Studies on Malagasy Spiders, 2.
The Family Trochanteriidae (Araneae, Gnaphosoidea), With a Revision of the Genus Platyoides

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ABSTRACT

The spider genus Platyoides O. P.-Cambridge, previously placed with the hemicloeine gnaphosoids, is assigned to the family Trochanteriidae Karsch on the basis of the elongated fourth trochanters and laterally divergent chelicerae. The 14 known species are diagnosed, described, and illustrated. Nine specific names are newly synonymized: P. abrahami O. P.-Cambridge, P. bottegi Pavesi, P. laterigradus Pocock, P. separatus O. P.-Cambridge, P. simoni O. P.-Cambridge, and P. bidentifer Strand, all with P. walteri (Karsch); P. beta Lawrence with P. alpha Lawrence; P. pusillosiformis Tucker with P. pusillus Pocock; and P. lawrencei Lessert with P. leppanae Pocock. The males of P. pusillus Pocock and P. grandidieri Simon are described for the first time. Five new species are described: P. rossi and P. pirie from South Africa, P. velonus and P. mailaka from Madagascar, and P. venturus from the Canary Islands.

INTRODUCTION

The peculiarly flattened gnaphosoid spiders of the genus Platyoides (figs. 1–4), first recorded from Madagascar by Simon (1903), are among the most notable elements of the Malagasy hunting spider fauna. The present paper, the twenty-second in a series on gnaphosoids, began simply as a report on the available Platyoides specimens from Madagascar. When, however, it appeared that in addition to Platyoides grandidieri Simon at least two additional species occur on the island, the question arose as to whether they are Malagasy endemics (P. grandidieri, originally described from Madagascar, has subsequently been recorded from Réunion and is also reported below from Aldabra and...
Kenya). Finding the answer to that question required a full revision of the genus, presented below; the two additional Malagasy species proved to be undescribed and (so far as known) endemic to the island.

These results raised additional questions about the interrelationships of the species of *Platyoides*, and about the taxonomic position of the genus. One biogeographically interesting question is whether the three Malagasy species constitute a monophyletic group. Such does not seem to be the case; the closest relative of *P. grandidieri* appears to be a new species described below from the Canary Islands, a conclusion made even more surprising by the absence of any known *Platyoides* from western Africa north of Angola. Because the other two Malagasy species do not seem to be each other's closest relatives either, it is likely that the genus is old, and that a substantial part of its diversification occurred prior to the separation of Madagascar from continental Africa.

The probably relictual nature of the distribution of *Platyoides* may be reflected in questions recently raised about the taxonomic placement of the genus. Traditionally, *Platyoides* has been considered a member of the Gnaphosidae and assigned to the gnaphosid subfamily Hemicloeinae, a group of similarly flattened spiders otherwise known only from Australia and neighboring islands. Schmidt

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**Figs. 1–4.** *Platyoides velonus*, new species, female. 1. Cephalothorax and abdomen, dorsal view. 2. Cephalothorax, coxae, trochanters, and abdomen, ventral view. 3. Spinnerets and anal tubercle, posterior view. 4. Cephalothorax and abdomen, lateral view.
and Jocqué (1983), however, pointed out that the anterior spinnerets of Platyoidea (fig. 3) are unlike those of Gnaphosa and its relatives; they are conical rather than tubular. Because the latter type of spinneret shape is apomorphic (as judged by outgroup comparison with other gnaphosoids and more distantly related groups), the placement of Platyoidea within the Gnaphosidae is dubious. Schmidt and Jocqué proposed to solve this problem by removing the Hemicleioineae from the Gnaphosidae and elevating it to familial rank. This solution is reexamined below.

I am indebted to many colleagues for assistance with various aspects of this project. Professor Roland Legendre of the Université des Sciences et Techniques du Languedoc, Montpellier, made available for study the collections from Madagascar that have stimulated this series of papers. Specimens were kindly donated by Mr. W. C. Sedwick of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and Dr. M. Rambla of the Universidad de Barcelona. Material was made available by the following curators and collectors: Dr. G. Arbocco, Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genoa (MCSNG); Mr. P. L. G. Benoit and Dr. R. Jocqué, Musée Royal de l’Afrique Centrale, Tervuren (MRAC); Dr. A. Dippenaar, National Collection of Arachnida, Pretoria (NCAP); Dr. C. Griswold, Natural Museum, Pietermaritzburg (NM); Dr. W. D. Haacke, Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (TM); Dr. B. Hauser, Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle, Geneva (MHNG); Dr. J. Heurtault, Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN); Mr. P. D. Hillyard, British Museum (Natural History), London (BMNH); Dr. I. Lansbury, Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford (HEC); Mrs. J. Minshull, National Museum of Zimbabwe, Bulawayo (MZB); Dr. M. Moritz, Zoologisches Museum, Berlin (ZMB); Mr. A. J. Penniman, Columbus (AJP); Dr. W. Pulawski, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS); Dr. I. D. Wallace, County Museum, Liverpool (CML); and Dr. V. Whitehead, South African Museum, Cape Town (SAM).

Drs. C. D. Dondale, R. R. Forster, and C. Griswold reviewed a draft of the manuscript. Assistance with scanning electron micrographs and illustrations was provided by Ms. J. Whelan and Dr. M. U. Shadab, respectively. All measurements presented below are in millimeters; abbreviations for eyes are standard for the Araneae.

RELATIONSHIPS

There is little doubt that Platyoidea has been correctly placed within the superfamly Gnaphosoida, for its species have all three of the characters that seem to be synapomorphic for that group (Platnick, 1984b): sclerotized anterior spinnerets, obliquely depressed endites (fig. 5), and flattened, irregularly shaped posterior median eyes (fig. 6). Within the Gnaphosoida, three family-group names have been based on genera that, like Platyoidea, have flattened bodies and laterigrade legs: Trochanteriidae Karsch (1879), Platoridae Simon (1890), and Hemicleioineae Simon (1893), the last elevated to familial rank by Schmidt and Jocqué (1983) and also (in a list of species only) by Mello-Leitão (1942, p. 386).

The earliest of these names is based on the Argentinian genus Trochanteria Karsch; although the family has been treated as valid by a few workers who have been familiar with its type genus (such as Mello-Leitão, 1938, 1941, 1943), it has been largely ignored. Simon never examined specimens of Trochanteria, and suggested (1893, p. 343) on the basis of Karsch’s description that the genus might belong to the Hemicleioineae; his suggestion was followed by catalogers such as Roewer (1954). The family Platoridae, as construed by Simon (1897) and all more recent workers, includes three genera: Plator Simon of Asia, Vectius Simon of tropical South America, and Doliomalous Simon of Chile. As emphasized elsewhere (Platnick, 1976a, 1976b, 1984a) the literature contains no demonstrated synapomorphies uniting those three genera as opposed to any of the other flattened forms (Platyoidea, Trochanteria, or the Australasian hemicleioines).

The question, then, is: what genus, or group of genera, represents the sister group of Platyoidea? I have found only one explicit hypothesis in the literature, put forward by Cannals (1933), to the effect that Platyoidea and Trochanteria are closest relatives. This hy-
pothesis appears to be correct. The most obvious feature of *Trochanteria*, reflected in Karsch’s choice of name, is that the fourth trochanter (which in spiders in general is no longer than the trochanters of the first three legpairs) is enormously elongated, reaching
in adults a length virtually as great as that of the fourth femur. As Canals recognized, this bizarre elongation of the fourth trochanter is shared by *Platyoides*, although it is not so pronounced in that genus (fig. 2). The hypothesis of a sister-group relationship between *Platyoides* and *Trochanteria* is also corroborated by the peculiarly enlarged and laterally divergent chelicerae bearing long, curved fangs (figs. 1, 2, 9) found in both genera.

Neither of these features is found in *Hemicleoia* (or, for that matter, in *Plator*). Although a consideration of the interrelationships of all the flattened gnaphosoid genera is beyond the scope of the present paper, the nomenclatural aspects are nonetheless clear-cut. Schmidt and Jocqué (1983) were correct in removing *Platyoides* from the Gnaphosidae. However, regardless of whether the various flattened genera prove to constitute a single group (for which the earliest available name is Trochanteriidae) or to belong to more than one group (the Trochanteriidae plus one or more groups which may or may not be true Gnaphosidae), the correct name for the group including *Platyoides* is Trochanteriidae. Accordingly, Schmidt and Jocqué’s assignment of *Platyoides* to the Hemicleoideidae is here rejected; as their comments on elevating that group appear to have been based on *Platyoides* rather than on Australasian (true) hemicleoines, the soundness of their decision will have to be tested by future studies on the latter group.

Indeed, *Platyoides* and *Trochanteria* seem so closely related that one might reasonably ask whether the first genus is monophyletic. After all, the uniquely elongated fourth trochanters of *Trochanteria* (and the possibly synonymous Argentinian genus *Oliaclaeoa* Mello-Leitão, 1940) are presumably just a further modification of the type of trochanter seen in *Platyoides*. I have not found any definitive evidence that *Platyoides* (exclusive of the species of *Trochanteria*) is monophyletic, but there is also no indication (from genitalic structure, for example) that the species of *Trochanteria* are more closely related to some *Platyoides* species than to others. Accordingly, the classical generic division between the South American and African taxa should be retained unless and until evidence becomes available to justify a change.

**PLATYOIDES** O. P.-CAMBRIDGE

*Platyoides* O. P.-Cambridge, 1890, p. 624 [type species by monotypy *Platyoides abrahami* O. P.-Cambridge, = *P. walteri* (Karsch)].


**DIAGNOSIS**: The combined presence of a flattened body, laterigrade legs, and fourth trochanters that are much longer than the other trochanters but shorter than the fourth femur distinguishes *Platyoides* from all other gnaphosoids.

**DESCRIPTION**: Body size sexually dimorphic, females much larger than males. Carapace (figs. 1, 4) flattened, longer than wide, widest between coxae II and III, abruptly narrowed just behind clypeus, slightly invaginated at middle of posterior margin, at least part of that margin reflexed; cephalic grooves obvious, thoracic groove represented by posteriorly directed triangular depression about one-eighth of carapace width, situated back about five-eighths of carapace length; surface with numerous marginal setae and few scattered setae elsewhere. Eight eyes in two rows (fig. 1), posterior row wider than anterior, both rows almost straight; AME circular, dark, ALE and PLE oval, light, on small tubercles, PME flattened (fig. 6), irregularly oval, light; all eyes except PME ringed with black pigment; eyes subequal in size, both pairs of medians usually closer to each other than to laterals; MOQ wider in back than in front and than long. Clypeal height at AME roughly half their diameter. Chelicerae (figs. 1, 2) enlarged, projecting forward distance up to one-third of carapace length, laterally divergent, bearing long curved fangs; dentition variable (see species descriptions); cheliceral gland openings in long narrow depression situated proximally on retromargin (figs. 9, 10). Labium almost as wide as long, narrowed and rebordered distally. Endites elongate, smoothly narrowed opposite insertion of trochanters, obliquely depressed just anterior of trochanter insertion (fig. 5), with anterome-
idian and distal scopulae but without serrula (absence confirmed by scanning electron microscopy). Sternum (fig. 2) slightly longer than wide, with elongated, reflexed anterior margin and broad truncated posterior margin, strongly bordered with rounded sclerotizations extending between, and long pointed sclerotizations extending to, coxae; coxae IV separated by about half their length. Abdo-
men (figs. 1, 2, 4) flattened, all surfaces with short weak setae, bearing six spinnerets, an-
teriors sclerotized, conical, separated at base by about half their basal width, with vaguely distinguishable, medially directed apical seg-

Identification: Both sexes of each of the known species have such distinctive genitalia that a key seems superfluous.

**Platyoides walteri** (Karsch)

Figures 11–14

_Hemicloea walteri_ Karsch, 1886, p. 151 (female holotype from Botsabelo, Transvaal, South Af-

_NO. 2808

South Africa, in ZMB, examined).

**Platyoides abrahami** O. P.-Cambridge, 1890, p. 625, figs. 4, 4a–g (penultimate female holotype from South Africa, no specific locality, in CML, examined). NEW SYNONYMY.

**Platyoides bottegi** Pavesi, 1895, p. 509 (female ho-

**Platyoides laterigradus** Pocock, 1898, p. 219, fig. 12 (female holotype from Estcourt, Natal, South Af-

**Platyoides bidentatus** Purcell, 1907, p. 297, figs.

**Platyoides simonii** O. P.-Cambridge, 1907, p. 820,

Uncertain Names: **Platyoides bidentatus** Strand (1906) of Ethiopia and **P. unidentatus** Lawrence (1927) of Namibia were based on juveniles and are therefore regarded as _nom-

Subgenera: Roewer (1954) retained _Pseu-

Distribution: Africa from Angola and southern Ethiopia south to the Cape Prov-

Natural History: As one would expect from the flattened body, specimens have been collected under bark and stones, but **Pla-

Males seem closest to those of _P. alpha_, with which they share a ventrally arched and distally divided embolus, but can be distinguished by the much shorter retro-

Male: Total length, not including chelic-

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two widely separated teeth, retromargin bare. Abdominal dorsum with gray maculations strongest along midline and sides. Embolus arched ventrally, bifid distally (fig. 11); retrolateral tibial apophysis short, recurved (fig. 12).

FEMALE: Total length, not including chelicerae, 8.92. Carapace 3.98 long, 3.67 wide. Femur II 4.63 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.14, ALE 0.17, PME 0.16, PLE 0.15; AME—AME 0.22, AME—ALE 0.30, PME—PME 0.35, PME—PLE 0.55, ALE—PLE 0.30; MOQ length 0.46, front width 0.50, back width 0.67. Cheliceral dentition and abdominal coloration as in male. Epigynal atrium short, wide (fig. 13; posterior width of atrium varies, so that overall shape ranges from that figured to almost rectangular); paramedian ducts distally divergent (fig. 14).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Ethiopia: Arusi: Alto Ganale Gudda, Apr. 1883 (V. Böttger, MCSNG), 1♀ (type). South Africa: no specific locality (N. Abraham, CML), 1♀ (type). Cape Province: no specific locality (R. Hancock, HEC), 1♂ (type); Berlin, Jan. 18, 1973 (P. Swanepoel, NCAP), 1♀; East London (R. Hancock, HEC), 1♂ (type); Grahamstown, Jan. 8, 1974, on wall of outbuilding (P. M. Croeser, NCAP), 1♂, Apr. 27, 1980, in cardboard box (P. M. Croeser, NCAP), 1♀; King William’s Town (BMNH), 4♀; Quloraka-wenth, Transkei, Jan. 1962 (NM), 1♀. Natal: Dundee, Oct. 29, 1981, under rock (A. MacDonald, NM), 1♀; Durban, Aug. 7, 1972 (F. L. Farquharson, NM), 1♀; Empangeni, Zululand, Feb. 7, 1983, in house (P. E. Reavell, NM), 1♀, Aug. 15, 1983, elevation 110 m, on carpet in house (P. E. Reavell, NM), 1♀; Estcourt (BMNH), 1♀, elevation 4000 ft. (BMNH), 1♀ (type), Aug. 1941 (R. F. Lawrence, NM), 1♀; Hluhluwe Reserve, Zululand, Oct. 1935 (NM), 1♀; Kosi Bay, July 1936 (NM), 1♀, Jan. 1937 (van Rechen, NM), 3♀; Margate, Apr. 1940 (W. G. Rump, NM), 1♀; Pietermaritzburg, 1917 (C. Akerman, NM), 1♀, Jan. 1922 (L. Kelsall, NM), 1♀, July 1944 (R. F. Lawrence, NM), 1♀, June 1951 (R. F. and A. Lawrence, NM), 1♀, May 1954 (NM), 1♀, Oct.–Nov. 1971 (B. Lamoral, NM), 1♀, Nov. 24, 1977, under bark (J. G. H. Londt, NM), 1♀, May 1980 (R. Fregona, NM), 1♀, May 31, 1983, on inside wall of house (D. L. and P. M. Croeser, NM), 1♀; Umhlali, Feb. 1940 (R. F. Lawrence, MRAC), 1♀. Orange Free State: Bethulie (Leppan, BMNH), 2♀. Transvaal: Botsabelo (Walter, ZMB), 1♀ (type); Magaliesburg, Apr. 1976 (F. Wanless, BMNH), 1♀; Mariepskop, Nov. 1925 (V. Fitzsimons, G. van Dam, TM), 2♀; Nelspruit, Jan. 1982 (M. van den Berg, NCAP), 1♀; Outlook Estate, Zoutpansberg, Dec. 16, 1978 (MZB), 1♀; Pretoria, Feb. 1965 (H. K. Munro,


**DISTRIBUTION:** Widespread in South and east Africa, from the Cape Province to the mountains of southern Ethiopia.

**SYNONYMY:** The redescriptions are due to the initial generic misplacement of *P. walteri*, to separate descriptions of the two sexes, and to the apparent inaccessibility of earlier type material to each succeeding worker.

*Platyoides alpha* Lawrence

_Figures 15–18_

*Platyoides alpha* Lawrence, 1928, p. 226, fig. 6 (male lectotype, here designated from Kaoko Otavi, Namibia, in SAM, examined). *Platyoides beta* Lawrence, 1928, p. 226, fig. 7 (female holotype from Outjo, Namibia, in SAM, examined). NEW SYNONYMY.

**DIAGNOSIS:** Males seem closest to those of *P. walteri* but can be distinguished by the much longer retrolateral tibial apophysis (fig. 16); females can be recognized by the anteriorly convergent paramedian ducts of the internal genitalia (fig. 18).

**MALE:** Total length, not including chelicerae, 5.78. Carapace 2.49 long, 2.34 wide. Femur II 3.67 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.11, ALE 0.12, PME 0.13, PLE 0.12; AME–AME 0.11, AME–ALE 0.13, PME–PME 0.15, PME–PLE 0.24, ALE–PLE 0.10; MOQ length 0.33, front width 0.33, back width 0.41. Cheliceral promargin with distal tooth and proximal denticle, retromargin bare. Abdominal dorsum gray with longitudinal paramedian white stripes on posterior three-quarters. Embolus arched ventrally, bifid distally (fig. 15); retrolateral tibial apophysis long, distally narrowed (fig. 16).

**FEMALE:** Total length, not including chelicerae, 7.32. Carapace 2.76 long, 2.65 wide. Femur II 3.62 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.11, ALE 0.13, PME 0.13, PLE 0.12; AME–AME 0.13, AME–ALE 0.18, PME–PME 0.25, PME–PLE 0.32, ALE–PLE 0.14; MOQ length 0.33, front width 0.39, back width 0.51. Cheliceral dentition and abdominal coloration as in male. Epigynum with two pairs of lateral margins (fig. 17); paramedian ducts translucent, anteriorly convergent (fig. 18).

**MATERIAL EXAMINED:** Angola: Mo-
Platyoides rossi, new species
Figures 19, 20

PLATNICK: TROCHANTERIIDAE


câmades: 17 mi. W Vila Arriaga, Dec. 10, 1966, elevation 620 m (E. S. Ross, K. Lorenzen, CAS), ♀. Namibia: Huab Farm, Outjo district, June 26, 1931 (V. Fitzsimons, TM), ♂; Kaoko Otavi, Kaokaland, Jan.—Apr. 1926 (R. F. Lawrence, SAM), ♂ (lectotype); Outjo, Jan. 1925 (SAM), ♂; Sesfontein, Kaokaland, Jan.—Apr. 1925 (SAM), ♂ (paralectotype).

South Africa: Transvaal: Ons Eigegrond, 40 km W Messina, June 16, 1979, under stone (M. Stiller, NCAP), ♂.

Distribution: Angola, Namibia, and South Africa.

Synonymy: Similarities of each sex to those of P. walteri indicate that Lawrence (1928) was probably correct in suggesting that P. beta is the female of P. alpha.

Platyoides rossi, new species
Figures 19, 20

Type: Female holotype taken at an elevation of 300 m at Karreedouw, Cape Province, South Africa (April 22, 1958; E. S. Ross and R. E. Leech), deposited in CAS.

Etymology: The specific name is a patronym in honor of Dr. E. S. Ross of the California Academy of Sciences, in recognition of the valuable spider collections he has made on several continents.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the Cape Province of South Africa.

Platyoides fitzsimonsi Lawrence
Figures 21, 22

Platyoides fitzsimonsi Lawrence, 1938, p. 216, fig. 2 (female holotype from Barby Farm, 20 mi. W Helmeringhausen, Bethanie district, Namibia, in TM, examined).

Platyoides fitzsimonsi: Bonnet, 1958, p. 3701 (invalid emendation).

Diagnosis: Females resemble those of P.
walteri, P. alpha, and P. rossi but can be distinguished by the very widely separated lateral epigynal margins (fig. 21).

**MALE:** Unknown.

**FEMALE:** Total length, not including chelicerae, 9.00. Carapace 2.99 long, 2.92 wide. Femur II 3.72 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.13, ALE 0.16, PME 0.15, PLE 0.13; AME–AME 0.12, AME–ALE 0.18, PME–PME 0.19, PME–PLE 0.34, ALE–PLE 0.17; MOQ length 0.38, front width 0.38, back width 0.49. Cheliceral dentition as in P. alpha. Abdominal dorsum faded, pale ashy gray according to Lawrrence. Lateral epigynal margins widely separated (fig. 21); paramedian ducts almost as large as spermathecae (fig. 22).

**MATERIAL EXAMINED:** Only the holotype, collected by V. Fitzsimons on July 26, 1937.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Known only from Namibia.

*Platyoides pusillus* Pocock

Figures 25–28

*Platyoides pusillus* Pocock, 1898, p. 220, fig. 13 (female holotype from Estcourt, Natal, South Africa, in BMNH, examined).

*Platyoides pusilliformis* Tucker, 1923, p. 260, fig. 3 (female holotype from Kentani, Cape Province, South Africa, in SAM, examined). NEW SYNONYM.

**DIAGNOSIS:** This distinctive species is easily recognized by the ventrally protuberant embolar base of males (fig. 25) and the anteriorly divergent lateral epigynal margins of females (fig. 27).

**MALE:** Total length, not including chelicerae, 4.79. Carapace 1.91 long, 1.89 wide. Femur II 2.27 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.09, ALE 0.10, PME 0.09, PLE 0.11; AME–AME 0.11, AME–ALE 0.11, PME–PME 0.14, PME–PLE 0.19, ALE–PLE 0.12; MOQ length 0.26, front width 0.29, back width 0.32. Cheliceral dentition as in P. walteri. Abdominal dorsum white with lateral dark gray longitudinal stripes extended toward midline in narrow incomplete transverse stripe at about one-fifth of length. Embolar base produced ventrally (fig. 25); retrolateral tibial apophysis directed dorsally (fig. 26).

**FEMALE:** Total length, not including chelicerae, 6.91. Carapace 2.16 long, 2.15 wide. Femur II 2.23 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.08, ALE 0.10, PME 0.09, PLE 0.10; AME–AME 0.15, AME–ALE 0.14, PME–PME 0.20, PME–PLE 0.23, ALE–PLE 0.11; MOQ length 0.26, front width 0.31, back width 0.38. Cheliceral dentition and coloration as in male except abdominal dorsum with second incomplete transverse stripe at about half of length and additional median
PLATNICK: TROCHANTERIIDAE


dark gray spot at about three-quarters of length. Epigynal margins strongly divergent anteriorly (fig. 27); spermathecae posteriorly situated (fig. 28).


Distribution: Tanzania south to the Transkei.

Synonymy: Tucker was misled by Pocock’s somewhat diagrammatic sketch of the epigynum of P. pusillus.

Platyoides leppanae Pocock
Figures 29–32

Platyoides leppanae Pocock, 1902, p. 19, pl. 3, fig. 8 (two male and four female syntypes from Tea Fountain, Grahamstown, Cape Province, South Africa, in BMNH, examined).


Diagnosis: Males can be recognized easily by the coiled embolus (figs. 29, 30); females resemble those of P. velonus in having coiled spermathecae, but can be distinguished by the narrow epigynal septum (fig. 31).

Male: Total length, not including chelicerae, 7.42. Carapace 3.36 long, 3.06 wide. Femur II 4.09 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.13, ALE 0.11, PME 0.13, PLE 0.11; AME–AME 0.14, AME–ALE 0.36, PME–PME 0.37, PME–PLE 0.54, ALE–PLE 0.28; MOQ length 0.40, front width 0.40, back width 0.63. Cheliceral promargin with three widely spaced teeth, retromargin bare. Abdominal dorsum white with dark gray median and lateral dark stripes connected across anterior and posterior surfaces. Embolus elongate, coiled (fig. 29); retrolateral tibial apophysis long (fig. 30).

Female: Total length, not including chelicerae, 9.82. Carapace 3.71 long, 3.42 wide. Femur II 4.12 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.13, ALE 0.12, PME 0.14, PLE 0.13; AME–AME 0.19, AME–ALE 0.47, PME–PME 0.41, PME–PLE 0.54, ALE–PLE...
Platyoides velonus, new species
Figures 1–4, 23, 24

TYPE: Female holotype from Fanivelona (Ambinanysakaleona), Fianarantsoa, Madagascar (September; no collector), deposited in AMNH.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is an arbitrary combination of letters.

Platyoides grandidieri Simon
Figures 5–10, 33–36

Platyoides grandidieri Simon, 1903, p. 139 (female holotype from Madagascar, no specific locality, in MNHN, examined by Schmidt and Jocqué, 1983, pp. 354, 363, fig. 1).
PLATNICK: TROCHANTERIIDAE

DIAGNOSIS: Males can easily be recognized by the extremely long retrolateral tibial apophysis (fig. 34); females resemble those of *P. venturus* but can be distinguished by the shorter lateral epigynal ducts and proportionately larger spermathecae (figs. 35, 36).

**MALE:** Total length, not including chelicerae, 4.48. Carapace 1.91 long, 1.87 wide. Femur II 2.96 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.07, ALE 0.08, PME 0.09, PLE 0.11; AME–AME 0.08, AME–ALE 0.18, PME–PME 0.18, PME–PLE 0.23, ALE–PLE 0.11; MOQ length 0.20, front width 0.22, back width 0.36. Cheliceral promargin with three small, widely separated teeth, retromargin bare. Abdominal dorsum light brownish gray, lighter posteromedially. Embolus almost semicircular (fig. 33); retrolateral tibial apophysis extending over two-thirds of cymbial length (fig. 34).

**FEMALE:** Total length, not including chelicerae, 7.96. Carapace 2.87 long, 2.79 wide. Femur II 3.06 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.11, ALE 0.13, PME 0.10, PLE 0.13; AME–AME 0.12, AME–ALE 0.32, PME–PME 0.31, PME–PLE 0.39, ALE–PLE 0.11; MOQ length 0.26, front width 0.34, back width 0.51. Cheliceral dentition and abdominal coloration as in male. Epigynal openings posterolateral (fig. 35); anterior epigynal rim near anterior pair of spermathecae (fig. 36).


**DISTRIBUTION:** Kenya, Aldabra, Madagascar, and Réunion.

**Platyoides venturus,** new species

**Figures** 37, 38

**TYPE:** Female holotype from Llanos de Ortega, Fuerteventura, Canary Islands (July 8, 1971; Fernandez), deposited in AMNH.

**ETYMOLOGY:** The specific name is an arbitrary combination of letters.

**DIAGNOSIS:** Females are closest to those of *P. grandidieri* but can be distinguished by the
Platyoides pictus Pocock
Figures 39, 40
Platyoides pictus Pocock, 1902, p. 19, pl. 3, fig. 7
(five female syntypes from Tea Fountain, Grahamstown, Cape Province, South Africa, in BMNH, examined).

Diagnosis: Females resemble those of P. quinquedentatus in having obliquely oriented spermathecae, but differ in having a prominent anterior epigynal margin (fig. 39).

Platyoides quinquedentatus Purcell
Figures 41, 42
Platyoides quinquedentatus Purcell, 1907, p. 299, fig. 3 (two female syntypes from Swellendam, Cape Province, South Africa, in SAM, examined).

Diagnosis: Females resemble those of P.
pictus but differ in having large, almost semi-circular lateral epigynal margins (fig. 41).

MALE: Unknown.

FEMALE: Total length, not including chelicerae, 10.30. Carapace 4.21 long, 3.71 wide. Femur II 4.57 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.18, ALE 0.19, PME 0.19, PLE 0.19; AME–AME 0.21, AME–ALE 0.42, PME–AME 0.40, PME–PLE 0.56, ALE–PLE 0.31; MOQ length 0.51, front width 0.57, back width 0.78. Cheliceral promargin with five equally spaced teeth, retromargin bare. Abdominal dorsum brownish gray with two narrow longitudinal paramedian white bands not reaching to posterior end. Lateral epigynal margin almost semicircular (fig. 41); spermathecae oblique (fig. 42).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: South Africa: Cape Province: Swellendam, 1900 (H. A. Fry, SAM), 2♀ (types), Mar. 1931 (van der Byl, SAM), 1♂.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the Cape Province of South Africa.

**Platyoides costeri** Tucker

Figures 43, 44

*Platyoides costeri* Tucker, 1923, p. 256, fig. 1 (female holotype from Mossel Bay, Cape Province, South Africa, in SAM, examined).

DIAGNOSIS: Females resemble those of *P. pirie* in the way the spermathecae arise from the epigynal ducts but differ in having more posteriorly situated spermathecae (fig. 44).

MALE: Unknown.

FEMALE: Total length, not including chelicerae, 10.57. Carapace 5.08 long, 4.66 wide. Femur II 5.54 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.21, ALE 0.27, PME 0.21, PLE 0.24; AME–AME 0.24, AME–ALE 0.47, PME–AME 0.57, PME–PLE 0.65, ALE–PLE 0.28; MOQ length 0.56, front width 0.66, back width 0.99. Cheliceral dentition as in *P. quinquedentatus*. Abdominal dorsum pale yellow with lateral and median longitudinal gray bands merging posteriorly. Epignum very wide (fig. 43); spermathecae arising from oblique ducts (fig. 44).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Only the holotype, collected in February, 1919, by J. H. Power.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the Cape Province of South Africa.

**Platyoides pirie**, new species

Figures 45, 46

TYPE: Female holotype from Pirie Forest, King William’s Town, Cape Province, South Africa (April 1937; R. F. Lawrence), deposited in NM.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS: Females resemble those of *P. costeri* but have more anteriorly situated spermathecae (fig. 46).

MALE: Unknown.

FEMALE: Total length, not including chelicerae, 9.36. Carapace 3.71 long, 3.43 wide. Femur II 4.14 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.16, ALE 0.16, PME 0.19, PLE 0.17; AME–AME 0.25, AME–ALE 0.38, PME–AME 0.42, PME–PLE 0.50, ALE–PLE 0.26; MOQ length 0.43, front width 0.57, back width 0.80. Cheliceral promargin with six subequally spaced teeth, retromargin bare. Abdominal dorsum light gray with cardiac area slightly darkened. Epignal openings anterior (fig. 45); spermathecae arising from oblique ducts (fig. 46).

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: None.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality.

**Platyoides mailaka**, new species

Figures 47, 48

TYPE: Female holotype from Mailaka, Diégó-Suarez, Madagascar (no date; J. Millot), deposited in MNHN.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS: Females of this distinctive species are easily recognized by the wide anterior epigynal margin (fig. 47).

MALE: Unknown.

FEMALE: Total length, not including chelicerae, 4.36. Carapace 1.80 long, 1.76 wide. Femur II 1.94 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.09, ALE 0.10, PME 0.10, PLE 0.11; AME–AME 0.09, AME–ALE 0.09, PME–AME 0.14, PME–PLE 0.18, ALE–PLE 0.11; MOQ length 0.24, front width 0.34, back width 0.34. Cheliceral promargin with single large distal tooth, retromargin with two smaller proximal teeth. Abdominal dorsum white with lateral dark gray longitudinal bands.
and anterior and posterior pairs of paramedian dark spots. Anterior epigynal margin wide (fig. 47); paramedian ducts oblique (fig. 48).

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: None.
DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Madagascar.

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