

New faunistic records of Salticidae (Aranei) from Khorasan Province of Iran

Новые фаунистические находки Salticidae (Aranei) из иранской провинции Хорасан

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KEY WORDS: Jumping spiders, Salticidae, Aranei, Iran, faunistics, new records, distribution.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: пауки-скакунчики, Salticidae, Aranei, Иран, новые находки, фаунистика, распространение.

ABSTRACT. New faunistic records of nine species of Salticidae for the spider fauna of Iran are presented. Four species — *Heliophanus chovdensis* Prószyński, 1982, *Pseudicius afghanicus* (Andreeva, Hęciak et Prószyński, 1984), *Rafalus variegatus* (Kroneberg, 1875), and *Sitticus avocator* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1885) — are new records for the spider fauna of Iran.

РЕЗЮМЕ. Даны новые фаунистические находки девяти видов из семейства Salticidae фауны Ирана. Четыре вида — *Heliophanus chovdensis* Prószyński, 1982, *Pseudicius afghanicus* (Andreeva, Hęciak et Prószyński, 1984), *Rafalus variegatus* (Kroneberg, 1875), and *Sitticus avocator* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1885) — впервые отмечены для фауны Ирана.

Introduction

The Salticidae fauna of Iran currently includes 80 species of 35 genera [Mozaffarian & Marusik, 2001; Logunov *et al.* 2002, 2007; Azarkina, 2002; Ghavami, 2006, 2007; Logunov, 2007, 2009, 2010; Ghahari & Marusik, 2009; etc.] and it is safe to assume that this fauna still remains poorly known (see Logunov [2010] for a discussion). Here, we present data on new faunistic records for nine spider species of the Salticidae from various localities in Khorasan Province, one of the least studied territories of Iran (see Mirshamsi [2005] for a provisional list of 95 spider species of 26 families), based on the material newly collected by one of us (SM). Despite its small size, the studied salticid collection has yielded four new species records for the spider fauna of Iran (see below).

One additional species (1 ♂ in poor condition; MMUM) remains undetermined. It is *Phlegra* sp. from the *bresnieri* species group taken from the following

locality: Iran, Torbate Haydarieh – Mashhad road, Dugheshk (35.3055°N, 59.2436°E), 1377 m a.s.l., 26.05.2012, S. Musavi. It does not belong to true *P. bresnieri* (Lucas, 1846) [*sensu* Logunov & Azarkina, 2006] because it does not have the dense white hairs on the clypeus. This male may belong to *P. particeps* (Pickard-Cambridge, 1872), a poorly known species reported from the Near East to Bhutan [Prószyński, 2003]. A proper identification of our male is impossible until the entire *bresnieri* species group has been thoroughly revised.

The specimens examined are preserved in the following collections: ZMFUM — Zoological Museum, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran (Dr O. Mirshamsi); and MMUM — The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK (Dr D.V. Logunov).

Results

Bianor albobimaculatus (Lucas, 1846)

MATERIAL. 3 ♂♂ (ZMFUM), Khorasan Prov., Sarakhs, Bazangan (36.3097°N, 60.4694°E), 861 m a.s.l., 18.06.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. This species is known from South Africa to the Mediterranean, with Algeria and Portugal being the westernmost limits of the range, and north-eastward to Central Asia [Logunov, 2001a, 2009].

Heliophanus chovdensis Prószyński, 1982

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (palp) 1 ♀ (MMUM), Khorasan Prov., c. 17 km NW of Mashhad, Tous (36.4713°N, 59.5138°E), 1004 m a.s.l., 23.04.2012, S. Musavi; 1 ♂ (ZMFUM), Khorasan Prov., Mashhad, Razavieh (36.250°N, 59.769°E), 951 m a.s.l., 27.09.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. To date, this species has been known from SE Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and W Mongolia only [Rakov & Logunov, 1996; Logunov & Marusik,

2000b: map 21]. Thus, the finding of *H. chovdensis* in Khorasan significantly extends the species' range and lies in its SW limit. New record for Iran.

Heliophanus mordax (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (ZMFUM), Khorasan Prov., c. 17 km NW of Mashhad, Tous (36.488°N, 59.505°E), 1004 m a.s.l., 23.04.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. It is an east Mediterranean – Central Asian subboreal species, known from Egypt and Greek islands in the west [Metzner, 1999], throughout Asia Minor and the Near East [Prószyński, 2003; Topçu *et al.*, 2006], to the Caucasus and Central Asia, as far as SW Kopetdagh [Rakov & Logunov, 1996] and Khorasan Province of Iran [present data].

'*Hyllus*' *insularis* Metzner, 1999

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (ZMFUM), Khorasan Prov., Torbate Haydari (35.2636°N, 59.1891°E), 1367 m a.s.l., 25.06.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. To date, this species has been known from Greece (Lesbos Isl.) and Iran (Tehran, Yazd, Mazandaran and Khorasan Provinces) only [Metzner, 1999; Logunov, 2001b; present data]. Khorasan Province lies in the easternmost limit of the currently known species' range.

Langona pallidula Logunov et Rakov, 1998

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (MMUM), Khorasan Prov., Torbate Haydari (35.7666°N, 59.25°E), 1367 m a.s.l., 14.05.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. To date, this species has been known from the type locality (Turkmenistan: Repetek) only [Logunov & Rakov, 1998]. However, our identification should be considered provisional, as the difficult genus *Langona* Simon, 1901 requires a complete taxonomic revision. The present record may also belong to *L. aperta* (Denis, 1958) known only from a few localities in Afghanistan [Logunov & Zamanpoore, 2005]. The matter requires special attention in the future when more comparative material of both sexes from Iran has been collected.

Pseudicius afghanicus (Andreeva, Hęciak et Prószyński, 1984)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (MMUM), Khorasan Prov., Gonabad (34.1369°N, 58.6455°E), 1100 m a.s.l., 5.09.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. It is a poorly known species described from Afghanistan (Nangarhar Prov.) and then recorded from SE Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and W China (Xinjiang) [Logunov & Rakov, 1998]. New record for Iran.

Rafalus variegatus (Kroneberg, 1875)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMFUM), Khorasan Prov., Sarakhs, Mazdavand (36.143°N, 60.5166°E), 929 m a.s.l., 17.06.2012, S. Musavi; 1 ♂ (ZMFUM), Khorasan Prov., Khalaj Mts (36.2291°N, 59.5727°E), 1147 m a.s.l., 8.04.2012, S. Musavi; 2 ♂♂ (ZM-

FUM), Khorasan Prov., Mashhad, Sang Bast (35.9833°N, 59.7510°E), 1110 m a.s.l., 3.05.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. It is a common species known to date from SE mountainous regions of Central Asia (SE Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, E Turkmenistan and Tajikistan) [Logunov & Rakov, 1998: map 1]. New record for Iran, lying in the south-westernmost limit of the species' range.

Salticus tricinctus (C.L. Koch, 1846)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMFUM), Khorasan Prov., Fariman (35.6833°N, 59.8438°E), 1440 m a.s.l., 3.05.2012, S. Musavi; 1 ♂ (ZMFUM), Khorasan Prov., Sarakhs, Bazangan (36.3097°N, 60.4694°E), 861 m a.s.l., 18.06.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. It is a common Turanian species known from Azerbaijan and NW Iran in the west [Logunov *et al.*, 2002] throughout Turkmenistan and southern Kazakhstan [Logunov & Rakov, 1998: map 10] to Afghanistan in the east [Logunov & Zamanpoore, 2005].

Sitticus avocator (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1885)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ 1 ♀ (ZMFUM), Sarakhs, Shirtapeh (36.1019°N, 61.228°E), 362 m a.s.l., 24.03.2012, S. Musavi.

COMMENTS. This species seems to be restricted to the mountainous regions of Central Asia only [Logunov & Marusik, 2000a]. New record for Iran, lying in the south-westernmost limit of the species' range.

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