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On Australian *Eilica* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae)

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At present, four species of the widespread Gondwanaland genus *Eilica* are known from Australia (each of which is known from only a single specimen; see the revision by Platnick, 1975). Through the courtesy of Dr Valerie Todd Davies and Mr Robert J. Raven of the Queensland Museum, I have recently had the opportunity to examine two females from Queensland belonging to the genus. These specimens are not conspecific with each other or with the two species (*Eilica rotunda* Platnick and *E. contacta* Platnick) previously known from females. One specimen shares with the male holotype of *Eilica serrata* Platnick a unique cheliceral depression, indicating that it is either the female of that species or of an otherwise unknown sister species; parsimony dictates that the first hypothesis be chosen until the existence of another male with the cheliceral depression is confirmed. The second specimen, although having the three cheliceral laminae characteristic of *Eilica*, is unique in lacking the large, expanded spermathecae found in all other known females of the genus; the spermathecae (Fig. 3) are strikingly similar to those found in female *Callilepis* (the closest relative of *Eilica*). It is likely, therefore, that this female belongs to one of the most plesiomorphic species in the genus. The same appears to be true of the male of *Eilica albopunctata* (Hogg), because its embolar base is the simplest of any known species as well as the most similar to those of *Callilepis* males; the second female is therefore tentatively assigned to *E. albopunctata.* The format of the descriptions follows that used in the revision; the illustrations are by Dr M. U. Shadab.

Eilica albopunctata (Hogg) (Figs. 1-3)

Gnaphosoides albopunctata Hogg, 1896, p. 333, fig. 18 (male holotype from Storm Creek, South Australia, in National Museum of Victoria).

Eilica albopunctata: Platnick, 1975, p. 14, figs. 6, 28, 29.

Diagnosis. Males of *Eilica albopunctata* may be distinguished by the extremely short embolus (Platnick, 1975, fig. 28), females by the unexpanded spermathecae (Fig. 3).

Male. Described by Platnick (1975).

Female. Total length 4.61 mm. Carapace 1.48 mm long, 1.24 mm wide. Femur II 0.91 mm long (one specimen). Carapace orange medially with dark brown maculations anteriorly and laterally; dorsal abdominal pattern as in Fig. 1, white spots continuing around sides and coalescing into broad V-shaped white patch occupying most of venter; leg segments orange with sides of femora black. Eye sizes and interdistances (mm): AME 0.05, ALE 0.08, PME 0.06, PLE 0.06; AME-AME 0.05, AME-ALE 0.01, PME-PME 0.07, PME-PLE 0.05, ALE-PLE 0.06. MOQ length 0.16 mm, front width 0.15 mm, back width 0.19 mm. Epigynum with narrow atrium (Fig. 2); spermathecae unexpanded (Fig. 3). Leg spination: femora: I p0-0-0; II d1-0-0; III p0-0-0; IV r0-0-0; tibiae: I v0-1r-1p; II v1r-1r-1p; III p0-0-1, v1p-1p-2, r0-0-1; IV p0-0-0, v1p-2-2, r0-0-0; metatarsi I, II v0-0-2.

Material Examined. Australia: Queensland: Yandaburra, 125 km southwest of Springsure, latitude 24°42′ S, longitude 147°30′ E, 7-16 May 1976 (C. Fearnly, Queensland Museum No. W7158).

Distribution. Central eastern Australia.

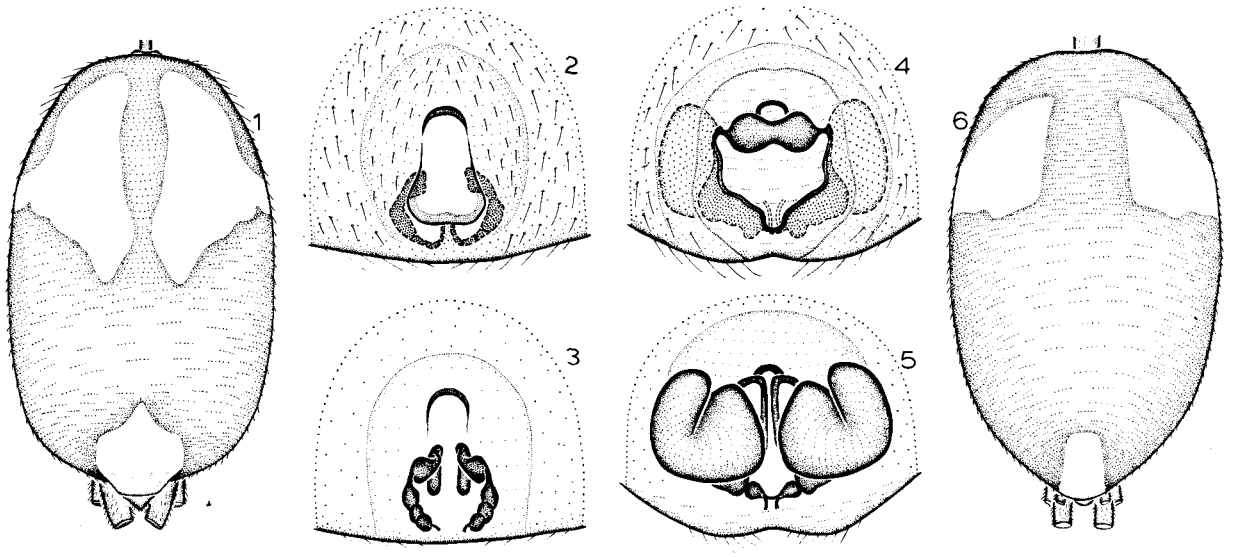
Eilica serrata Platnick (Figs. 4-6)

Eilica serrata Platnick, 1975, p. 18, figs. 2, 7, 32, 33 (male holotype from Geraldton, Western Australia, in Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University).

Diagnosis. Eilica serrata may be distinguished from all other known species of the genus by the deep glabrous depression of the cheliceral fang furrow and the resulting chelate appearance of the cheliceral tip (Platnick, 1975, fig. 2).

Male. Described by Platnick (1975).

Female. Total length 6.73 mm. Carapace 2.05 mm long, 1.58 mm wide. Femur II 1.41 mm long (one specimen). Carapace light orange with narrow black border; abdomen black with white spots as in Fig. 6; coxae, trochanters, proximal half of patellae IV, metatarsi, and tarsi light orange, other leg segments black. Cheliceral retromargin with two medially situated laminae, promargin with three thick cusps; cheliceral tip excavate. Eye sizes and interdistances (mm): AME 0.06, ALE 0.10, PME 0.09, PLE 0.10; AME-



Figs. 1-3: *Eilica albopunctata* (Hogg). **1** Abdomen, dorsal view; **2** Epigynum, ventral view; **3** Vulva, dorsal view.

Figs. 4-6: *E. serrata* Platnick. **4** Epigynum, ventral view; **5** Vulva, dorsal view; **6** Abdomen, dorsal view.

AME 0.06, AME-ALE 0.02, PME-PME 0.06, PME-PLE 0.07, ALE-PLE 0.09. MOQ length 0.23 mm, front width 0.19 mm, back width 0.24 mm. Anterior epigynal margin greatly thickened (Fig. 4); spermathecae with anteromedian ducts (Fig. 5). Leg spination: tibiae: I vlr-lr-2; IV v2-1p-2; metatarsi: III p0-0-1; IV v2-1p-2.

Material Examined. Australia: Queensland: Lake Muncoonie East, about 130 km northwest of Birdsville, Simpson Desert, latitude 25°12′ S, longitude 138°41′ E, 12-17 November 1976, under cowpat (R. Raven, Queensland Museum No. W7157).

Distribution. Southwestern Queensland to Western Australia.

References

HOGG, H. R. 1896: Araneidae. *In* Spencer B. (ed.), *Report on the work of the Horn scientific expedition to Central Australia* **2**: 309-356. London and Melbourne.

PLATNICK, N. I. 1975: A revision of the spider genus *Eilica* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae). *Am.Mus.Novit.* **2578**: 1-19.