

## First record of *Olios suavis* for southern Europe in Cyprus (Araneae: Sparassidae: Sparassinae)

### Peter Jäger

Senckenberg Research Institute, Arachnology,  
Senckenberganlage 25,  
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
e-mail: peter.jaeger@senckenberg.de

### Duncan McCowan

15 Neromilou, Dali, 2540 Nicosia, Cyprus

and

### Tony Russell-Smith

1 Bailiffs Cottage, Doddington, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 0JU

### Summary

The sparassid spider *Olios suavis* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876) is reported from Europe for the first time, based on a specimen from Cyprus. A brief description of the male specimen from Cyprus is provided, together with figures of the genitalia of both sexes. Figures of the genitalia of *O. argelasius* (Walckenaer, 1805), the only other European *Olios* species, are also given, and the distinguishing characters of the two species are outlined.

### Introduction

*Olios* Walckenaer, 1837 is a large genus with about 260 species worldwide (Platnick, 2010). In Europe, only the type species *O. argelasius* (Walckenaer, 1805) is known, from Mediterranean countries [Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, Balkans, Greece, Turkey: Bonnet, 1958: 3165; Bosmans & Chatzaki, 2005; Levy, 1989; the record from Austria listed in Doleschall (1852) refers to Istria, today part of Slovenia and Croatia, while that from Tyrol listed in L. Koch (1876) is from Italy].

This short note treats the record of a second *Olios* species from southern Europe. The male specimen is briefly described and the male and female copulatory organs are illustrated. Identification within this more or less uniformly coloured genus should be made only by comparison of the copulatory organs.

### *Olios suavis* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876) (Figs. 1–4)

*Sparassus suavis* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876: 588 (descr. ♂ ♀; 1♂ 1♀ 1 imm. ♂ syntypes, Upper Egypt, desert near Gebel y Silsilis, Hope Entomological Collections Oxford, B. 1411, not examined).

*Eusparassus suavis*: Reimoser, 1919: 178.

*Olios impediens* Denis, 1947: 52, pl. 2, fig. 17 (descr. ♀; 1♀ 1 subad. ♂ 3 imms, syntypes, Egypt, Siwa, 4 September 1935, Omer-Cooper-Siwa Expedition, Natural History Museum London, 1936.2.12.722–726, examined).

*O. suavis*: Levy, 1989: 152, figs 71–81 (transfer from *Eusparassus*, synonymy with *O. impediens*, first record for Israel).

*Note*: The female syntype of *O. impediens* belongs to a series with a subadult male and 3 immatures, as listed in Denis (1947). Therefore the adult female is a syntype and not a holotype as stated by Levy (1989: 152).

*Material examined*: 1♂ (PJ 3247), Cyprus, Agridi nr Dali, 35°02'N, 33°25'E, 230 m, on veranda of house,

15 August 2009, Duncan McCowan leg., Senckenberg Research Institute.

*Comparative material*: *Olios argelasius*: 1♂ (PJ 493), southern France, E. Pyrenees, valley in direction of Col de Banyuls, M. Grasshoff leg., 15 August 1963, Grasshoff det., Senckenberg Research Institute (SMF 22021); 1♀ (PJ 725), Greece, Crete, Lakkos, Coll. Roewer RII 697, Senckenberg Research Institute (SMF 99000697).

*Diagnosis*: Male palp with narrowly bent embolus in centre and several extensions and apophyses on pro-lateral half of tegulum. Conductor reduced to small membranous structure situated close to tip of embolus. Subtegulum largely visible in proximal half of alveolus (Figs. 1–3). Female epigyne with two lateral ridges converging anteriorly. Median parts of lateral lobes and membranous median septum visible in posterior half (Fig. 4).

*Description*: Prosoma length 3.5, width 3.3, anterior width 1.7. Opisthosoma absent. Chelicerae with 2 anterior and 4 posterior teeth. Characters of present male correspond well with description provided by Levy (1989: 152). For further differential characters see below. Coloration: prosoma and appendages pale yellowish brown without pattern, legs distally darker. Opisthosoma absent in present male specimen, but usually characterised by dorsal tuning fork-shaped pattern, typical for most *Olios* spp.

*Distribution*: Israel (Levy, 1989), Egypt (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1876; Denis, 1947), Cyprus (this paper).

### Discussion

The specimen was collected from the concrete-surfaced veranda of a house constructed in previously uninhabited farm land, bordered by citrus groves and the bed of the seasonally running river Yialyas. The broader Agridi area itself is a former wetland, at one time irrigated by a medieval water-mill (Neromilos). Today the area is fringed by century-old eucalypts.

*Olios* is largely unrevised and the genus as currently constituted is certainly polyphyletic. A preliminary diagnosis is given by Jäger & Kunz (2005) who illustrated several species. *Olios suavis* belongs to a species group characterised by its narrow distal embolic coil as exhibited, e.g. in *O. japonicus* Jäger & Ono, 2000 [Japan], *O. mahabangkawitus* Barrion & Litsinger, 1995 [Philippines], *O. sanguifrons* (Simon, 1906) [India], *O. sericeus* (Kroneberg, 1875) [Georgia, Central Asia], *O. baulnyi* (Simon, 1874) [Morocco, Senegal, Sudan] and *O. tener* (Thorell, 1891) [Pakistan, India, Myanmar] (Jäger & Ono, 2000; Jäger *et al.*, 2002; Jäger & Otto, 2007; Jäger & Praxaysombath, 2009; Jäger, unpublished observations). It is distinguished from males of these species by the strongly pronounced subtegulum and the specific arrangement of the prolateral tegular apophyses.

Males of *O. suavis* can be distinguished from the only other European species, the type species of the genus *Olios*, *O. argelasius*, by the narrow embolus coil (wide in *O. argelasius*: Figs. 5–6), and females can be

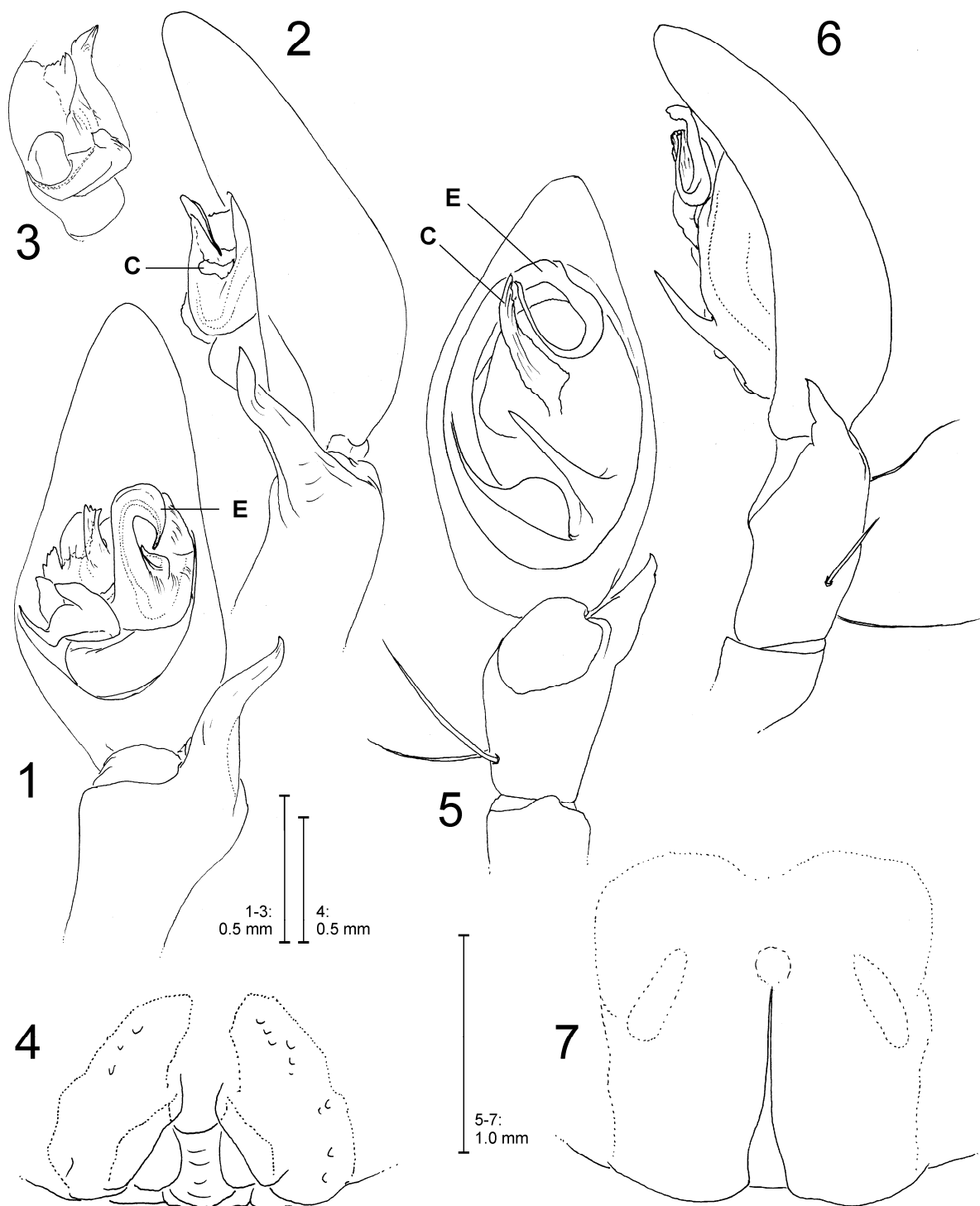
distinguished from those of *O. argelasius* by the wide, posteriorly diverging median septum (slit-like in *O. argelasius*: Fig. 7). In general, *O. argelasius* is larger, with an overlap in males and a distinct gap in females, with the following data available so far: *O. suavis* ♂ 7.8–8.6 mm ( $n=2$ , Levy, 1989), ♀ 9.3–11.2 mm ( $n=2$ , Levy, 1989); *O. argelasius* ♂ 8.0–11.0 mm ( $n=3$ , and Bellmann, 2001), ♀ 15.0–17.0 mm ( $n=1$ , and Bellmann, 2001). One other species, *Olios baulnyi* (Simon, 1874), has been recorded from North Africa and might potentially be found in Europe (via Spain) in future.

#### Acknowledgements

We thank Peter Merrett for useful suggestions and two anonymous referees for helping to improve the first draft of this paper.

#### References

- BELLMANN, H. 2001: *Kosmos Atlas Spinnentiere Europas*. Franckh-Kosmos, Stuttgart. 304 pp.  
 BONNET, P. 1958: *Bibliographia araneorum* 2(4): 3027–4230. Toulouse, Douladoure.



Figs. 1–7: **1–4** *Olios suavis* (O. Pickard-Cambridge 1876). **1** Male palp, ventral (from Cyprus); **2** Ditto, retrolateral; **3** Ditto, prolateral; **4** Female epigyne, ventral (syntype of *O. impediens* Denis, 1947 from Egypt). **5–7** *Olios argelasius* (Walckenaer, 1805). **5** Male palp, ventral; **6** Ditto, retrolateral; **7** Female epigyne, ventral. C=conductor, E=embolus.

- BOSMANS, R. & CHATZAKI, M. 2005: A catalogue of the spiders of Greece. A critical review of all spider species cited from Greece with their localities. *Nieuwsbr. Belg. arachnol. Ver.* **20**(2, Suppl.): 1–123.
- DENIS, J. 1947: Spiders. In: Results of the Armstrong College expedition to Siwa Oasis (Libyan desert), 1935. *Bull. Soc. Fouad I. Ent.* **31**: 17–103.
- DOLESCHALL, L. 1852: Systematisches Verzeichniss der im Kaiserthum Österreich vorkommenden Spinnen. *Sber. Akad. Wiss. Wien* **9**: 622–651.
- JÄGER, P., GAO, J. & FEI, R. 2002: Sparassidae in China 2. Species from the collection in Changchun (Arachnida: Araneae). *Acta arachn. Tokyo* **51**(1): 23–31.
- JÄGER, P. & KUNZ, D. 2005: An illustrated key to genera of African huntsman spiders (Arachnida, Araneae, Sparassidae). *Senckenberg. biol.* **85**(2): 163–213.
- JÄGER, P. & ONO, H. 2000: Sparassidae of Japan. I. New species of *Olios*, *Heteropoda* and *Sinopoda* with remarks on known species (Arachnida: Araneae). *Acta arachn. Tokyo* **49**(1): 41–60.
- JÄGER, P. & OTTO, S. 2007: New records of *Olios sericeus* (Kroneberg 1875) with notes on its taxonomy and biogeography (Araneae: Sparassidae: Sparassinae). *Revta Iber. Aracnol.* **14**: 19–24.
- JÄGER, P. & PRAXAYSOMBATH, B. 2009: Spiders from Laos: new species and new records (Arachnida: Araneae). *Acta arachn. Tokyo* **58**(1): 27–51.
- KOCH, L. 1876: Verzeichniss der in Tirol bis jetzt beobachteten Arachniden nebst Beschreibungen einiger neuen oder weniger bekannten Arten. *Z. Ferdinand. Tirol.* **3**(20): 221–354.
- LEVY, G. 1989: The family of huntsman spiders in Israel with annotations on species of the Middle East (Araneae: Sparassidae). *J. Zool., Lond.* **217**: 127–176.
- PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE, O. 1876: Catalogue of a collection of spiders made in Egypt, with descriptions of new species and characters of a new genus. *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* **1876**: 541–630.
- PLATNICK, N. I. 2010: *The world spider catalog, version 11.0.* <<http://research.amnh.org/iz/spiders/catalog/INTRO1.htm>>
- REIMOSER, E. 1919: Katalog der echten Spinnen (Araneae) des paläarktischen Gebietes. *Abh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* **10**(2): 1–280.