

On the spider genus *Taira* (Araneae, Amaurobiidae)

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Summary

The spider genus *Taira* is diagnosed. The female of the type species, *T. flavidorsalis* (Yaginuma, 1964), from Japan, is illustrated, and a second species, *T. lunaris* new species, from Guizhou, China, is described and illustrated.

Introduction

The genus *Taira* was established by Lehtinen (1967) to include only one species from Japan: *Taira flavidorsalis* (Yaginuma, 1964). The new species, *T. lunaris*, described in this paper is similar to *T. flavidorsalis* in the female genitalia by having broad epigynal teeth and broad, rounded spermathecae. The phylogenetic position of the genus *Taira* has not been established. The inclusion of *Taira* and *Tamgrinia* in the same tribe, Tairini, by Lehtinen (1967), was questioned by Wang (2000). The genus *Taira* resembles genera related to *Amaurobius*, at

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least by: the striped small hood (Griswold, 1993: 23) of the trichobothria, the undivided chilum, the presence of an “amaurobiid PLS spigot”, and the presence of paracribellar spigots on both posterior lateral spinnerets and posterior median spinnerets, while the genus *Tamgrinia* differs from *Taira* by having smooth small trichobothrial hoods, a divided chilum, the absence of an “amaurobiid PLS spigot”, and the absence of paracribellar spigots.

All measurements are in mm. Leg measurements are shown as: total length (femur, patella+tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). The specimens used in this study are deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA (N. I. Platnick, AMNH), the Institute of Zoology, Beijing, China (S. Li, IZB), and the Maolan National Natural Reserve (J. J. Ran, MNRR).

Genus *Taira* Lehtinen, 1967

Taira Lehtinen, 1967: 266, type species, by original designation, *Amaurobius flavidorsalis* Yaginuma, 1964.

Diagnosis: Distinguished from *Tamgrinia* by the undivided chilum, presence of paracribellar spigots, and presence of striped small hood of trichobothria; separated from other amaurobiids by the presence of broad epigynal teeth and the broad, rounded spermathecae of female. The male of *T. flavidorsalis* has not been examined, and male of *T. lunaris* is unknown.

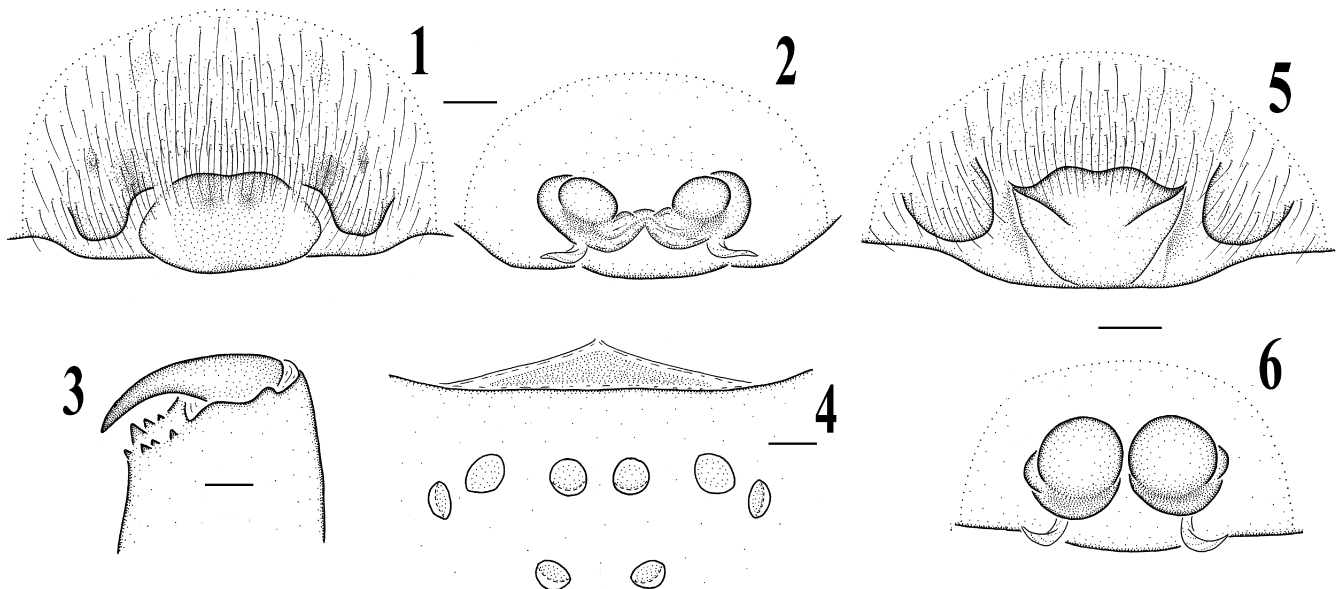
Distribution: China, Japan (Map 1).

Species included: The type species, *T. flavidorsalis* (Yaginuma, 1964), and *T. lunaris*, new species.

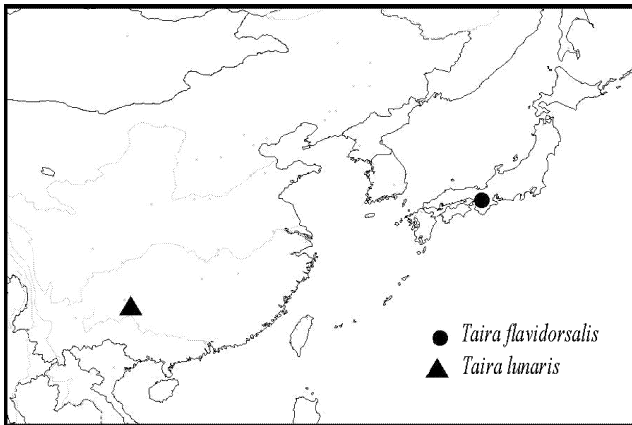
Taira lunaris, new species (Figs. 1–4, Map 1)

Taira sp.: Wang, 2000: 452, figs. 16–18.

Types: Female holotype and female paratype from Yueliang cave, Maolan National Natural Reserve, Libo



Figs. 1–6: 1–4 *Taira lunaris*, new species, female. 1 Epigynum; 2 Vulva, dorsal view; 3 Right chelicera, ventral view, showing four promarginal and three retromarginal teeth; 4 Eyes and chilum, antero-dorsal view. 5–6 *Taira flavidorsalis* (Yaginuma), female. 5 Epigynum; 6 Vulva, dorsal view. Scale lines=0.2 mm.



Map 1: Distribution of *Taira flavidorsalis* (circle) and *T. lunaris* (triangle).

County, Guizhou Province, China, 3 May 1992 (J.-C. Ran), deposited in IZB.

Etymology: The specific name refers to the type locality, Yueliang cave (Moon cave).

Diagnosis: The new species can be distinguished from *T. flavidorsalis* (Figs. 5, 6) by the smaller epigynal teeth, the distinct, medially extended copulatory ducts, and the widely separated spermathecae (Figs. 1, 2).

Female: Total length 10.72. Carapace 5.12 long, 3.40 wide. Abdomen 5.60 long, 3.80 wide. Promargin of chelicera with four teeth, retromargin with three (Fig. 3). Clypeus height more than AME diameter. Chilum present, single, hairless. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.16, ALE 0.19, PME 0.15, PLE 0.15; AME-AME 0.09, AME-ALE 0.17, PME-PME 0.20, PME-PL 0.37, ALE-PL 0.09, AME-PME 0.27. From antero-dorsal view, anterior row of eyes almost straight, posterior row strongly procurved (Fig. 4). Leg measurements I: 18.8 (5.32, 6.44, 4.48, 2.52); II: 15.3 (4.64, 5.24, 3.44, 2.00); III: 13.3 (4.20, 4.36, 3.12, 1.64); IV: 1.64 (4.92, 5.64, 4.00, 1.88). Posterior median spinneret with cylindrical spigot and eight paracribellar spigots; posterior lateral

spinneret with one “amaurobiid PLS spigot”, three cylindrical spigots, and two paracribellar spigots (Wang, 2000). Epigynal teeth broad; epigynal median plate large; copulatory ducts distinct, extended mesad of spermathecae; spermathecae broad, rounded, widely separated (Figs. 1, 2).

Male: Unknown.

Other material examined: CHINA: Guizhou: Libo, Maolan National Natural Reserve, Yueliang cave, 3 May 1992, 2 juvenile ♂ (J.-C. Ran, MNNR).

Comparative material examined: *T. flavidorsalis*: JAPAN: Kisofukushima: Shinano, July 1927, 1♀ (Sherman C. Bishop Collection, AMNH) (Figs. 5, 6).

Distribution: China (Guizhou) (Map 1).

Acknowledgements

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