

Spiders from Lebanon, V. On *Hoplopholcus ceconii* Kulczynski, 1908 (Pholcidae)

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Summary

Hoplopholcus ceconii Kulczynski, 1908 is illustrated (♂♀); identical with this species is *H. subterraneus* Denis, 1955 (syn.nova).

Introduction

In a recent paper (Brignoli, 1977) I published a review of the Middle-Eastern pholcids; I was then unable to give any information on the two *Hoplopholcus* species named from this region.

Hoplopholcus ceconii Kulczynski, 1908 (Figs. 1-5)

Hoplopholcus ceconii Kulczynski, 1908, pp. 63-67, pl. II, figs. 6-7.

H. subterraneus Denis 1955, pp. 445-448, figs. III a-g (SYN.NOVA).

Material examined

H. subterraneus: 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (1 lacking the abdomen), 1 juv. from Lebanon, grotte de Djezzine (coll.Denis AR 2035-2036) and 1 male palpus apparently from Lebanon, grotte de Antelias (found in the tube AR 1704 in which was the type of *Harpactea straba* Denis, 1955, described from this cave). In the original paper (Denis, 1955) the following material was listed: grotte d'Amchita, 2 ♂♂, grotte d'Antelias, 2 ♂♂ ("holotypes", sic !), 2 juv., grotte de Jezzine (= Djezzine), 3 ♀♀ ("allotypes", sic !); doubtful were the records of 6 juv. from the caves of Touaité and Ghita. Notwithstanding repeated requests, over the period of a year, to the Instytut Zoologii P.A.N., Warszawa, where the material relating to the 1908 paper by Kulczynski is deposited, I have been unable to obtain any answer on the fate of the types of *ceconii* which, if still existing, are most evidently unavailable to me. From Paris I did not obtain any explanation on the whereabouts of the remaining material of *subterraneus*.

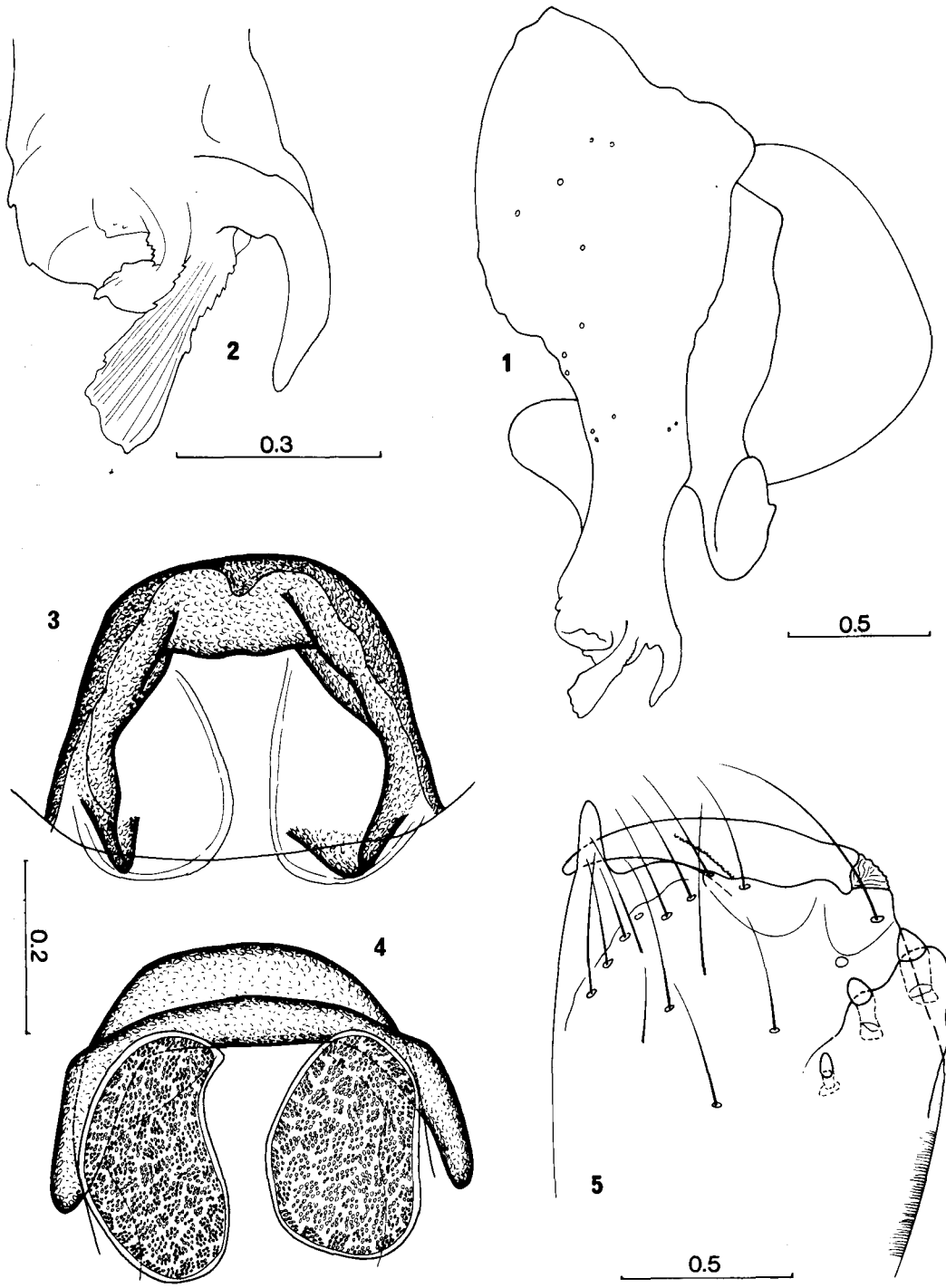
Comments

Kulczynski (1908) described *ceconii* on both sexes from "Palestine" (no exact locality); his illustrations, as always, are good, but executed from a somewhat unusual angle, which made it difficult to compare them with the more conventional ones of Denis (1955). The latter author did not in any way justify his description of *subterraneus* as a new species and did not compare it with any of the then known *Hoplopholcus*. With the material at hand, it is easy to place the palpus of *subterraneus* in the same position as that of *ceconii* as drawn by Kulczynski and to note the identity of the two "species".

The species closest to *ceconii*, according to the male palpus, is apparently *H. asiaeminoris* Brignoli, 1978 from the Turkish provinces of Konya, Antalya and Isparta; the apophyses of the bulbus are of the same type and the terminal part of the procurus is not very different.

The greatest differences between these two species are in the female genitalia and in the chelicerae, which are more specialized (e.g. with more sensorial "cones") in *ceconii* than in *asiaeminoris*.

The genus *Hoplopholcus* Kulczynski, 1908 is now relatively well known and acceptable illustrations of all species exist. Only the type species, *H. forskoeli* (Thorell, 1871) is widely distributed: it is known from Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Turkey (the records from other countries are doubtful). Four of the remaining species — *absoloni* Kulczynski, 1914, *skotophilus* (Kratochvil, 1940), *montenegrinus* (Kratochvil, 1940) and *photophilus* (Senglet, 1971) — have well developed sensory (?) structures on the chelicerae (and had for this reason been attributed to the genus *Stygopholcus*); they form a natural species-group distributed from Yugoslavia to northern Greece; as the sensory structures exist in all species and as the other characters are as in the typical *Hoplopholcus*, I find it unnecessary to burden the nomenclature with another name. Distributed from the island of Crete to the south-western coast of Turkey are *H. labyrinthi* (Kulczynski, 1903), *H. minotaurinus* Senglet, 1971, *H. minous* Senglet, 1971, *H. figulus* Brignoli, 1971 (see Brignoli, 1979, for complete illustrations), *H. patrizii* (Roewer, 1962) (see Brignoli, 1978); at present there is a gap in central and southern Greece between these two



Figs. 1-5: *Hoplopholcus cecconii* Kulczynski. 1 detail of the ♂ palp; 2 detail of extremity of the procurrus; 3 vulva from outside; 4 vulva from inside; 5 terminal part of chelicera. Scales in mm.

species-groups. More isolated are *H. asiaeminoris* Brignoli, 1978 (see above) and *H. longipes* (Spassky, 1934) (see Brignoli, 1978) from the north-eastern "corner" of the Black Sea.

A considerable number of species are more or less limited to caves; it can therefore be expected that in the future some more species will be found in the poorly explored caves of northern and central Greece, western and northern Turkey and Caucasus.

According to the structure of ♂♀ genitalia, *Hoplopholcus* is strictly related to *Holocnemus*, *Crossopriza* and *Smeringopus*. *Holocnemus* could perhaps be considered Western Mediterranean whereas most, if not all, species of the other two genera belong to the Ethiopian region. Judging from the small amount of information we have on the pholcids from Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent, it would appear that this group of genera is poorly represented in this region; the Mediterranean forms could therefore be considered as (at least partly) thermophilous and hygrophilous elements of Ethiopian derivation. *Hoplopholcus* and *Smeringopus* (common in forests and in tropical caves) are without doubt more hygrophilous than *Holocnemus* and *Crossopriza* (which can be found in a subdesertic environment).

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