

***Euophrys aperta* Miller, 1971, a junior synonym of *Talavera thorelli* (Kulczyński, 1891) (Arachnida: Araneae: Salticidae)**

S. Pekár

Research Institute of Crop Production,
Drnovska 507,
161 06, Prague 6—Ruzyně, Czech Republic

Summary

Euophrys aperta Miller, 1971 was found to be identical with *Talavera thorelli* (Kulczyński, 1891) and is therefore considered a junior synonym. The second record of this species in Slovakia is presented.

Introduction

Euophrys aperta Miller, 1971 was described from a single male found in limestone grassland on a hill near Turčianske Teplice (Slovakia). The validity of this species has been discussed for more than 20 years (Prószyński, 1976; Thaler, 1981). Unfortunately, the holotype of *E. aperta* is not present in Miller's collection deposited in the National Museum in Prague and may be lost. Therefore we can recognise this species only from Miller's figure of the male palp and his short description: "embolus resembles a cat's claw; legs yellowish brown, spotted darkly; carapace brunneous with a black border, 1.0 mm long; head dark brown" (Miller, 1971: 140, fig. XX/19). In the current paper *E. aperta* is considered to be a junior synonym of *Talavera thorelli* (Kulczyński, 1891), based on new material found in Slovakia.

***Talavera thorelli* (Kulczyński, 1891) (Figs. 1–5)**

Euophrys thorelli Kulczyński in Chyzer & Kulczyński, 1891: 44, fig. II/4.

E. thorelli: Tullgren, 1944: 39, fig. 56; Prószyński, 1976: 6, fig. 15/145; Thaler, 1981: 124, figs. 60, 68, 69; Heimer & Nentwig, 1991: 500, figs. 1339. 1–4; Logunov, 1992: 76, fig. 18; Logunov, Cutler & Marusik, 1993: 121, fig. 18; Snazell, 1995: 40, figs. 1–4.

E. aperta Miller, 1971: 140, fig. XX/19. **Syn. n.**

Male: The male specimens found in Nováky (Slovakia) are identical in the shape of the palpus to *E. aperta* (Figs. 1, 2). However, they also fit in all important characters the description of *T. thorelli*. Apparent differences in the shape of the embolus are caused by the angle from which it is viewed and may be explained as follows: the embolus of *T. thorelli* usually appears dorsally hooked at the apical end only in lateral or retrolateral view (e.g. Thaler, 1981: fig. 69); in ventral view it looks straight (e.g. Thaler, 1981: fig. 68); sometimes, as in Fig. 2 and in the figures given by Snazell (1995: fig. 1) and Miller (1971: fig. XX/19), the embolus is turned aside so that its hook points in a dorso-mesal direction. The embolus therefore may look hooked in ventral as well as in lateral view.

Female: The epigyne (Fig. 3) of the recently collected specimens is identical with that of *T. thorelli* (e.g. Logunov *et al.*, 1993: fig. 18D). There is a distinct

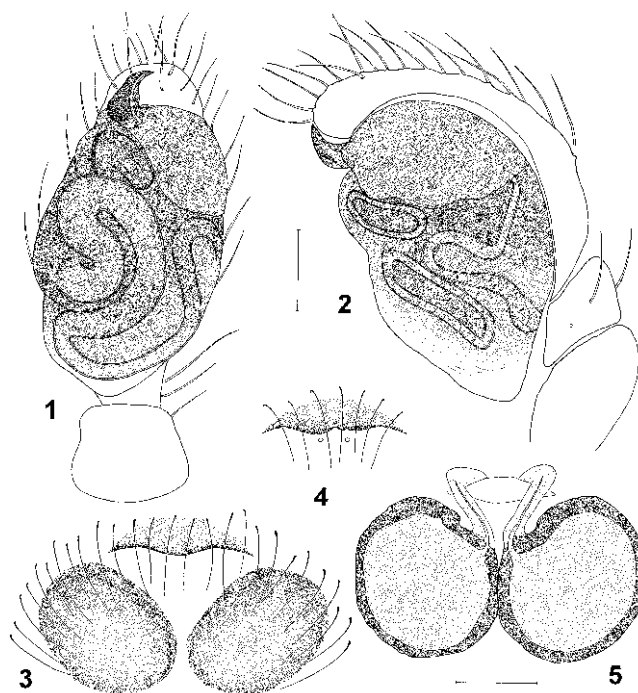
atrium anterior to the spermathecae. However, the shape of the anterior ridge of this atrium is variable (Figs. 3–4), whereas the vulva shows much less variation (Fig. 5).

Material examined: Three specimens were taken in pitfall traps on a mining tip in the district of Nováky (Slovakia). They were collected on the following dates: 1♂ (25 April–11 June 1990), 1♀ (14 July–9 August 1990), 1♀ (18 September–11 October 1990). A further 2♂ and 1♀ were taken on 22 May 1996 by hand collecting from grass in the sunshine.

Distribution: *Talavera thorelli* (Kulczyński, 1891) is thought to be part of the Caspian zoogeographical element (De Lattin, 1967). So far it has been found on a few occasions in Hungary (Chyzer & Kulczyński, 1891), Turkestan — Ssemiretschje (Charitonov, 1936), Scandinavia (e.g. Palmgren, 1972), Poland (Prószyński & Staręga, 1971), Germany (Wunderlich, 1974), Austria (Thaler, 1981), Czech Republic (Majkus, 1988), Kyrgyzstan (Logunov *et al.*, 1993) and in England (Snazell, 1995).

Remarks: This comparison of *E. aperta* Miller, 1971 with specimens of *T. thorelli* (Kulczyński, 1891) shows that the two species are identical. The latter name has priority, therefore *E. aperta* Miller, 1971 becomes a junior synonym.

The figures of *E. aperta* in Heimer & Nentwig (1991: figs. 1338. 1–4) are not identical with Miller's statements. The shape of the embolus is different, and the female was unknown to Miller. This description may therefore refer rather to *T. inopinata* Wunderlich, 1993 than to "*E. aperta*". The record of *E. aperta* in Belgium (Vanuytven, 1995) may therefore be considered doubtful.



Figs. 1–5: *Talavera thorelli* (Kulczyński, 1891). **1** Right male palp, ventral view; **2** Ditto, prolateral view; **3** Epigyne; **4** Anterior edge of atrium; **5** Vulva. Scale lines = 0.1 mm.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Prof. J. Buchar and Mgr J. Svatoň for helpful discussion on the identification of specimens. I am greatly indebted to Dr Z. Majkus and Mr R. G. Snazell for the loan of comparative specimens. I am also grateful to Dr K. Thaler, Mr R. G. Snazell and Dr P. Merrett for comments on the manuscript and some alterations to the English.

References

- CHARITONOV, D. 1936: (Nachtrag zum Katalog der Russischen Spinnen). *Scient. Mem. Univ. Perm* **2**: 167–225.
- CHYZER, C. & KULCZYŃSKI, L. 1891: *Araneae Hungariae* **1**: 1–168, pl. 1–6. Ed. Acad. Sci., Budapest.
- DE LATTIN, G. 1967: *Grundriss der Zoogeographie*. 1–602. Fischer, Stuttgart.
- HEIMER, S. & NENTWIG, W. 1991: *Spinnen Mitteleuropas*. 1–543. Verlag Paul Parey, Hamburg.
- LOGUNOV, D. V. 1992: A definition of the spider genus *Talavera* (Araneae, Salticidae) with a description of a new species. *Bull. Inst. r. Sci. nat. Belg. (Ent.)* **62**: 75–82.
- LOGUNOV, D. V., CUTLER, B. & MARUSIK, Y. M. 1993: A review of the genus *Euophrys* C. L. Koch in Siberia and the Russian Far East (Araneae: Salticidae). *Anns zool. fenn.* **30**: 120–123.
- MAJKUS, Z. 1988: Ekologicko-faunistická charakteristika arachnocenóz vybraných ostravských hald. *Spisy Pedagog. Fak. Ostravě* **63**: 1–190. (in Czech)
- MILLER, F. 1971: Pavouci—Araneida. *Klíč zvířeny ČSSR* **4**: 51–306.
- PALMGREN, P. 1972: Studies on the spider populations of the surroundings of the Tvärminne Zoological Station, Finland. *Commentat. biol.* **52**: 1–33.
- PRÓSZYŃSKI, J. 1976: Studium systematyczno-zoogeograficzne nad rodziną Salticidae (Aranei) Regionów Palearktycznego i Nearktycznego. *Rozpr. Wyższa Szkol. Pedagog. Siedlcach* **6**: 1–260.
- PRÓSZYŃSKI, J. & STAREGA, W. 1971: Pajaki—Aranei. *Kat. Fauny polski* **33**: 1–382.
- SNAZELL, R. 1995: *Euophrys thorelli* Kulczyński (Araneae: Salticidae), a salticid spider recently found in Britain. *Bull. Br. arachnol. Soc.* **10**(1): 39–40.
- THALER, K. 1981: Bemerkenswerte Spinnenfunde in Nordtirol (Österreich) (Arachnida: Aranei). *Veröff. Mus. Ferdinandeum Innsbr.* **61**: 105–150.
- TULLGREN, A. 1944: Fam. 1–4. Salticidae, Thomisidae, Philodromidae och Eusparassidae. *Svensk Spindelfauna* **3**: 1–138. Stockholm.
- VANUYTVEN, H. 1995: *Talavera aperta* (Miller, 1971), een nieuwe springspin voor de Belgische fauna (Araneae, Salticidae). *Nwsbr. belg. arachnol. Ver.* **10**(2): 25–26.
- WUNDERLICH, J. 1974: Ein Beitrag zur Synonymie einheimischer Spinnen (Arachnida: Araneae). *Zool. Beitr. (N.F.)* **20**: 159–176.