigonid spiders from southern Europe

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Summary

Descriptions are given of 4 Erigonid spiders, *Oedothorax paludigena* Simon (from Corsica and southern France), *Tapinocyba corsica* Simon (♀ new to science) (from Corsica), *Mecopisthes huberti* n.sp. ♀ and *M. nesiotetes* (Simon) ♂ (both from Corsica).

Introduction

During short visits to Corsica (May/June 1974) and southern France (Sept./Oct. 1974) several interesting Erigonid spiders were captured; three of these are described in the present paper. *Oedothorax paludigena*, described very inadequately by Simon (1926) as *Oe. fuscus paludigena*, is now redescribed as a species. *Tapinocyba corsica*, established (Simon 1884, 1926) on the basis of the ♂, is here described and figured in more detail, and the ♀ is described for the first time. *Mecopisthes huberti* n.sp. is described from the ♀ taken in Corsica, and the opportunity is also taken to figure the Corsican species *M. nesiotetes* Simon ♂.

Oedothorax paludigena Simon

♂ *Total length* 1.7 – 2.5 mm; the specimens from S. France are smaller than those from Corsica. *Cephalothorax*: Length 0.8 – 1.0 mm., width 0.65 – 0.80 mm. Brown, with fovea and striae faintly suffused with black; with several forward-directed bristles on the median line, and some shorter bristles in and around ocular area. The profile of the cephalothorax is much closer to *Oe. agrestis* (Bl.) than to *Oe. fuscus* (Bl.) (Fig. 5). *Chelicerae*: With faint stridulatory ridges. *Abdomen*: Greyish-black, with sometimes a faint paler longitudinal stripe (clearer in the old specimens of Simon), clothed with short hairs. *Sternum*: Brown suffused with varying amounts of black, broadly truncated between coxae IV. *Legs*: Brown to orange-brown, with patellae and ends of tibiae and metatarsi paler. Relative lengths IV/I/II/III: absolute lengths of segments (mm.) of specimen of cephalo-

thorax length 1.00 mm:

	fem.	pat.	tib.	metat.	tars.	total
I	0.76	0.26	0.65	0.58	0.50	2.75
II	0.74	0.26	0.61	0.55	0.46	2.62
III	0.68	0.25	0.52	0.51	0.40	2.36
IV	0.81	0.26	0.79	0.71	0.48	3.05

Tibiae I-II with 2 dorsal spines (position on I ca. 0.20 and 0.72), tibiae III-IV with 1 dorsal spine, spine lengths 1 – 1.5 diam. of segment. All metatarsi with a trichobothrium, position on I ca. 0.65. Tarsal claws without teeth. *Palp*: Figs 1, 2, 3; the Corsican specimens have the tegulum more prominent ventrally than in the French specimens, but otherwise the palpal organs appear to be identical. Colour as legs. Tibial apophysis (Fig. 4); the small points on either side of the apophysis tend to be more developed in the Corsican specimens. From above, the tibia is very similar to that of *Oe. fuscus*, the lower apophysis of the latter being then invisible. Embolic division of palpal organs (Fig. 9) very close to that of *Oe. fuscus* (Fig. 10).

♀ *Total length* 2.5 – 3.0 mm., the French specimens being smaller than the Corsican. *Cephalothorax*: Length 1.0 – 1.25 mm., width 0.80 – 0.95 mm. Colour and bristles as ♂. *Eyes*: Posterior medians slightly less than 1 d apart and same from posterior laterals; anterior medians ca. 0.5 d apart and same from laterals. *Chelicerae*: As ♂. *Abdomen*: As ♂, but the paler longitudinal stripe always visible. *Sternum*: As ♂. *Legs*: Colour as ♂. Relative lengths IV/I/II/III: absolute lengths of segments (mm.) of a specimen of cephalothorax length 1.12 mm:

	fem.	pat.	tib.	metat.	tars.	total
I	0.89	0.32	0.72	0.65	0.48	3.06
II	0.85	0.29	0.68	0.60	0.47	2.89
III	0.81	0.29	0.58	0.58	0.38	2.64
IV	0.97	0.34	0.89	0.80	0.50	3.50

Tibial spines as ♂ (position on I ca. 0.20 and 0.75), but spines rather longer (1.5 – 2 d of segment). Trichobothria (position on I 0.65 – 0.68) and tarsal claws as ♂. *Palp*: Tarsus blunt-ended. *Epigyne*: Figs 6, 7; very different from the other European species – even the somewhat bleached specimens in the Simon Coll. are clearly distinct. *Vulva*: Fig. 8.

This species is a typical *Oedothorax*, and although

Oe. fuscus.

Material: This species was recorded (as a sub-species of *fuscus*) by Simon (1926, p. 523) from coastal marshes of mediterranean France, but only the ♂ was mentioned. Tube No. 4476 (MNHN) in fact contains numerous ♀♀ as well as ♂♂. Both sexes were found in considerable numbers by the author (and thought at first to be an undescribed species!) amongst vegetation (*Salicornia*, etc.) on a salt marsh on the gulf of Portovecchio (S.E. Corsica) in June 1974, together with many juveniles; several ♂♂ (but no ♀♀) were taken in similar habitats in the Camargue (S. France) in early October 1974. It seems probable that *Oe. paludigena* must be the dominant *Oedothorax* species in coastal marshes in the western Mediterranean. A lectotype ♂ and syntype ♀ from Simon's material (Tube No. 4476) have been deposited at the MNHN Paris, together with a pair from Corsica.

Tapinocyba corsica (Simon)

♀ **Total length** ca. 1.8 mm. **Cephalothorax:** Length ca. 0.65 mm., width ca. 0.5 mm. Pale brown to brown, with very faint darker radiating striae; there are a few long curved bristles on the median line and some short hairs in ocular area. Profile of cephalothorax (Fig. 13). **Eyes:** Posterior medians slightly more than 1 d apart and same from laterals; anterior medians less than 1 d apart and ca. 1 d from laterals. **Chelicerae:** With clear stridulatory ridges. **Abdomen:** Whitish-grey to grey-black, clothed with short fine hairs. **Sternum:** Brown, slightly darker on margins, clothed with long fine hairs. **Legs:** Brown to orange-brown, with patellae lighter in colour. Relative lengths IV/I/II/III; absolute lengths of segments (mm.):

	fem.	pat.	tib.	metat.	tars.	total
I	0.47	0.17	0.35	0.26	0.23	1.47
II	0.42	0.16	0.31	0.24	0.22	1.35
III	0.37	0.16	0.25	0.23	0.21	1.22
IV	0.48	0.18	0.37	0.28	0.21	1.52

Tibiae I-IV with 1 dorsal spine (position on I ca. 0.1), spine lengths ca. 1 d. Metatarsi I-III with a trichobothrium, position on I ca. 0.44. Paired tarsal claws of legs I-II with a series of long comb-like teeth. **Epigyne:** Fig. 18. **Vulva:** Fig. 19.

♂ **Total length** ca. 1.55 mm. **Cephalothorax:** Length ca. 0.70 mm., width ca. 0.53 mm. Colour and bristles

as ♀; there are short sulci running back from the lateral eyes (Figs 16, 17). **Chelicerae, abdomen and sternum:** As ♀. **Legs:** Colour as ♀. Relative lengths IV/I/II/III; absolute lengths of segments (mm.):

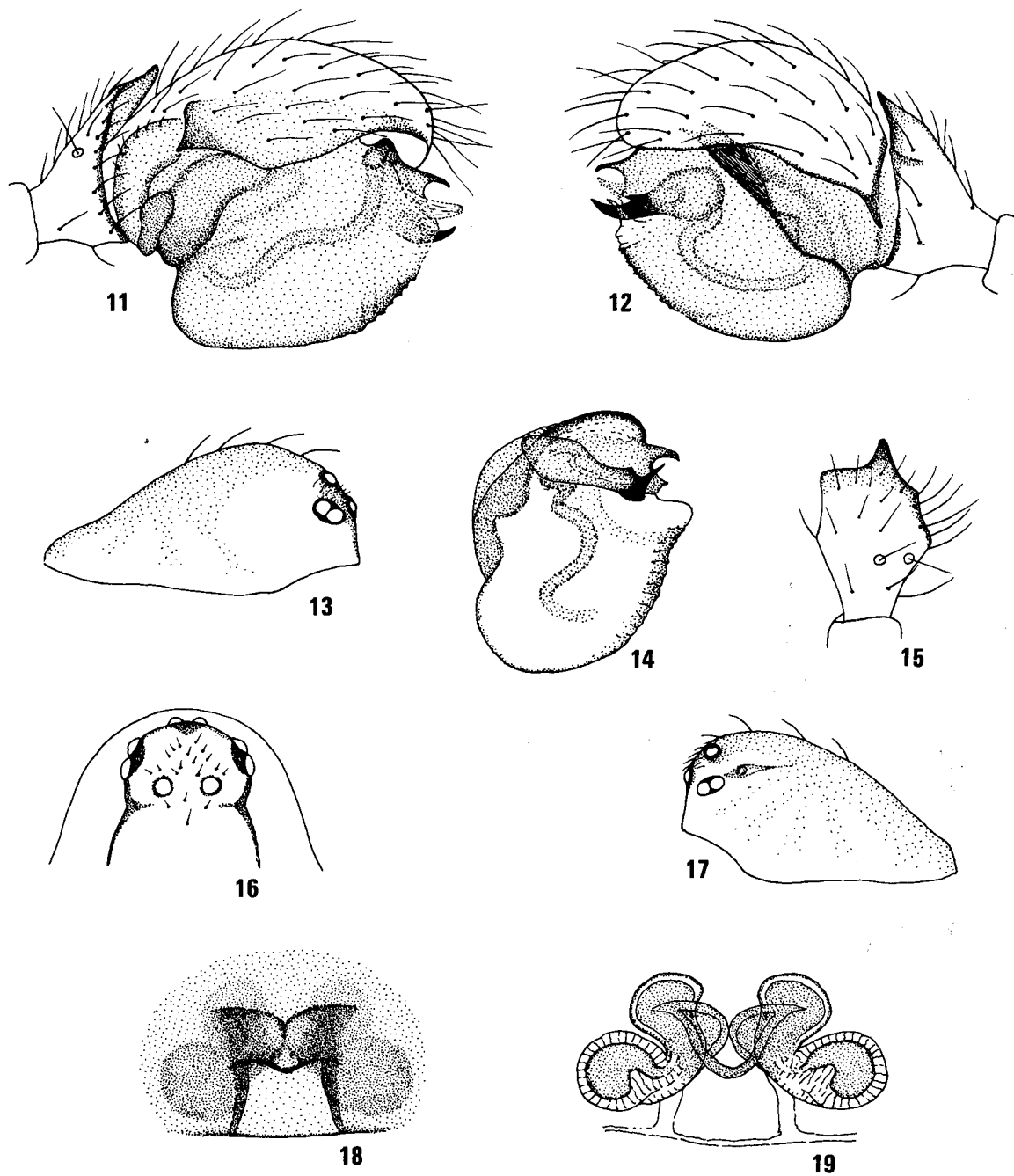
	fem.	pat.	tib.	metat.	tars.	total
I	0.45	0.18	0.37	0.26	0.24	1.50
II	0.42	0.18	0.33	0.25	0.24	1.42
III	0.36	0.16	0.24	0.24	0.21	1.21
IV	0.48	0.16	0.39	0.29	0.24	1.56

Tibial spines, metatarsal trichobothria and tarsal claws as ♀. **Palp:** Figs 11, 12; brown, as legs. Tibial apophysis (Fig. 15) quite distinct from the other European species. The tegulum is prominent ventrally and has a serrated edge anteriorly; the embolic division (Fig. 14) is distinctive.

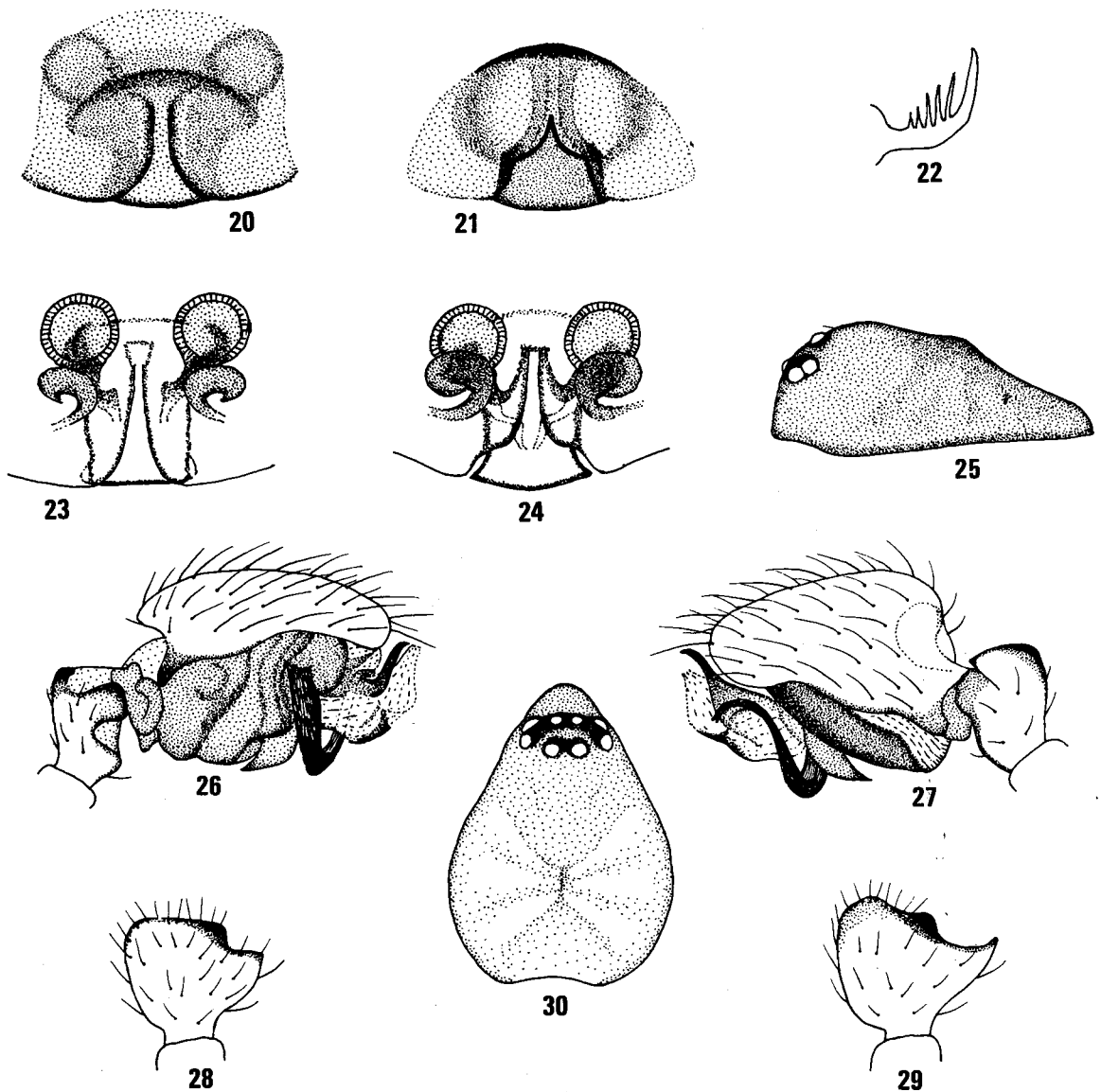
Tapinocyba corsica was described by Simon (1884 and 1926) on the basis of a ♂ taken in the mountain forests of Corsica; so far as I know it has not been taken since. I have been unable to obtain a specimen from the MNHN, Paris, but the figure of the palpal tibia given by Simon (1884) and the locality of capture are probably sufficient to identify the present specimens. The species can be diagnosed by the ♂ palpal tibia and palpal organs, and by the ♀ epigyne/vulva. **Material:** 1 ♂, 11 ♀ in leaf litter in a mixed wood 16 km. SSE of Ajaccio at an altitude of ca. 450 m. on 3 June 1974; 1 ♂, 14 ♀ in beech litter above Vizzavona at ca. 1000 m on 8 June 1974. Presumably the main season for adult males was just over. A paratype ♀ has been deposited at the MNHN, Paris.

Mecopisthes huberti n.sp.

♀ **Total length** 1.6 – 1.75 mm. **Cephalothorax:** Length ca. 0.65 mm., width ca. 0.50 mm. Deep brown, suffused with black particularly on striae, fovea and margins; a few extremely minute pits are visible on the striae in some specimens. Virtually free from hairs or bristles. Profile (Fig. 25). **Eyes:** Posterior medians ca. 1 d or slightly less apart and same from laterals. **Chelicerae:** With clear stridulatory ridges. **Abdomen:** Grey to black with 4 reddish impressed dots dorsally; clothed with short hairs. **Sternum:** Brown, suffused with black and clothed with fairly long hairs. Heart-shaped, fairly broad between coxae IV. **Legs:** Orange-brown, short and stout, with e.g. tibia I 1/d ca. 4. Relative lengths IV/I/II/III; absolute lengths of segments (mm.):



Figs 11-19: *Tapinocyba corsica* (Simon). 11 Male palp, lateral view; 12 Male palp, mesal view; 13 Female cephalothorax, side view; 14 Expanded left palp showing embolic division, mesal view; 15 Right male palpal tibia from above; 16 Male cephalothorax, from above; 17 Male cephalothorax, from side; 18 Epigyne; 19 Vulva.



Figs 20-25: *Mecopisthes huberti* n. sp. **20** Epigyne from below; **21** Epigyne from behind (another specimen); **22** Tarsal claws of leg I; **23**, **24** Vulva, from below and from somewhat behind; **25** Cephalothorax from side.

Figs 26-30: *M. nesiotetes* (Simon). **26** Male palp, lateral view; **27** Male palp, mesal view; **28** Right male palpal tibia from above and behind; **29** Ditto, from above and slightly inside; **30** Male cephalothorax from above.

	fem.	pat.	tib.	metat.	tars.	total
I	0.44	0.16	0.34	0.27	0.24	1.45
II	0.42	0.16	0.32	0.26	0.24	1.40
III	0.32	0.15	0.26	0.24	0.21	1.18
IV	0.50	0.15	0.43	0.29	0.23	1.60

Tibiae virtually spineless; there is a very short extremely basal spine or erect bristle on I and II. Metatarsi I-III with a trichobothrium, position on I 0.60 – 0.63. Tarsal claws of legs I and II with a row of needle-like teeth (Fig. 22). *Epigyne*: Figs 20, 21. *Vulva*: Figs 23, 24.

This spider (named in honour of Mons. M. Hubert of MNHN) is diagnosed to be a *Mecopisthes* on the basis of the chaetotaxy and the epigyne/vulva. Unfortunately no ♂ was taken, and it seems likely that the ♂ would be adult in winter or early spring. This new species may prove to be the ♀ of *M. nesiotés* Simon 1915, a single ♂ of which was taken many years ago in Corsica (Simon 1915) but with the exact locality and habitat unknown (although not apparently from the mountains). *Material*: 7 ♀ were taken in leaf litter in woods (beech, pine and mixed deciduous) around Vizzavona, Corsica at ca. 900 – 1100 m. in early June 1974. A holotype ♀ and one paratype have been deposited at MNHN, Paris, and 5 paratypes remain in my collection.

Mecopisthes nesiotés (Simon)

This species (based on a single male from Corsica) has never been very adequately figured, and because of the possibility that *M. huberti* is the ♀ of *M. nesiotés* and because the unique specimen (Tube No. 25384, MNHN) is now becoming old, it is felt that figures of the palp, etc. should be published. ♂ *Total length* 1.2 mm. (Simon says 1.5 mm.). The specimen is rather bleached and transparent. *Cephalothorax*: Length 0.58 mm. Brown; the clypeal projection (Fig. 30) is similar to that of *M. dahli* (Lessert) (*M. perpusillus* Miller 1966 = *M. pusillus* Menge sec. Wunderlich 1972). *Abdomen*: Brownish; there

appears to be a dorsal scutum, but it is not possible to be certain – Simon (1915) does not mention it. *Legs*: No spines are visible; position of trichobothrium on metatarsus I is ca. 0.60. *Palp*: The tibia (Figs 28, 29) and the palpal organs (Figs 26, 27) are similar to, but distinct from, those of *M. dahli*. The embolic division has a short radical part pointed posteriorly, clearly visible from both sides of the unexpanded palp; *nesiotés* differs from *dahli* in the form of the median apophysis, seen at the tip of the palp, and in the apparently simple form of the embolus. *M. nesiotés* is also closely similar to *M. paulae* (Simon) ♂, from Menton, but is not identical.

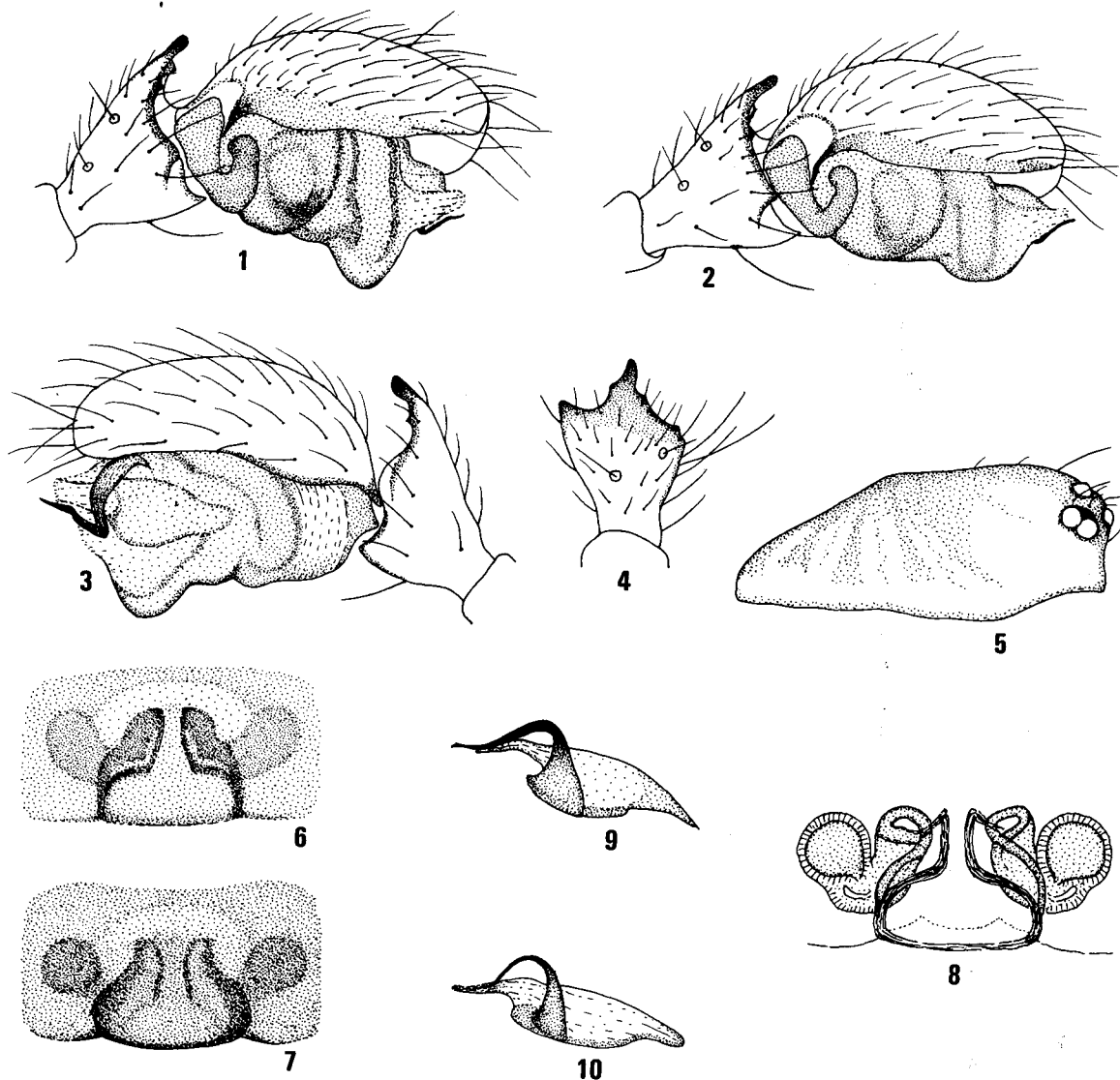
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Figs 1-9: *Oedothorax paludigena* Simon. 1, 2 Male palp, lateral view (French and Corsican specimens); 3 Male palp, mesal view (Corsican specimen); 4 Right male palpal tibia from above; 5 Male cephalothorax from side; 6, 7 Epigynes of lightly and heavily pigmented specimens; 8 Vulva; 9 Embolic division, left palp, lateral view.

Fig. 10: *Oedothorax fuscus* (Bl.). Embolic division, left palp, lateral view.

the ♀ epigyne shows considerable differences from the other European species the vulva is fairly similar to that of *Oe. apicatus* (Bl.) (Wiehle 1960, fig. 801). Diagnosis of the species is easy on the basis of the ♂ palpal tibia and the ♀ epigyne/vulva.

The epigyne and vulva appear to be quite similar to *Oe. dismodicoides* Wunderlich, and the embolic division also seems to be of similar form (Wunderlich 1974, p. 184). It is surprising that Denis (1947) did not recognise *paludigena* as a species distinct from