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Taxonomic Notes on the Ground Spider Genus *Gnaphosa* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the ground spider genus *Gnaphosa*, *G. oligerae*, is described from the Russian

Far East. The status of some other Palearctic *Gnaphosa* species is discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Taxonomic problems sometimes arise from the delayed appearance of publications. Recently, three taxonomic papers have been published dealing with Palearctic species of the ground spider genus *Gnaphosa* Latreille. A review of all the North Asian species of the genus was presented by Ovtsharenko et al. (1992). Subsequently, two additional papers appeared: Marusik and Logunov (1994) and Ovtsharenko and Marusik ("1991"[1996]). In actuality, the manuscripts of all three articles were prepared from 1989 to 1991, and the publication of all three was originally expected to occur by the end of 1992. The present paper is devoted to discussions of some names whose status is ambiguous because of

these publication delays, and to the description of a new species, belonging to the genus, from the Russian Far East.

The format of the description of the new species and standard abbreviations of morphological terms follow those of Platnick and Shadab (1975) and Ovtsharenko et al. (1992). All measurements are in millimeters.

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SYSTEMATICS

Some of the material discussed by Marusik and Logunov (1994) was in fact available to us during the preparation of the paper by Ovtsharenko et al. (1992). Thus, for example, we provided a short comparative diagnosis, and illustrations, for the species *Gnaphosa tuvinica* Marusik and Logunov (Ovtsharenko et al., 1992: 28, figs. 91–94), anticipating that the paper by Marusik and Logunov would appear well before our own. That paper did not actually appear, however, until 1994, when Marusik and Logunov (1994: 191, figs. 57–60) provided a full description and illustrations of the species. Because of this unfortunate delay, the species must be cited as *G. tuvinica* Marusik and Logunov, in Ovtsharenko et al. (1992), per Article 50A of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

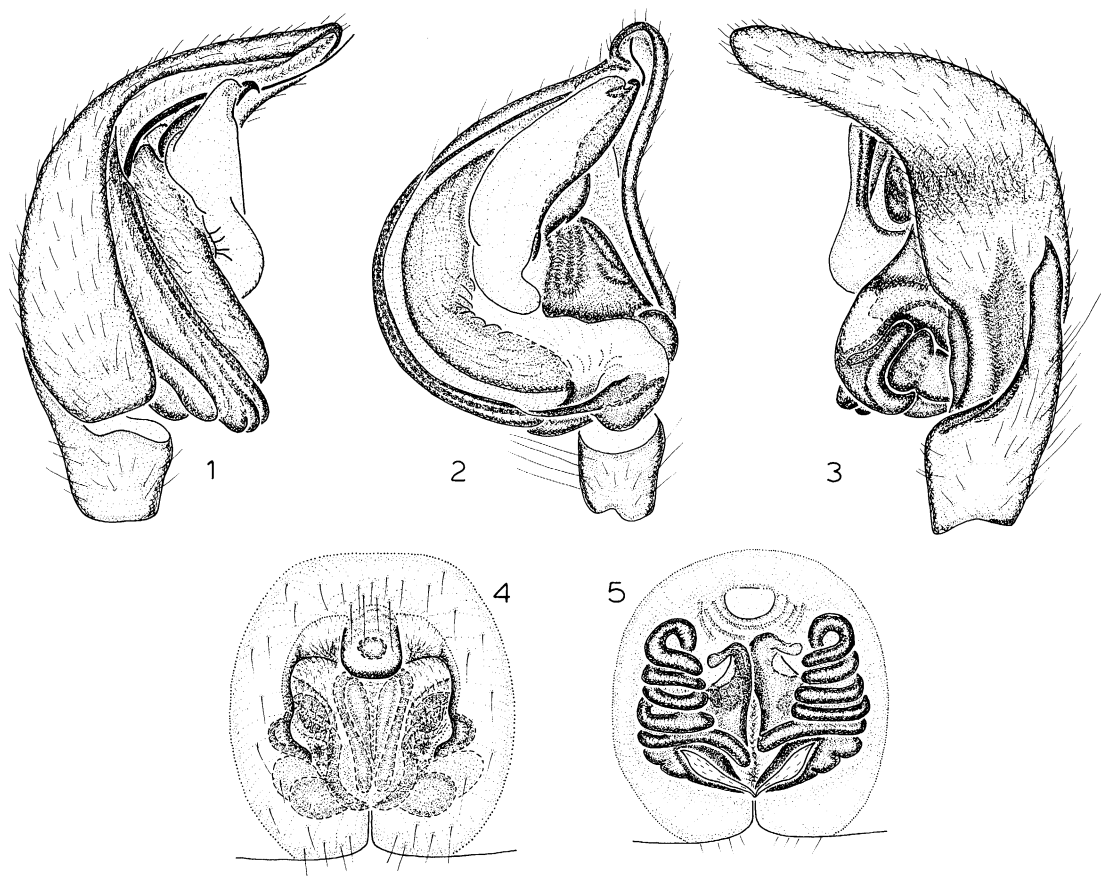
A more confusing situation occurs regarding the species *Gnaphosa potanini* Simon (1895). This species was illustrated both by Ovtsharenko et al. (1992: 32, figs. 111–114) and by Marusik and Logunov (1994: 186, fig. 37). Comparison of those illustrations indicates that the specimens figured in those two papers are not conspecific (nor even closely related!). Simon's (1895) original description of this species mentions females from three different localities in Mongolia. There are apparently only two vials of specimens in the Simon collection (MNHN) labeled as *G. potanini*. Vial #1584 contains a single female and a new, typed label reading "*Gnaphosa potanini* E.S. Mongolie." This new, typed label was produced at the MNHN on the basis of Simon's handwritten label. This specimen was considered by us to be part of the type series and was illustrated by us (Ovtsharenko et al., 1992: figs. 113, 114). The second vial at the MNHN contains two

mature females (one of which lacks its epigynum), lacks a vial number, and has two handwritten labels reading "*Gnaphosa potanini* Simon." However, neither of those labels appears to be in Simon's distinctive handwriting, and there is no guarantee that these specimens are part of the type series. The one epigynum available in this vial belongs to *Gnaphosa gracilior* Kulczyński (1901). This specimen was apparently borrowed and illustrated by Marusik and Logunov (1994: fig. 37) as the "holotype" of *G. potanini*. However, Simon (1895) did not designate a holotype for this species, and he clearly had at least three syntypes. To prevent further confusion, we here designate the female in vial #1584 as the lectotype of the name *G. potanini*.

The next case of confusion concerns two species originally described by Schenkel (1963): *Gnaphosa mandschurica* and *Gnaphosa glandifera*. According to Marusik and Logunov (1994: 187) *G. mandschurica* is probably a synonym of *G. glandifera*. Both species were described on the basis of single females, both of which we studied. Unfortunately, the holotype of *G. glandifera* lacked its epigynum; judging by Schenkel's original comments (1963: 73) and illustration (1963: fig. 39), we considered the two names to be synonymous and chose the one represented by a specimen with an epigynum, *G. mandschurica*, as the senior synonym. We have no idea what specimen Marusik and Logunov (1994: 205, fig. 38) referred to as the "holotype" of *G. glandifera*, but their figure does appear to be that of a female of *G. mandschurica*.

Marusik and Logunov (1994: 188, 189) treated the species *Gnaphosa gracilior* and *Gnaphosa proxima* Kulczyński (1908) as separate, albeit closely related, species. Our comparative study of a much wider range of specimens suggested that they belong to a single species showing some individual variation in male palpal structure, but no detectable variation in epigynal structure and little (if any) geographic correlation among variants. We therefore continue to regard the two names as synonyms.

Similarly, Marusik and Logunov (1994) considered *Gnaphosa punctata* Kulczyński (1901) as a valid species, whereas Ovtshar-



Figs. 1–5. *Gnaphosa oligerae*, new species. 1. Left male palp, prolateral view. 2. Same, ventral view. 3. Same, retrolateral view. 4. Epigynum, ventral view. 5. Same, dorsal view.

enko et al. (1992) placed that name as a junior synonym of *Gnaphosa mongolica* Simon (1895). Earlier, Loksa (1965) had already synonymized *G. punctata* with *G. spinosa* Kulczyński (in Chyzer and Kulczyński, 1897). The latter name was also considered a synonym of *G. mongolica* by Ovtsharenko et al. (1992). This species is found throughout the steppe regions of Europe and Asia, occurring widely from Hungary to China; the differences cited by Marusik and Logunov (1994) do not suffice to separate European and Asian specimens, and we continue to regard both *G. punctata* and *G. spinosa* as junior synonyms of *G. mongolica* Simon.

The *Gnaphosa muscorum* Group

This species group was established by Ovtsharenko et al. (1992: 42).

Gnaphosa oligerae, new species

Figures 1–5

TYPES: Male holotype and female allotype from a site called “America,” Lazovskii Reserve, Lazovskii District, Primorskii Krai (Russian Far East), Russia (May 22, 1975, and June 30, 1976, respectively; T. I. Oliger), deposited in ZISP.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is a patronym in honor of the collector of the types.

DIAGNOSIS: This very distinctive species is probably closest to *Gnaphosa sticta* Kulczyński (1908), which it resembles in having a relatively long retrolateral tibial apophysis in males and a relatively small epigynal hood in females. Males of *G. oligerae* can be distinguished by the very long, narrow embolus, the prolaterally expanded cymbium and palpal bulb, and the wide, distally bifid median

apophysis (figs. 1–3); females can easily be recognized by the anteriorly expanded epigynal midpiece, with deep lateral pockets (fig. 4), and especially by the long, spirally coiled lateral epigynal ducts (fig. 5).

MALE: Total length 7.00. Carapace 3.50 long, 2.67 wide. Femur II 2.33 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.11, ALE 0.16, PME 0.10, PLE 0.10; AME-AME 0.10, AME-ALE 0.02, PME-PME 0.08, PME-PLE 0.20, ALE-PLE 0.23; MOQ length 0.34, front width 0.29, back width 0.30. Palp with large, prolaterally expanded bulb, long embolus, wide median apophysis with bifid tip (prolateral tip oval, retrolateral tip hooked, figs. 1–2); retrolateral tibial apophysis large, long, narrowed distally (fig. 3). Leg spination: tibiae: I, II v0-0-2; III r1-1-1; IV d0-0-0, r1-1-1; metatarsus III r1-1-2.

FEMALE: Total length 9.60. Carapace 3.30 long, 2.63 wide. Femur II 2.10 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.11, ALE 0.17, PME 0.11, PLE 0.11; AME-AME 0.10, AME-ALE 0.02, PME-PME 0.08, PME-PLE

0.23, ALE-PLE 0.20; MOQ length 0.38, front width 0.32, back width 0.35. Epigynal atrium shallow, with anteriorly expanded midpiece, deep lateral pockets, and short, narrow hood (fig. 4); spermathecae with long, spirally coiled lateral epigynal ducts (fig. 5). Leg spination: femur IV p0-1-1, r0-1-1; tibiae: III r1-1-1; IV d0-0-0.

OTHER MATERIAL EXAMINED: **Russia:** *Pri-morskii Krai:* Lazovskii District, near Kievka, May 27–31, 1981, oak forest (T. I. Oliger, AMNH), 3♂, April 22–June 10, 1982, pitfall traps (T. I. Oliger, ZISP), 5♂; Lazovskii Reserve, site “America,” June 30, 1976, oak forest, pitfall trap (T. I. Oliger, AMNH), 1♀ (taken with allotype); Lazovskii Reserve, Valunovka River, near Benevskogo, June 8–9, 1978, oak forest (T. I. Oliger, ZISP), 1♂; Lazovskii Reserve, site “Slukhe,” June 25, 1979 (T. I. Oliger, ZISP), 1♂.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the Russian Far East.

NATURAL HISTORY: Specimens were collected in pitfall traps, mostly in oak forests.

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