

On some species described by O. P.-Cambridge in the genera *Erigone* and *Linyphia* from Egypt, Palestine and Syria (Araneae: Linyphiidae)

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Summary

The following new synonyms and combinations are established: *Troxochrus pastoralis* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872) (= *Alioranus pastoralis* (O. P.-Cambridge), n. comb.) senior syn. of *Alioranus planiceps* (Wunderlich, 1980), n. syn.; *Robertus femoralis* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872) = *Brachycerasphora femoralis* (O. P.-Cambridge), n. comb.; *Lophomma incautum* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872) (= *Ceratinopsis incauta* (O. P.-Cambridge), n. comb.) junior syn. of *Ceratinopsis romana* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872), n. syn.; *Tapinocyba alexandrina* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872) (= *Microctenonyx alexandrinus* (O. P.-Cambridge), n. comb.) suppressed senior syn. of *Microctenonyx subitaneus* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1875), n. syn.; *Lepthyphantes congener* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872) = *Frontinellina frutetorum* (C. L. Koch, 1834), n. syn.; *Microneta inexpedibilis* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872) = *Meioneta fuscipalpus* (C. L. Koch, 1836), n. syn. *Brachycerasphora femoralis* and *Pelecopsis pavidata* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872) are redescribed.

Introduction

In his paper on the spiders of Palestine and Syria, O. P.-Cambridge (1872a) described several new species from this hitherto virtually unexplored region. The paper is illustrated with good figures, which greatly facilitate identification. Very small spiders of the genera *Erigone* and *Linyphia* (*Erigone femoralis*, *E. inexpedibilis*, *E. incauta*, *E. pastoralis*, *E. pavidata* and *Linyphia congener*) are however inadequately figured, and since then have never been redescribed. A similar case is that of *Erigone alexandrina* O. P.-Cambridge (1872b), cited by Simon (1885) from Algeria and Tunisia, but again never redescribed since that time.

Simon (1884) attempted to place these species in more suitable genera; there they have remained ever since, and are recorded as such in the catalogues of Roewer (1942) and Bonnet (1955–59).

O. P.-Cambridge's collection is very well stored in the Hope Entomological collection in Oxford (HECO), and all the specimens appeared incredibly fresh and little faded. Their redescription has therefore been an enjoyable task. All measurements are in millimetres.

Alioranus pastoralis (O. P.-Cambridge), n. comb.

Erigone pastoralis O. P.-Cambridge, 1872a: 292 (descr. ♂).
Troxochrus pastoralis; Simon, 1884: 652; Roewer, 1942: 689; Bonnet, 1959: 4731.

Hubertinus planiceps Wunderlich, 1980: 122 (descr. ♂, ♀). N. Syn.
Alioranus planiceps; Tanasevitch, 1989: 125.

Type material: The type series contains 2♂♂ from Nazareth, Mount Tabor (HECO tube 5).

Discussion: According to Cambridge (1872a), the species belongs to a group allied to *Walckenaera ignobilis* (= *Erigonella ignobilis*); Simon (1884) transferred *ignobilis* and *pastoralis* to *Troxochrus*, and in later catalogues *pastoralis* has remained in this genus.

Examination of the type series reveals that the species is identical to *Hubertinus planiceps* Wunderlich, the latter becoming a junior synonym.

Distribution: *H. planiceps* was originally described by Wunderlich (1980) from Crete and Cyprus. This species was later cited from Tadjikistan by Tanasevitch (1989) and transferred to *Alioranus*. The locality of Nazareth fills a considerable gap between the two.

Brachycerasphora femoralis (O. P.-Cambridge), n. comb. (Figs. 1–2)

Erigone femoralis O. P.-Cambridge, 1872a: 291 (descr. ♀).
Pedanostethus femoralis; Simon, 1884: 201.
Robertus femoralis; Roewer, 1942: 409; Bonnet, 1958: 3871.

Type material: Holotype female of *Erigone femoralis* from the plains of the Jordan (HECO tube 36); examined.

Diagnosis: This species is easily recognised by the large aperture of the epigyne.

Discussion: Cambridge (1872a) indicates that the species resembles *Neriene livida* Blackwall (= *Robertus lividus*), and therefore the species was listed as the theridiid *Robertus femoralis* in the catalogues of Roewer (1942) and Bonnet (1958).

Examination of the type specimen reveals that the species does not belong to a theridiid genus, but to *Brachycerasphora* Denis, 1962. This genus has one representative in Algeria [*B. convexa* (Simon, 1884)], two in Libya [*B. monocerotum* Denis, 1962, *B. connectens* Denis, 1964] and one in Egypt [*B. parvicornis* (Simon, 1884)]. All females known have a similar aperture in the epigyne, but less wide than in *B. femoralis*, with the spermathecae located laterally.

Brachycerasphora parvicornis (Simon, 1884) was described from Alexandria in Egypt and its female is unknown. It is possibly the male of *B. femoralis*.

Description: Female: Total length 2.0; cephalothorax 0.81 long, 0.70 wide. Legs:

	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus
I	0.73	0.23	0.62	0.52	0.28
IV	0.84	0.23	0.70	0.58	0.38

Colour: Cephalothorax deep rich brown, fovea, margin and striae darkened; legs red-brown, basal part of tibiae, metatarsi and tarsi reddish yellow; abdomen glossy black. Cephalothorax: Posterior eyes separated by twice their diameter. Legs: No spines or trichobothria observed. Epigyne (Fig. 1): With large aperture, as long as wide, and with antero-lateral anchoring holes. Vulva (Fig. 2): Anterior margin of depression excavated; spermathecae oval, located at lateral sides of depression.

Male: Unknown.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

***Ceratinopsis romana* (O. P.- Cambridge)**

Neriene romana O. P.-Cambridge, 1872b: 752.

Erigone incauta O. P.-Cambridge, 1872a: 289 (descr. ♂). N. Syn.

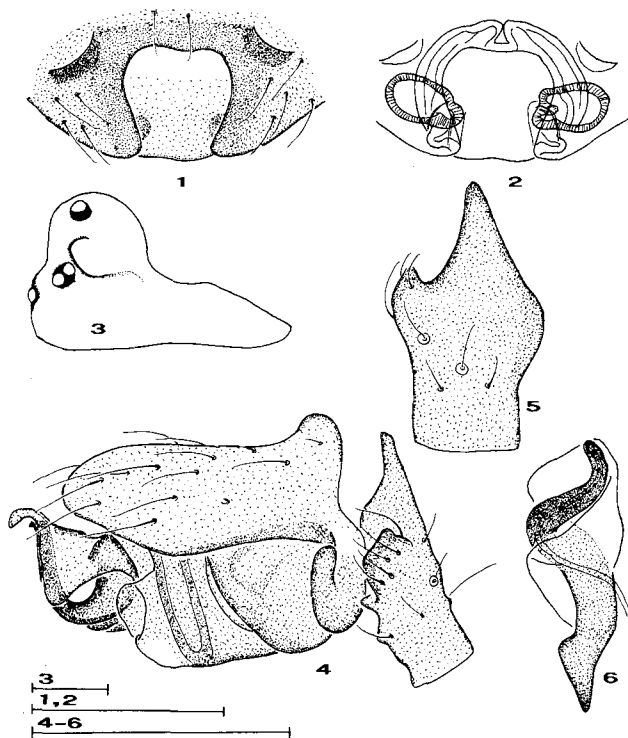
Lophomma incautum; Simon, 1884: 538; Roewer, 1942: 713; Bonnet, 1957: 2568.

Type material: Lectotype male of *Erigone incauta* by present designation, from Palestine, Jerusalem (HECO T. 35); paralectotype male from the Lebanon (HECO T. 38).

Discussion: Cambridge (1872a) considered *Erigone incauta* most nearly allied to *Neriene herbigrada* (Blackwall) (= *Micrargus herbigradus*). Simon (1884) therefore transferred it to *Lophomma*, together with *herbigradus*. In later catalogues, the species has been retained in *Lophomma*.

Examination of the type series reveals that it is neither a *Lophomma* nor a *Micrargus* species. It concerns the well-known *Ceratinopsis romana*, described by Cambridge in the same year and in the same journal as *C. incauta*. By page priority, *C. incauta* would become the senior synonym. However, after 120 years of continuous use of *C. romana*, and in order to ensure nomenclatural stability, I have as first reviser (ICZN Art. 24) the right to choose *C. romana* as senior synonym.

Distribution: A common species in Europe, North Africa and the Near East.



Figs. 1-2: *Brachycerasphora femoralis* (O. P.-Cambridge) n. comb. **1** Epigyne, ventral view; **2** Vulva, ventral view.

Figs. 3-6: *Pelecopsis pavidata* (O. P.-Cambridge) n. comb. **3** Cephalothorax, lateral view; **4** Male palp, lateral view; **5** Male palpal tibia, dorsal view; **6** Embolic division of male palp, prolateral view. Scale lines = 0.2 mm.

***Microctenonyx subitaneus* (O. P.-Cambridge)**

Erigone subitanea O. P.-Cambridge, 1875: 249 (descr. ♂).

Erigone alexandrina O. P.-Cambridge, 1872b: 755 (descr. ♂, ♀); O. P.-Cambridge, 1876: 572. N. Syn.

Tapinocyba alexandrina; Simon, 1884: 784; 1885: 28; Roewer, 1942: 701; Bonnet, 1959: 4242.

Type material: The type series of *Erigone alexandrina* from Egypt, Alexandria contains 4♂♂ and 6♀♀ (HECO); examined.

Remarks: *Microctenonyx alexandrinus*, n. comb. is another neglected species that was described by Cambridge (1872b) from Egypt and cited by Simon (1885) from Tunisia and Algeria. Examination of the type material from Egypt as well as material cited by Simon from Algeria, reveals it to be a senior synonym of *Microctenonyx subitaneus* (O. P.-Cambridge). The senior name has not been used (outside of catalogues) since 1885. On the other hand, the junior name has been in regular use over the last 50 years and has received more than the necessary 10 citations by at least five authors. I conclude that "a prima facie case that stability is threatened" can be made under Article 79b,c of International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. I therefore propose to suppress the older name *Microctenonyx alexandrinus* n. comb. and replace it by the younger name *M. subitaneus*.

Distribution: Holarctic, but also reported from New Zealand and South America, where probably imported. A common species in North Africa.

***Pelecopsis pavidata* (O. P.-Cambridge) (Figs. 3-6)**

Erigone pavidata O. P.-Cambridge, 1872a: 293 (descr. ♂).

Lophocarenum pavidum; Simon, 1884: 684; Roewer, 1942: 615.

Pelecopsis pavidata; Bonnet, 1958: 3871.

Type material: Holotype male of *Erigone pavidata* from Palestine, Hasbeiya (HECO tube 1); examined.

Diagnosis: *Pelecopsis pavidata* is closely related to *P. odontophora* (Kulczyński, 1895) from the Caucasus and *P. laptevi* Tanasevitch & Fet, 1986 from Turkmenia, but it can be readily distinguished by the larger post-ocular sulci, and the differently shaped cymbial tubercle.

Discussion: Cambridge (1872a) considered this species closely related to *Walckenaera nemoralis* Blackwall (= *Pelecopsis nemoralis*), and Simon correctly transferred the species to *Lophocarenum*, now considered a junior synonym of *Pelecopsis*. The holotype male indeed appears to be a *Pelecopsis* species.

Description: Male: Total length 1.6; cephalothorax 0.74 long, 0.59 wide. Legs:

	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus
I	0.52	0.17	0.36	0.30	0.26

Legs IV missing. No spines or trichobothria observed. Colour: Rather faded. Cephalothorax (Fig. 3): With well-developed cephalic lobe, carrying posterior median eyes, which are small and separated by 5-6 times their diameter, and with a very large, rounded sulcus; thoracic part with punctures in radiating striae. Abdomen: Covered with large scutum. Palp (Figs. 4-6): Tibia with

two anterior triangular apophyses, the anterior much larger than the antero-lateral. Cymbium with pointed dorsal tubercle. Embolic division having a well-developed radix with triangular tail-piece. Embolus spirally coiled, terminally bluntly pointed, accompanied by a large tegular membrane.

Female: Unknown.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

Meioneta fuscipalpus (C. L. Koch)

Micryphantes fuscipalpus C. L. Koch, 1836: 46 (descr. ♀).

Erigone inexpedibilis O. P.-Cambridge, 1872a: 289 (descr. subadult ♂).
N. Syn.

Microneta inexpedibilis; Simon, 1884: 441; Roewer, 1942: 519; Bonnet, 1957: 2899.

Type material: Holotype male of *Erigone inexpedibilis* from Palestine, Hasbeiya (HECO tube 37); examined.

Discussion: In the original description, Cambridge compares this species with *Micryphantes rurestris* C. L. Koch (= *Meioneta rurestris*), but states it has shorter legs and weaker falcis. Simon (1884) therefore correctly placed the species in *Microneta*, as he did other species later placed in *Meioneta* Hull. In the catalogues of Roewer (1942) and Bonnet (1957), the species was retained in *Microneta*.

The holotype is a subadult male, not adult as stated by Cambridge (1872a). However, the lamella is already well-developed and clearly visible in transparency; the typical denticles of the lamella of *M. fuscipalpus* can easily be recognised.

Distribution: *M. fuscipalpus* is a widespread species throughout the palaearctic region.

Frontinellina frutetorum (C. L. Koch)

Linyphia frutetorum C. L. Koch, 1834: 123.

Linyphia congener O. P.-Cambridge, 1872a: 294 (descr. ♂). N. Syn.

Lepthyphantes congener; Simon, 1884: 330; Kulczyński, 1908: 68 (descr. ♀); Roewer, 1942: 544; Bonnet, 1957: 2416.

Type material: Lectotype female, by present designation, from Lebanon (HECO tube 40). Paralectotypes: 1 subadult ♀ from Lebanon, with lectotype (HECO tube 40); 1 subadult ♂ from Jericho (HECO tube 36) and 1 juv. from Lebanon (HECO tube 44), probably belonging to *Lepthyphantes*.

Discussion: The type series contains several specimens, among them an adult female of *Frontinellina frutetorum*, one subadult of the same species, and a subadult and a juvenile *Lepthyphantes*. The adult ♀, also mentioned in Cambridge's description (1872a), is selected as lectotype, and *Linyphia congener* thus becomes a junior synonym of *Frontinellina frutetorum*.

Kulczyński (1908) cited *L. congener* from Cyprus. His figure of the male palp clearly shows the long, typical lamella of *F. frutetorum*, confirming the synonymy.

Distribution: A common species in the southern part of the entire palaearctic region.

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