

**OCCURENCE OF THE ALIEN SPIDER *MERMESSUS DENTICULATUS* (BANKS, 1898) (ARANEAE: LINYPHIIDAE) IN TURKEY**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Mermessus denticulatus* (Banks, 1898) and genus *Mermessus* O.P.-Cambridge, 1899 of family Linyphiidae are recorded from Turkey for the first time. It was probably imported to Europe from North America together with potted plants at at the end of 1980's. Its presence represents the easternmost boundary of this species in Europe.

**KEY WORDS:** Araneae, Linyphiidae, taxonomy, new record, Turkey

Genus *Mermessus* O.P.-Cambridge, 1899 includes 81 species, mainly recorded from North and Central America. Only one male specimen of *Mermessus denticulatus* (Banks, 1898) was found in Datça, Muğla, Turkey. It is the first record of both the species and genus *Mermessus* from Turkey. This new record increases the known Turkish linyphiid fauna to 128 species of 67 genera (Bayram et. al. 2017). This short paper deals with the characteristic features and distribution of *Mermessus denticulatus*.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

One male specimen was examined in this study. The specimen was collected during the day by hand aspirator from under stones. It was deposited in the collection of Arachnological Museum of Kırıkkale University (KUAM), preserved in 70% ethanol. Chiefly well known identification keys were used for identification. Pictures were taken by means of a Leica DC 160 camera, in dishes of different sizes with paraffin on the bottom. Different size holes were made in the paraffin to keep specimens in the right position. All measurements are in millimetres. SEM microphotograph was made with JEOL JSM-5600 in the University of Kırıkkale.

### RESULTS

#### *Mermessus denticulatus* (Banks, 1898)

(Figs. 1-3)

**Material examined:** 2♂♂, Muğla Province, Datça district, (36°44'03.1"N 27°41'34.3"E) (22.07.2017), from a garden, (KUAM-LIN. Mer. dent.01).

**Description of male:** Body length: 2.3, Prosoma: length 1.20 width 1.0. Opisthosoma: length 1.1, width 0.9. Prosoma orange-brown, ocular area mostly dark-brown. Legs light yellowish brown. Opisthosoma is grey-black, with faint

paler horizontal chevrons dorsally, darker posteriorly (Figs. 1A-B). Chelicerae with meso-frontal tooth and bear a row of antero-lateral denticles (Fig. 2). Male palpal tibia with dorsally sharply pointed simple apophysis and bears long hairs on apical half of ecto-lateral surface. Palpal patella with a small ventral apophysis. Suprategular apophysis slender. It's radical embolic section with more or less crown-shaped and bears three protruding that one finger-shaped and two cone-shaped (Fig. 3).

**Distribution:** Canada to Peru, Caribbean. Introduced to Europe, North Africa (Platnick, 2017).

#### LITERATURE CITED

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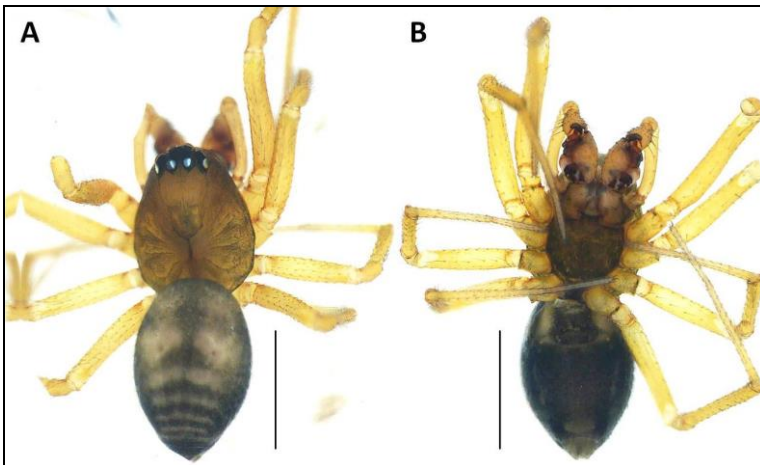


Figure 1. *M. denticulatus*, male habitus. A. dorsal view, B. ventral view (Scale: 1.0).



Figure 2. *M. denticulatus*, male. Ocular area, frontal view (Scale: 0.5).



Figure 3. *M. denticulatus*, pedipalp, retrolateral view, SEM micrograph.