

The male of *Lycosoides crassivulva* (Denis) (Araneae: Agelenidae)

John and Frances Murphy

323 Hanworth Road,
Hampton,
Middlesex, TW12 3EJ

Introduction

The species *Lycosoides crassivulva* (Denis, 1954) was described, under the name *Textrix crassivulva*, from three females, collected under stones at a height of some 1100 m in the Moroccan Atlas Mountains by J. Gattefossé. A search through subsequent literature referring to *Textrix* in this region (see references) – up to mid 1976 – did not reveal a description of the male.

In December 1972, Miss A. M. Grubb – who had volunteered to collect spiders for the authors – returned from a Christmas holiday in Morocco with two live ♀ *Lycosoides*. One of these subsequently produced two egg-sacs and a few of the young were reared. Both sexes matured towards the end of October 1973. The females conformed to the description of *L. crassivulva* given by Denis and this was confirmed by comparing with the type specimens from Paris. It still remained to check whether or not the male had been described under another name. So far, however, nothing has been found, although there are similarities with the drawing of the palp of *L. variegata* (Simon) given by Denis in the same paper. Specimens of both sexes of *L. variegata* were obtained from Paris and drawings were made for comparison (Figs. 3, 4, 8).

Although the species are close to one another, there are a number of differences. In particular the epigynes are immediately distinguishable.

Whilst the original draft of this paper was in press, the authors read in a paper by Brignoli (1977) that he considered *Lycosoides crassivulva* (Denis, 1954) to be a synonym of *Lycosoides coarctata* (Dufour, 1831). This opinion appears to be based largely on the similarity of the female epigynes. In the paper, males are not mentioned.

Although the female which we reared has an epigyne of the same general type as that of *L. coarctata*

the male which we reared seems quite distinct from *L. coarctata*. In particular there is a dorso-posterior knob on the palpal tibia of *L. crassivulva* which does not appear on that of *L. coarctata*, and the shape of the tibial apophysis is noticeably different. Further slight differences between the species can be seen in the male palp, viewed ventrally, and in the shape of the palpal patella (Figs. 1, 2, 5, 6). For completeness the epigyne of *L. coarctata* is given in Fig. 9 and dorsal views of the vulva of both species are given in Figs. 10, 11. Viewed from comparable positions the epigyne of *L. coarctata* appears longer than that of *L. crassivulva*, the additional length being provided by the extended basal portion of the epigyne of *L. coarctata*. The drawings of *L. coarctata* were made from specimens collected on the Balearic island of Ibiza.

For the above reasons the authors feel that *L. crassivulva* is distinct from *L. coarctata*.

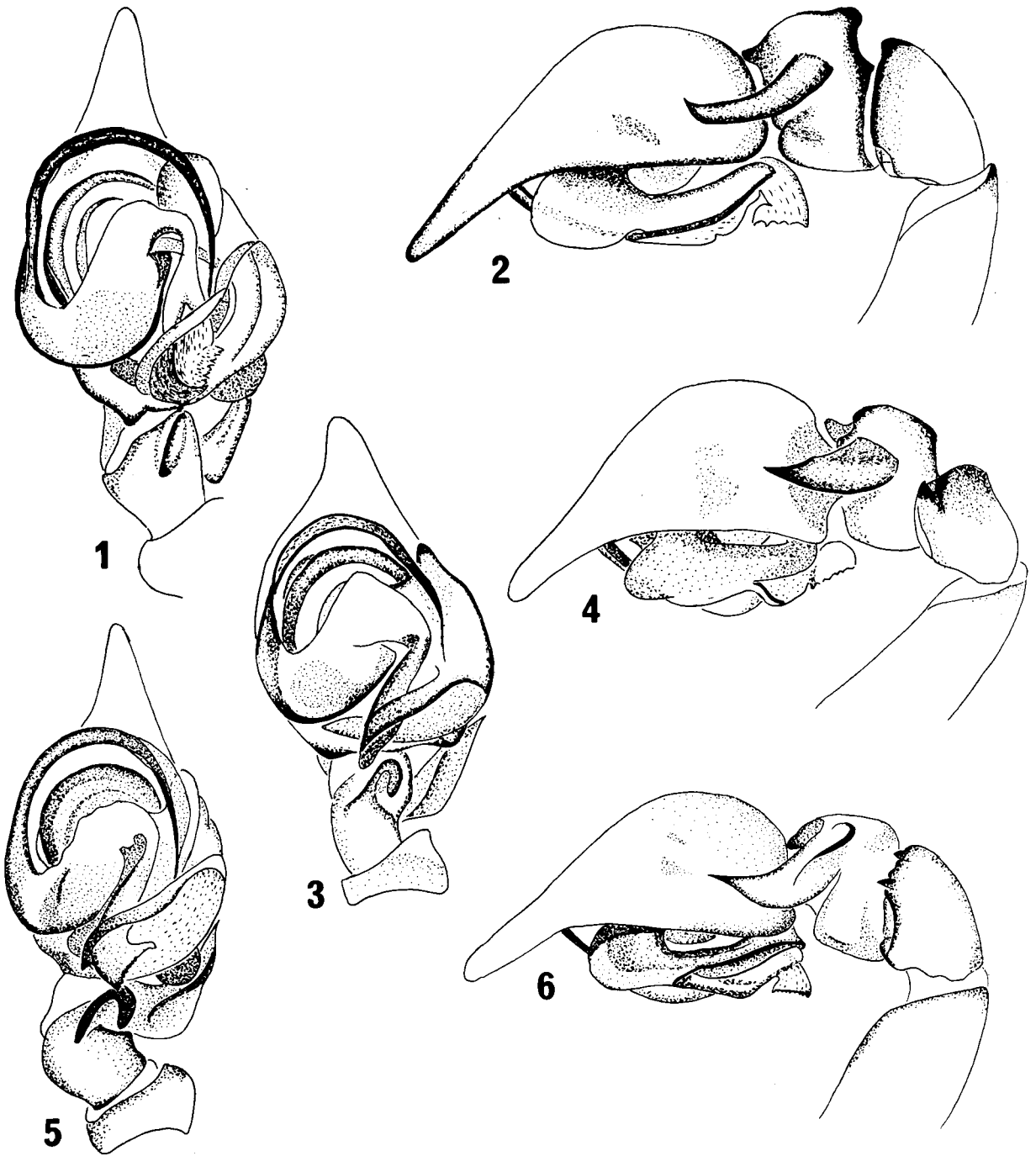
Brignoli (1977) also indicates reasons why the name *Lycosoides* is to be preferred for certain species of *Textrix*, and this change of name has been followed in this paper.

Lycosoides crassivulva Denis (Figs. 1, 2, 7, 10)

Description of male

Total length: 8.1 mm. *Carapace*: length 4.5 mm, breadth 2.7 mm; cephalic part dull red, thoracic part lighter: posteriorly fairly flat and broad, steepening and narrowing anteriorly; fovea well marked and deep, pronounced striae: in general thinly covered with dark hairs, but with an area of white hairs near the fovea and a row of sparse spines running medially from the fovea to the eyes. In the living spider the white hairs form a clear line running from just behind the eyes to just beyond the fovea. *Eyes*: viewed from in front, posterior row straight and anterior row recurved. Viewed from above, posterior row clearly recurved. Ocular region very dark compared with rest of carapace. The transverse diameter of the eyes (), interocular distances and height of clypeus (based on diameter of anterior medians) are:

(1)	1	(1½)	1½	(1½)	1	(1)
	¾		¾		¾	¾
(1½)	½	(1)	1	(1)	½	(1½)
		3		3		



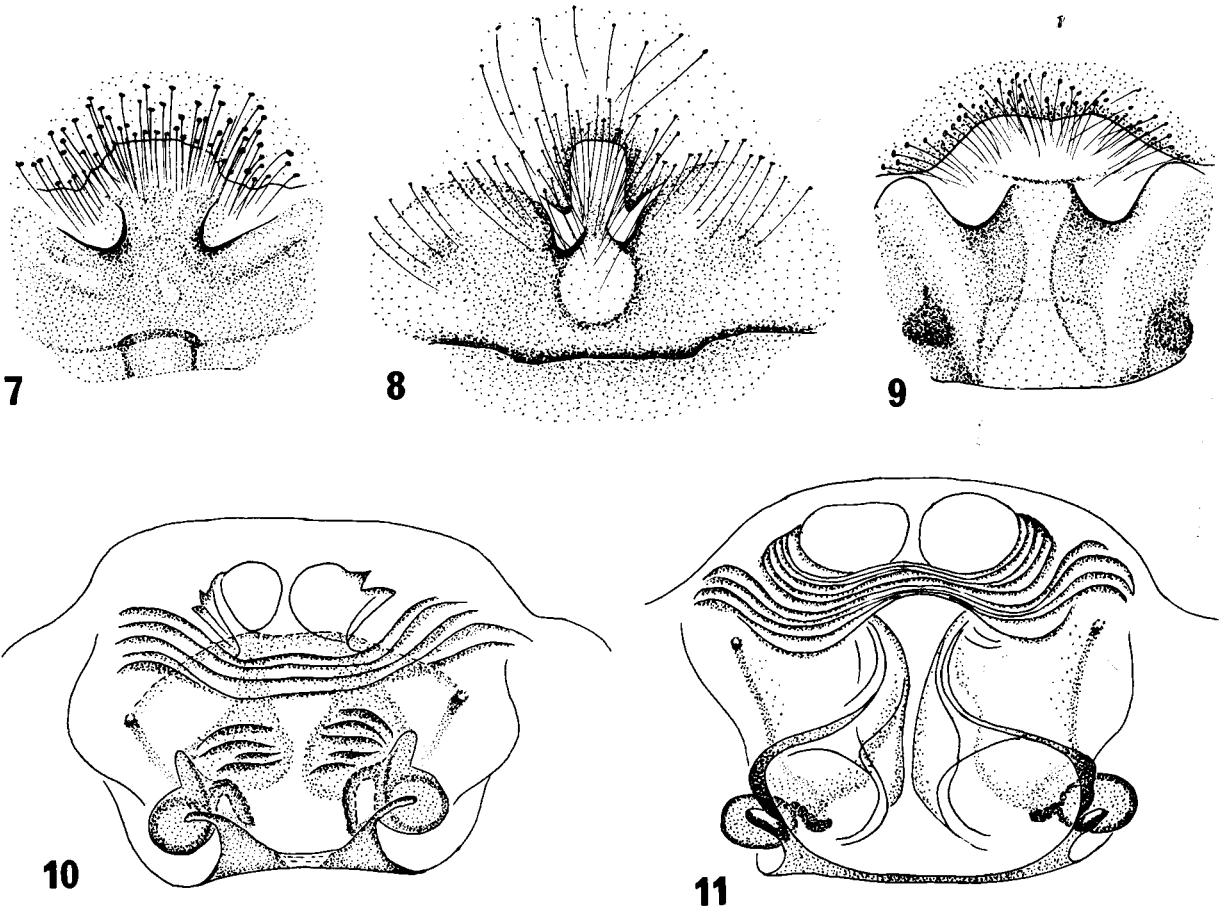
Figs. 1-2: *Lycosoides crassivulva* (Denis), male left palp. 1 Ventral; 2 Lateral.

Figs. 3-4: *L. variegata* (Simon), male left palp. 3 Ventral; 4 Lateral.

Figs. 5-6: *L. coarctata* (Dufour), male left palp. 5 Ventral; 6 Lateral.

Clypeus: dull red, sloping backwards; smooth with several forward-pointing stiff hairs, some rather long. *Chelicerae*: dark red; sloping slightly backwards and approximately parallel; inner cheliceral margin with 3 equally spaced, well developed teeth, the basal tooth being largest; outer margin with three teeth, 2 strong and one small (apical). *Sternum*: reddish brown, slightly darker at edge; length/breadth 1.3, blunt anteriorly and pointed posteriorly, extending between coxae IV, with coxae I separated by about twice their diameter and coxae IV by about a quarter of their diameter; smooth and covered thinly with stiff long hairs. *Labium*: reddish brown; as long as broad, reaching just over half-way up inner edge of maxillae; surface slightly rugose with a few stiff hairs.

Maxillae: reddish brown; length/breadth about 1.5, rectangular, approximately parallel, surface similar to that of labium, apical scopulae. *Coxae*: reddish brown, barrel-shaped; smooth and covered thinly with stiff hairs. *Trochanters*: reddish brown; clearly marked and with deep prolateral notch: smooth and with row of stiff hairs along central ridge. *Abdomen*: dull brown dorsally, dark shoulders, lighter ventrally; oval, length/breadth 1.5, hairy. In living spider light chevrons can be seen and the general appearance is that of a typical *Lycosoides*. *Spinners*: anteriors brown, medians and posteriors lighter: apical segment of posteriors about three times length of basal segment of anteriors: no colulus or setae seen. *Legs*: measurements in mm:



Figs. 7-9: Epigynes. 7 *Lycosoides crassivulva*; 8 *L. variegata*; 9 *L. coarctata*.

Figs. 10-11: Vulvae, dorsal view. 10 *L. crassivulva*; 11 *L. coarctata*

Leg	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Meta-tarsus	Tarsus	Total
I	3.4	1.2	2.9	3.2	1.8	12.5
II	3.4	1.2	2.6	3.2	1.8	12.2
III	3.2	1.3	2.6	3.6	1.8	12.5
IV	3.8	1.4	3.6	3.7	2.2	14.7

Uniform reddish brown, slender; each femur carries dorsally (1, 1, 3) spines, the remaining segments rather hairy and spiny. *Palp*: Figs. 1, 2, reddish brown, hairy and with some spines.

The female is similar to the male.

Occurrence

Two females taken from under stones at a height of about 150 m, some 8 km north of Agadir, Morocco, December 1972.

Notes on rearing

One of the two females soon died, but the other produced two egg-sacs, one laid in early January 1973 hatched in mid-February, whilst the other was laid in late January and hatched in early March. Initially the young were left in a small plastic box (7 x 4 x 2.5 cm) with their mother and fed on cabbage white flies (*Aleyrodes brassicae*) which were readily available in the garden. The young were separated in early April after one spiderling was seen eating another. They were installed in small plastic boxes as above and fed on fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) and later on miscellaneous domestic flies.

By 17 October 1973 some females were mature and by 28 October the first male matured. Nine females but only two males reached maturity. Attempts at mating were unsuccessful.

2♀ 1♂ *Lycosoides crassivulva* (Denis) have been deposited at the British Museum (Nat.Hist.).

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