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Ceraticelus sibiricus Eskov, 1987, a spider species new to Poland (Araneae: Linyphiidae)

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Summary

A species of linyphiid spider, *Ceraticelus sibiricus* Eskov, 1987 is redescribed from Poland. It is the third member of the American genus *Ceraticelus* known in Eurasia.

Introduction

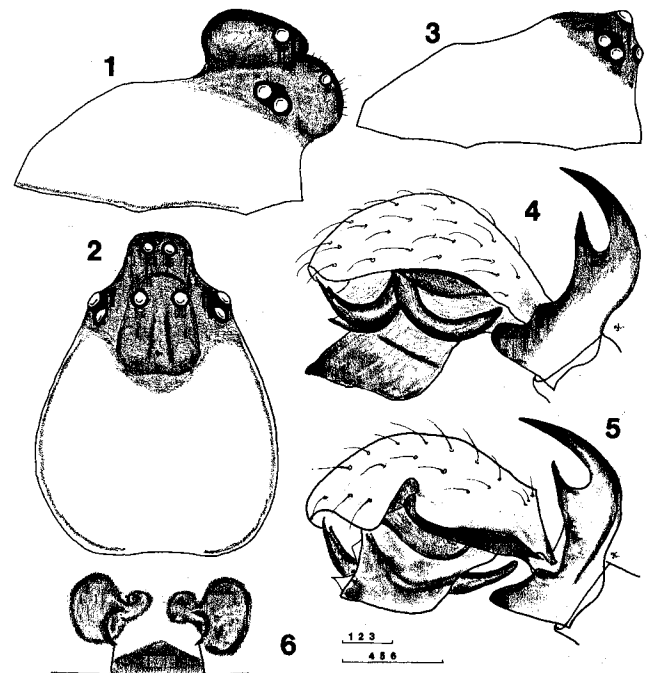
During ecological investigations carried out in the Biebrza River National Park (vicinity of Gugnny village), one of the largest swamps in Europe, 24 specimens of a linyphiid spider were caught. The spiders were identified as *Ceraticelus sibiricus* Eskov, 1987, described from the middle Yenisey area (Siberia). Another species, *C. orientalis* Eskov, 1987, was also first found and described in the same area. The mainly American genus *Ceraticelus* Simon, 1884 was hitherto known in Europe from only one species determined as *C. bulbosus* (Emerton, 1882) (Koponen, 1979, 1985), but Eskov (1987) suggested that this might be *C. sibiricus*.

Ceraticelus sibiricus Eskov, 1987 (Figs. 1–8)

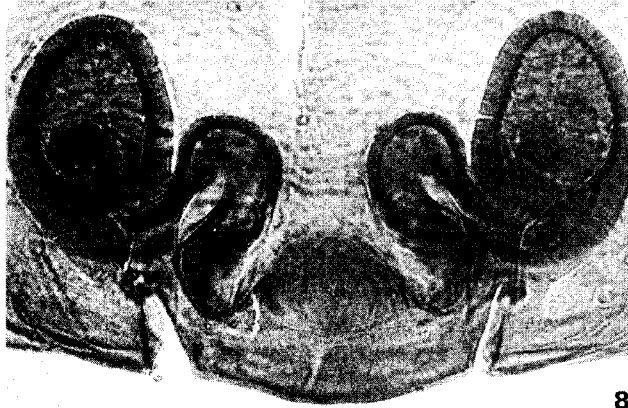
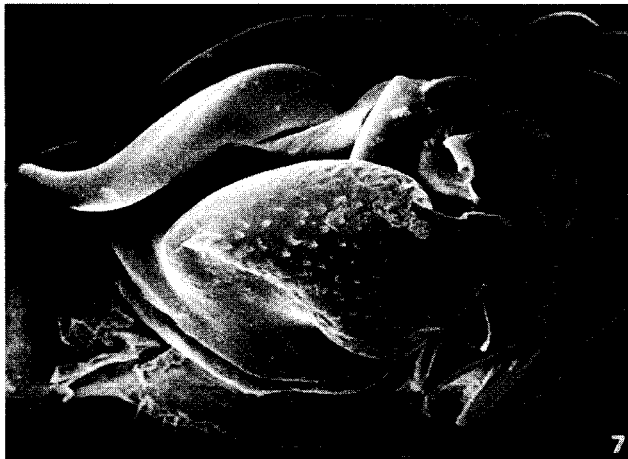
Material: Poland, Biebrza River National Park (53°22'N, 22°35'E), wet meadow, 1 ♂, 3 July 1991; same locality, sedge-moss marsh, 3 ♂ 18 ♀, 5 May 1992, 2 ♂, August 1992. One male and 5 females deposited in Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Science (Warsaw); 1 ♂ 1 ♀ deposited in British Museum (Natural History), London; 4 ♂ 12 ♀ in collection of Institute of Biology, Białystok.

Diagnosis: *C. sibiricus* is very similar to *C. berthoudi* Dondale, 1958, from which it differs in the elongated posterior cephalic lobe in dorsal view and the shallower transverse furrow between the cephalic lobes of the male, and more widely spaced spermathecae in the female.

Description: **Male:** Total length 1.53 mm; carapace length 0.6 mm, width 0.5 mm. Carapace: reddish brown, thoracic part reticulated, cephalic lobe very dark and smooth (Figs. 1, 2), longer than broad (4:3), carrying PME; front part with AME strongly convex — in shape of another cephalic lobe — covered with short scattered



Figs. 1–4: *Ceraticelus sibiricus* Eskov. **1** Male carapace, lateral view; **2** Male carapace, dorsal view; **3** Female carapace, lateral view; **4** Male right palp, mesal view; **5** Male left palp, lateral view; **6** Epigyne. Scale lines = 0.1 mm.



Figs. 7-8: *Ceraticelus sibiricus* Eskov. **7** Male palp, ventral view ($\times 375$); **8** Vulva ($\times 450$).

hairs; between the two lobes a hairy depression. Clypeus 0.22 mm high. Eyes: anterior row strongly recurved, medians smaller than laterals (3:4), ALE and PLE a little less than their diameter apart, PME 2 diam. apart. Sternum: same colour as carapace. Chelicerae: without stridulatory ridges, with 4 promarginal and 2 or 3 retromarginal teeth. Abdomen: light brown, dorsally with reddish brown scutum with 4 brown impressed dots. Legs: light brown; tibiae without spines; patellae dorsally with one subapical spine; tibia I $l/d=5.5$; Ti IV/Mt IV=1.13, Mt I/Ta I=1.15; position of metatarsal trichobothria I-III (Tm) 0.52. Mt IV without trichobothrium. Palp: length 0.73 mm (Fe 0.27, Pa 0.16, Ti+Ta 0.30); patella elongated, its length equal to 0.59 of femur length, tibia short with long, falciform single-toothed apophysis (Figs. 4, 5). Paracymbium long, at distal end

slightly curved upwards (Fig. 5). Embolus curved into an elongated narrow spiral (Fig. 7). Cymbium with thin hairs.

Female: Total length 1.67 mm; carapace length 0.62 mm, width 0.51 mm. Carapace: colour as in male (Fig. 3), cephalic and thoracic parts reticulated; clypeus 0.15 high. Eyes: anterior row recurved, medians and laterals as in male, PME slightly closer together. Sternum and chelicerae: as in male. Legs: spines as in male; tibia I $l/d=5.3$; Ti IV/Mt IV=1.18, Mt I/Ta I=1.13; Tm I-III as in male. Mt IV without trichobothrium. Palp: patella with one apical spine, tibia with one trichobothrium. Epigyne and Vulva (Figs. 6, 8): vulva strongly sclerotised.

Habitat and distribution: In Poland *C. sibiricus* lives in open wet habitats of a large sedge-moss marsh dominated by *Carex paradoxa* Willd., *Carex rostrata* Stokes, *Peucedanum palustre* (L.) and *Menyanthes trifoliata* L. The habitat is similar to that described by Eskov (1987) from Siberia for *C. sibiricus* and by Koponen (1979) from Finland for *C. bulbosus*.

The genus *Ceraticelus* is widespread in North and Central America. *C. bulbosus*, *C. orientalis* and *C. sibiricus* are the only species known in Asia and Europe. However, Eskov (1987) suggested that the specimen described as *C. bulbosus* in Finland might belong to *C. sibiricus*. This is supported by the occurrence of *C. sibiricus* in NE Poland reported in the present paper.

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