

Ozyptila pullata* (Thorell, 1875), a thomisid spider new to Britain (Araneae: Thomisidae)*David Bell**Ecological Processes Group,
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and

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The thomisid spider *Ozyptila pullata* (Thorell, 1875) is described and illustrated as new to Britain, and its habitat and distribution are discussed.

Introduction

In the summer of 1997, two males of *Ozyptila pullata* (Thorell) were taken in pitfall traps at Upper Great Culand quarry, Burham, Kent, during the course of a survey of the invertebrate fauna associated with different stages of chalk vegetation succession (Clements, 1998). Following identification of these specimens early in 1999, a further hand search at the site was undertaken by DB on 7 July 1999, and two females of the species were collected. Both sexes are described and figured here from the British material. All measurements are in mm.

Description***Ozyptila pullata* (Thorell, 1875) (Figs. 1–2)**

Xysticus pullatus Thorell, 1875a: 93 (descr. ♂); 1875b: 141 (♂).

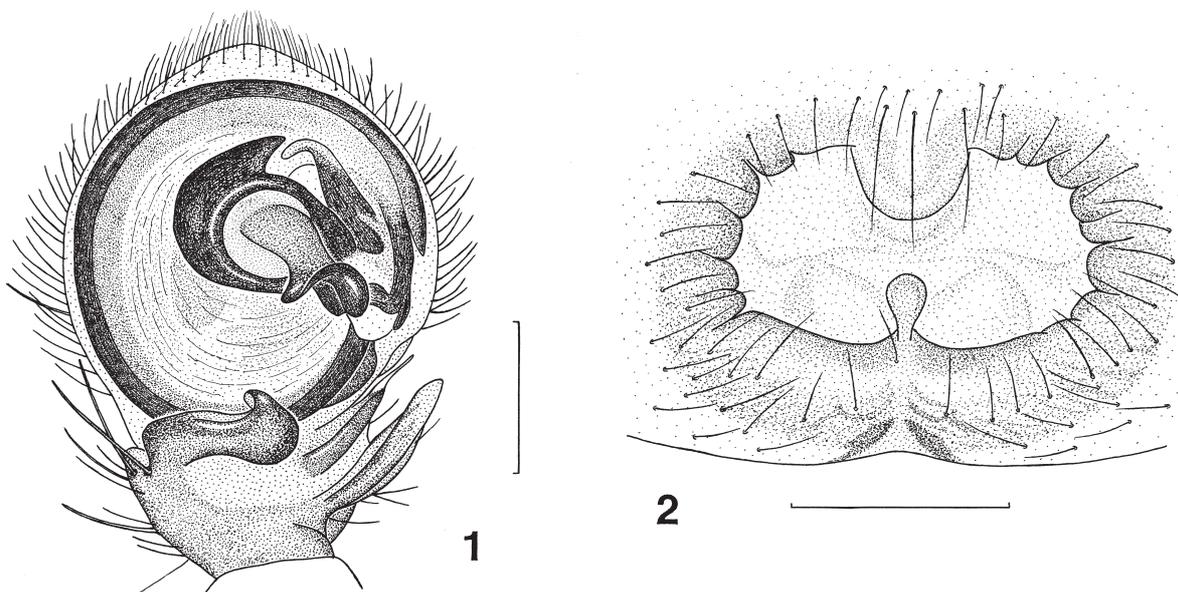
Ozyptila kotulai Kulczyński, 1898: 92, pl. 2, figs. 65–68 (♀♂); Bonnet, 1958: 3257; Miller, 1971: 115, pl. 14, figs. 1–2 (♀♂).

Ozyptila pullata: Bonnet, 1958: 3262; Heimer & Nentwig, 1991: 472, figs. 1244.1, 1244.3, 1243.4 (♀♂).

Ozyptila pullata: Hippa, Koponen & Oksala, 1986: 326, figs. 1C, G, H, L, 2C, E (♀♂, syn.). Hippa & Koponen, 1991: 7, fig. 1C (♀); Roberts, 1998: 176, figs. (♀♂).

Material examined: GREAT BRITAIN: Kent, Burham, Upper Great Culand quarry (Grid ref. TQ 738617), 2♂, pitfall traps, 20 July 1997 (J. Clements), 2♀, hand searching, 7 July 1999 (D. Bell). Specimens deposited in Bell collection.

Male: Total length 3.1–3.2. Carapace length 1.45, width 1.35–1.4. Carapace dark brown, with pale brown median band in thoracic region and some irregular pale brown spots laterally and around eyes; rugose, densely covered with clavate hairs, especially strong in ocular region. Ventral border of clypeus with 4 strong spines, which may be clavate or pointed. Chelicerae dark brown, with 2–3 strong pointed spines anteriorly. Sternum dark brown, covered with short spatulate hairs. Abdomen greyish, with irregular black markings dorsally, some whitish streaks anteriorly and laterally. Covered with short clavate hairs. Venter grey. Legs: femora I–II dark brown, rest of legs I–II and femora III–IV mid brown, rest of legs III–IV paler brown with white streaks. One small clavate spine dorsally on femora I–III, sometimes missing, or 2 on femur I. One clavate dorsal spine on tibiae I–IV. Tibiae I–II with 2 pairs of strong ventral pointed spines, and 3 pairs on metatarsi I–II. Palp (Fig. 1): femur and patella mid brown, tibia and cymbium dark brown. Tibia with prominent transverse ventral apophysis and lamellate pointed retrolateral apophysis. With bifurcate tegular apophysis rather like that of *O. scabricula* (Westring), and prominent notch on distal margin of tegular ridge. Cymbium thickly covered with short pointed hairs.



Figs. 1–2: *Ozyptila pullata* (Thorell). 1 Male palp, ventral view; 2 Epigyne, ventral view. Scale lines=0.2 mm.

Several strong spatulate spines dorsally on patella and tibia.

Female: Total length 3.3–3.6. Carapace length 1.5–1.6, width 1.45–1.55. Spinination as in male, but coloration paler. Carapace dark brown laterally as in male, but median pale band broader and extending to cephalic region. Chelicerae and sternum mid brown. Abdomen pale greyish-brown, with black markings and prominent white streaks anteriorly and laterally. Venter pale yellowish-brown. Legs: femora I and II not darkened, legs I–II mid brown, III–IV slightly paler, especially dorsally on femora. Epigyne (Fig. 2): with a large pit, with large “tongue” extending from anterior margin and smaller rounded protrusion from posterior margin. Margins of pit strongly wrinkled, bottom of pit slightly wrinkled. Shape of pit and anterior and posterior tongues variable.

Diagnosis: *Ozyptila pullata* belongs to the *Ozyptila rauda* group, and is closely related to the continental European species *O. rauda* Simon and *O. arctica* Kulczyński (for differences see Hippa, Koponen & Oksala, 1986 and Hippa & Koponen, 1991). In comparison with other British species, the male of *O. pullata* is closest to that of *O. scabricula*, but can easily be distinguished by the long transverse ventral tibial apophysis and the notch in the distal margin of the tegulum. The female possibly resembles *O. sanctuaria* (O.P.-Cambridge) most closely among British species, but is easily distinguished by the epigyne with its prominent pit with wrinkled margins.

Habitat and distribution

The only known British locality is a disused chalk quarry, which was abandoned in *c.* 1910. Since the late 1960s it has formed part of the Burham Down Nature Reserve, managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust. Much of the sparse vegetation in the quarry is very short scrub/grassland as a result of heavy rabbit grazing, but there is some encroachment by taller vegetation (e.g. hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*, and bramble, *Rubus fruticosus* agg.). The quarry is surrounded by arable land. The two females were collected by hand searching among grass roots, both close to and below the ground surface, but

the precise location of the pitfall traps where the males were caught is not known. In general, the site is very open, unmanaged and, as access is difficult, has low anthropogenic disturbance.

Ozyptila pullata is described by Heimer & Nentwig (1991) as scarce, in southern central and eastern Europe. Roberts (1998) records it as occurring in Belgium and the Netherlands among moss and grass tussocks at ground level in calcareous grassland, which agrees well with the British locality. It might be expected to be found in other open, sparsely vegetated sites on the North or South Downs.

Acknowledgements

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