

A new *Symphytognatha* from New Guinea (Araneae, Symphytognathidae)

Norman I. Platnick

Department of Entomology,
The American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street,
New York, New York 10024 USA

At present, six species (from Tasmania, Australia, Brazil, Belize, Mexico, and Jamaica) are assigned to the spider genus *Symphytognatha* (see Forster & Platnick, 1977). Of interest, therefore, was the discovery of a female from New Guinea belonging to this genus among unsorted material in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. Examination of the genitalia indicates that the specimen represents an undescribed species more closely related to the Tasmanian and Australian than to the New World forms. The format of the description follows that used in the revision cited above; the illustrations are by Dr M. U. Shadab.

Symphytognatha ulur, new species (Figs. 1-3)

Type: Female holotype from an elevation of 7800 feet at Mt Ulur Camp, Cromwell Mountains, Huon Peninsula, Morobe District, Papua New Guinea

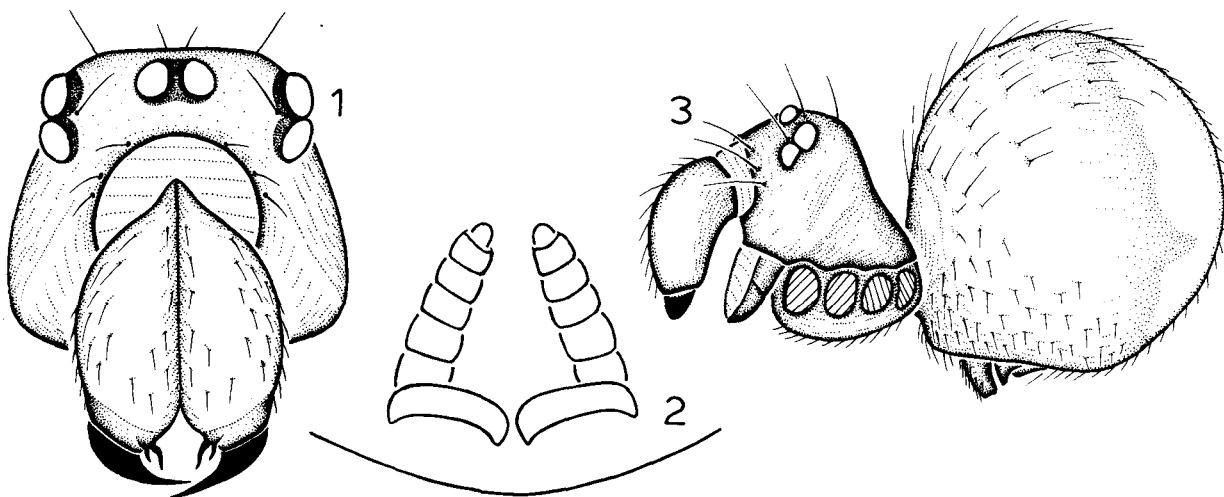
(August, 1964; H. M. Van Deusen), deposited in the American Museum of Natural History.

Etymology: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

Diagnosis: Females of *S. ulur* resemble those of *S. globosa* Hickman and *S. blesti* Forster & Platnick in having anteriorly coiled epigynal ducts, but differ from them in having a pair of wide, transverse posterior epigynal ducts (Fig. 2).

Male: Unknown.

Female: Total length, not including chelicerae, 1.04 mm. Carapace 0.25 mm long, 0.43 mm wide, 0.36 mm high. Abdomen 0.68 mm long, 0.72 mm wide, 0.74 mm high. Carapace light brown, pars cephalica darkest, with scattered dark markings on pars thoracica. Sternum and mouthparts brownish orange. Abdomen dusky grey with pale white median longitudinal stripe dorsally. Legs light brown, darkest distally. Carapace with six clypeal, four ocular, and two postocular bristles (Figs. 1, 3). Clypeus almost horizontal, height at middle equal to almost twice the anterior lateral eye diameter. Ratio of eyes, anterior lateral : posterior lateral : posterior median, 4:5:6. Posterior median eyes separated by one-third their long diameter, by almost twice their diameter from posterior laterals; anterior laterals separated by eight times their diameter; lateral eyes of each side contiguous. Chelicerae projecting forward distance equal to one-third of carapace length, bearing distal



Figs. 1-3: *Symphytognatha ulur*, new species. 1 cephalothorax, anterior view; 2 epigynum, ventral view, cleared; 3 body, lateral view.

lobe with one short and two long, sinuous teeth. Legs clothed with fine setae but without spines. Leg formula 4123. Length (mm):

	I	II	III	IV
Femur	0.32	0.30	0.22	0.34
Patella	0.14	0.12	0.11	0.14
Tibia	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.22
Metatarsus	0.17	0.14	0.13	0.18
Tarsus	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.22
Total	1.03	0.96	0.85	1.10

Palpal segments beyond coxa lacking. Epigynum with broad transverse ducts posteriorly and coiled ducts anteriorly (Fig. 2).

Material Examined: Only the holotype.

Reference

- FORSTER, R. R. & PLATNICK N. I. 1977: A review of the spider family Symphytognathidae (Arachnida, Araneae). *Am.Mus.Novit.* **2619**: 1-29.