

**A note on the structure of the male palp of
Callilepis nocturna (Linnaeus) (Araneae,
Gnaphosidae)**

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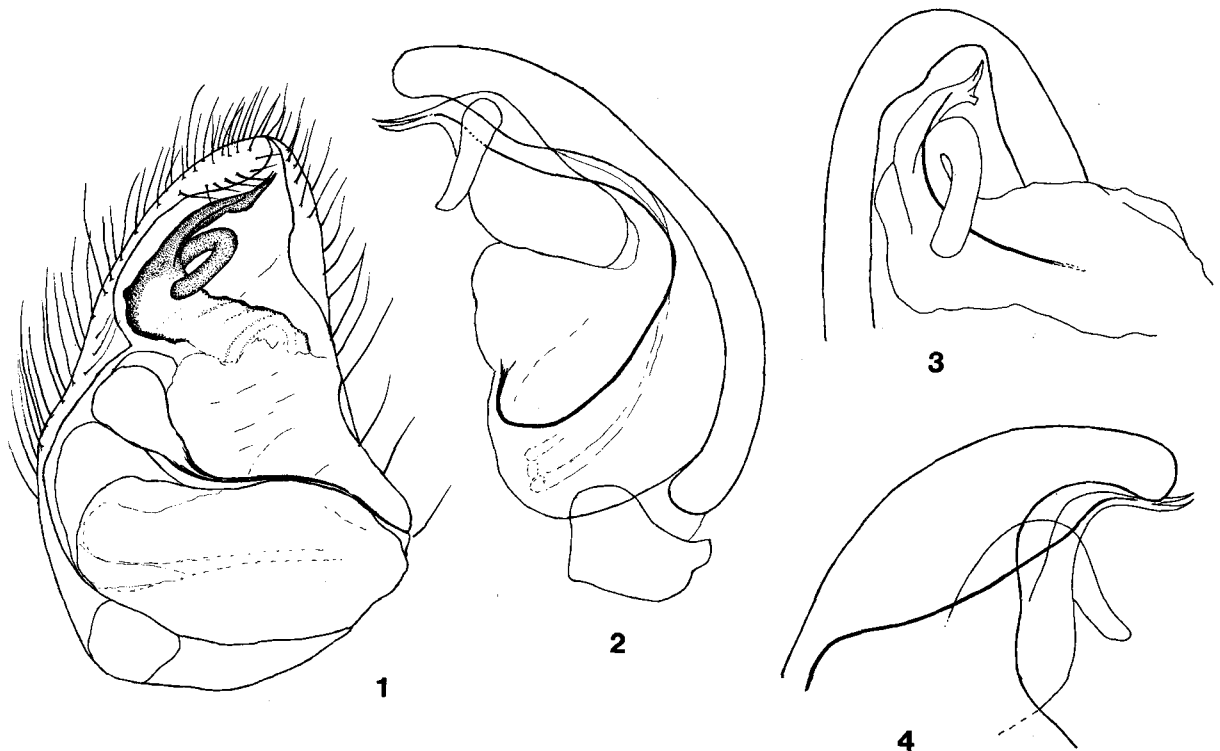
Callilepis nocturna (Linnaeus) was first taken in Britain at Prawle (Devonshire) by Mrs F. M. Murphy in 1970 (Murphy 1971) and was figured in *British Spiders* Vol. III (Locket, Millidge and Merrett 1974, fig. 5a). This figure (drawn by myself) has been criticised because it does not show the whole of the rather remarkable "median apophysis", one branch of which, associated with the tip of the embolus (and which could be called the "conductor"), is there obscured by the edge of the cymbium in the position

chosen. A further examination was therefore made of the original specimen and of another, taken since in the same place, which is much more deeply sclerotised. The parts in question are now emphasised in Fig. 1, and the junction of the two branches is shown in Figs. 2-4. The course of the long thin embolus can be seen if the palp is immersed in clove oil; it passes behind the tegulum and comes forward between the branches of the "median apophysis" to end near the tip of the "conductor".

I am grateful to Mrs Murphy and to Dr P. Merrett for the loan of specimens.

References

- MURPHY, F. M. 1971: *Callilepis nocturna* (Linnaeus) (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) newly found in Britain. *Entomologist's Gaz.* 22: 269-271.
 LOCKET, G. H., MILLIDGE, A. F. and MERRETT, P. 1974: *British Spiders* 3: 1-314. Ray Society, London.



Figs. 1-4 *Callilepis nocturna* (Linn.). 1 Right palp, viewed ventrally and somewhat from behind, showing the apical end of the "median apophysis" with the branches. 2 Outline of palp as seen under clove oil, viewed mesally, to show the course of the embolus. 3 Ditto, viewed ventrally, showing the branches of the "median apophysis" and the embolus (seen, except for the tip, through the apophysis). 4 Ditto, viewed dorso-ectally.