

The identity of *Microcreagris gigas* Balzan (Pseudoscorpiones, Neobisiidae)

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Summary

The description of *Microcreagris gigas* Balzan, 1892 from China is completed, based on the type specimens; a lectotype is designated. The genus belongs to the neobisiid subfamily Ideobisiinae and is characterised by the structure of the flagellum, the presence of a well developed galea and the chaetotaxy of the genital area and abdominal sternites.

Introduction

The new genus and species *Microcreagris gigas* was described from the Simon collection by Balzan in 1892 (*Annls Soc.ent.Fr.* 60/1891; date of issue March 1892) from an uncertain locality in China. The characters described subsequently proved to be insufficient to place correctly the many species afterwards described into this genus. Only recently the heterogeneity of this genus was proved and three genera were separated: *Acanthocreagris* Mahnert, *Ronco-creagris* Mahnert and *Balkanoroncus* Čurčić (Čurčić, 1975; Mahnert, 1974, 1976). A revised description of *Microcreagris* s.str. was not given previously owing to the uncertainty concerning the type specimens. The specimens studied here came from Simon's collection (MNHN, Paris, no. 6396) and were labelled: *Microcreagris gigas* Balzan, Chine, In-Kia-Pou, Tsin Ling Chan, det. M. Vachon. These specimens, as shown by further research undertaken by my colleague Dr J. Heurtault, Paris, and by myself, are the only ones of that genus and species deposited in Simon's collection. When one takes into account the principles applied by Simon in arranging the collection they must be considered as type specimens, even if no type labels are to be found. The type locality cannot be identified with certainty, the only geographical name corresponding to the one mentioned could be the

Tsin Lin Shan Mountain range (38° 00' N, 108° 00' E).

To redefine the genus *Microcreagris* a lectotype (♀, mounted on 5 slides, coll. Simon no. 6396) is designated and described, as well as a paralectotype ♂.

Genus *Microcreagris* Balzan, 1892

Type species: *M. gigas* Balzan (by monotypy)

Terra typica: China

Member of the neobisiid subfamily Ideobisiinae; carapace with epistome and (normally) four eyes. Chelicerae with variable number of setae, movable finger with simple or branched galea; flagellum consisting of 8 setae all of which are pinnate along their anterior margins, the two distal ones situated on a slight elevation; pleural membranes on abdomen granulate; a row of densely set setae just behind the male genital opening, and on the posterior margin of sternite III a central group of numerous setae; on posterior sternites two (or more) medially placed setae; suture on femur of leg IV vertical; tarsus I and II of leg IV with tactile setae; tactile setae of chela (Fig. 2) *eb/esb* separated from each other by approximately 3 diam., *ib-isb-ist* forming a group in proximal half of finger, *est-it-et* in distal half of finger.

Microcreagris gigas Balzan, 1892

Description of female

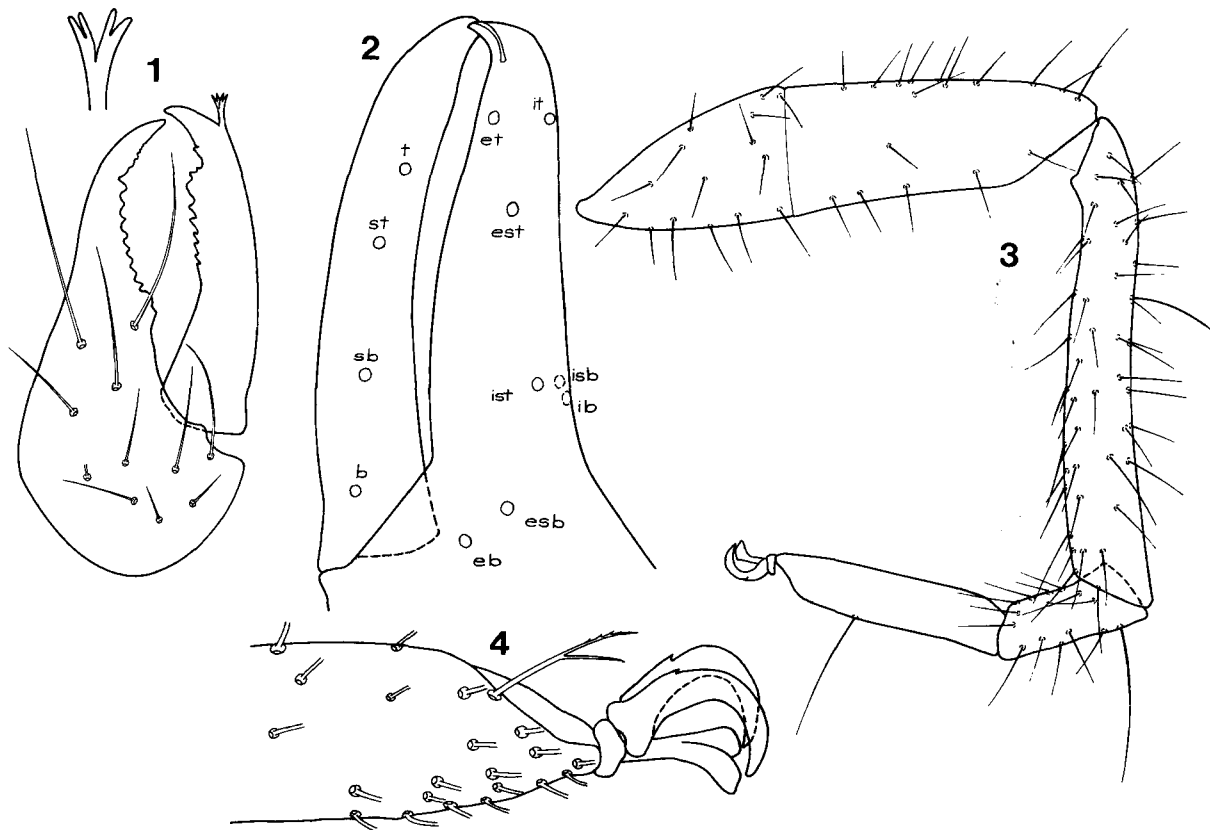
Carapace a little longer than broad, epistome distinct, triangular, 4 well-developed eyes; a total of approximately 44 setae on carapace, with 6 at anterior and 12 at posterior margin. Tergal chaetotaxy: 17-19-21-23-24-23-23-21-20-15-16, on tergite VIII and IX 4 setae placed well anterior to the margin, on tergite X the lateral setae and 3 median setae placed anteriorly. Chelicera with 12-14 setae on the palm, fixed finger with 9-11, movable finger with 10-12 marginal teeth; galea divided into two branches, each branch bifurcate, serrula exterior with about 48, serrula interior with about 28 blades; flagellum with 8 setae (Fig. 5). Anterior genital operculum with a group of 4 setae on each side of midpoint, the cribriform plates broken up into small plates, the median compact and rounded, the laterals elongate.

Sternal chaetotaxy: 26-24-29-27-26-26-24-19-9; spiracles on sternite III with 6-8, on sternite IV with 5-6 long guard setae; on VI and VII one pair of medially placed setae, IX with 3 anterior setae, on X the lateral setae also placed anteriorly. Pleural membranes of abdomen granulate. Pedipalps: femur medially distinctly granulate, tibia and chela somewhat finer, femur without distinct pedicel, slightly club-shaped, 3.74x as long as broad, tibia 2.13x (club 1.41x), hand of chela with pedicel 1.57x, chela with pedicel 2.27x, finger a little longer than hand without pedicel. Tactile setae of chela as in male. Leg I: femur I 3.46x as long as broad, femur II 2.76x, tibia 5.21x, tarsus I 3.66x, tarsus II 5.03x; leg IV: femur (entire) 4.14x, tibia 7.18x, tarsus I 2.90x, tarsus II 5.18x as long as broad, tarsus II 1.61x longer than tarsus I. Subterminal tarsal seta unequally furcate at middle, the longer branch with some spinules (Fig. 4). Claws each with a small external tooth; tarsus I with tactile

seta basally (TS=0.14), tarsus II with one distal to midpoint (TS=0.63) (Fig. 3).

Description of male

Carapace with 8 setae at anterior and 14 at posterior border; palm of chelicera with 11 setae (Fig. 1); serrula exterior with 49, serrula interior with 32 blades; palpal coxae with approximately 20 setae, coxa I 13, II 13, III 9, IV approximately 20; genital area as in Fig. 6. Lateral genital sacs well developed, median genital sac not observed; a few internal guard setae on each side; sternal chaetotaxy as in female. Pedipalps: femur 3.46x as long as broad, tibia 2.05x (club 1.32x), hand with pedicel 1.53x as long as broad and 1.03x longer than finger; tactile setae of chela as in Fig. 2; fixed finger with 70, movable finger with 68 teeth. Leg IV: tarsus I 3.21x as long as broad, tarsus II 5.40x, tarsus II 1.59x longer than



Figs. 1-4: *Microcreagris gigas* Balzan. 1 left chelicera, ♂; 2 distribution of tactile setae on chela, ♂; 3 leg IV, ♀; 4 distal end of tarsus II, leg IV, ♀.

tarsus I, tactile seta on tarsus I basal (TS=0.18), on tarsus II distal to midpoint (TS=0.63).

Measurements (in mm) (δ in brackets)

Pedipalps: femur 1.98/0.53 (2.03/0.58), tibia 1.73/0.83 (1.71/0.83), hand with pedicel 1.87/1.19 (1.80/1.18), length of movable finger 1.65 (1.75). Leg I: femur I 0.99/0.29, femur II 0.70/0.25, tibia 0.98/0.19, tarsus I 0.57/0.16, tarsus II 0.70/0.14. Leg IV: femur 1.95/0.47, tibia 1.82/0.25, tarsus I 0.54/0.19 (0.59/0.18), tarsus II 0.87/0.17 (0.93/0.17).

The slight differences in measurements from those of Balzan are probably due to different methods.

To my knowledge only three species can be placed without doubt in the genus *Microcreagris*: the type species *gigas* Balzan from China, *kaznakovi* Redikortzev (Tibet, Nepal: Prof. M. Beier, in litt.) and

herculeana Beier (Afghanistan). The following species formerly placed in *Microcreagris* are now assigned to *Acanthocreagris*, *Roncocreagris* and *Balkanoroncus*.

Acanthocreagris (type species: *Microcreagris gallica* Beier): *aelleni* (Mahnert), *agassizi* (Beier), *anatolica* (Beier), *balcanica* (Hadzi), *balearica* (Beier), *beieri* (Mahnert), *?callaticola* (Dumitresco & Orghidan), *caspica* (Beier), *cavernicola* (Beier), *coryraea* (Mahnert), *corsa* (Mahnert), *granulata* (Beier), *iranica* (Beier), *italica* (Beier), *?juliae* (Lagar), *lanzai* (Beier), *leucadia* (Mahnert), *lucifuga* (Simon), *ludiviri* (Ćurčić), *obtusa* (Mahnert), *osellai* (Beier), *pyrenaica* (Ellingsen), *relicta* (Mahnert), *ressli* (Beier), *sardoa* (Beier), *vachoni* (Mahnert).

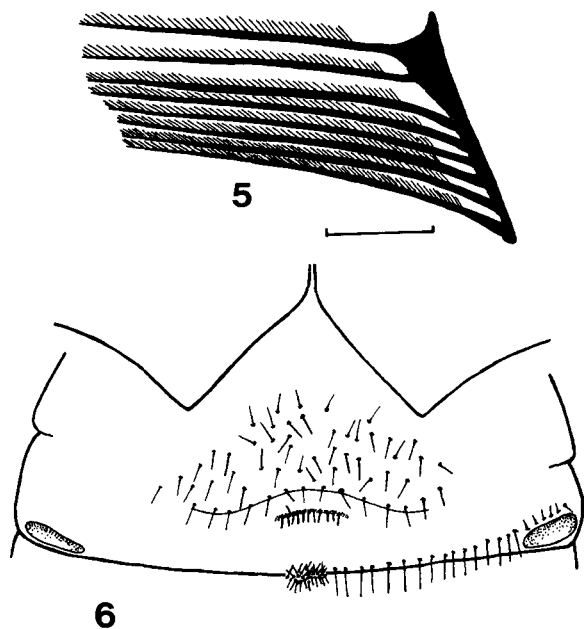
Roncocreagris (type species: *Roncus cambridgei* L. Koch): *beieri* (Mahnert), *blothroides* (Beier), *cantabrica* (Beier), *cavernicola* (Vachon), *galeonuda* (Beier), *iberica* (Beier), *portugalensis* (Beier), *pycta* (Beier), *roncoides* (Beier).

Balkanoroncus (type species: *Roncus bureschi* Hadzi): monotypic.

All the other species described or placed in *Microcreagris* have to be revised, and probably (as already pointed out: Mahnert, 1976) some belong to other described or undescribed genera.

References

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Figs. 5-6: *Microcreagris gigas* Balzan. 5 flagellum, ♀; 6 chaetotaxy of genital area, ♂. Scale line = 0.1 mm.