

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

**FIRST RECORD OF *CENTROMERUS ALBIDUS* SIMON, 1929
FROM TURKEY (ARANEAE: LINYPHIIDAE)****Recep Sulhi Özkütük*, Kadir Boğaç Kunt**
and Mert Elverici*****

* Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Anadolu University, TR- 26470 Eskişehir, TURKEY. E-mail: sozkutuk@gmail.com

** Poligon Sitesi 71/27-B TR-06810 Dodurga, Çayyolu, Ankara, TURKEY.

*** Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Arts, University of Erzincan, TR-24100, Erzincan, Turkey – Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Middle East Technical University, TR-06531 Ankara, TURKEY.

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Centromerus Dahl, 1886 is just one of the 589 extant genera of Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859, and is represented by 84 species and 2 sub-species mainly distributed through the western Palaearctic region (Platnick, 2012). In general, they are small-sized ground dwellers with a maximum body length of 4 mm.

A pale abdomen lacking any colour pattern, the absence of cheliceral stridulation ridges and the legs with few spines are characteristics of the genus (for detailed description see Helsdingen, 1973).

The genus is represented by the following four species in Turkey (Bayram et al., 2012): *C. minor* Tanasevitch, 1990; *C. sylvaticus* (Blackwall, 1841); *C. turcicus* Wunderlich, 1995 and *C. unicolor* Roewer, 1959. Of these, the type localities of *C. turcicus* and *C. unicolor* are in Turkey and they have not yet been recorded from any other country (Platnick, 2012).

The purpose of this brief article is to document *Centromerus albidus* Simon, 1929 as a new record for the Turkish spider fauna, based on adult female specimens collected from the western Black Sea region of Turkey. Photographs of the habitus and species specific female genitalia are provided to support our identification.

Specimens were collected by sieving of tree litter and were placed directly into 70% ethanol and transferred to the laboratory. The specimens were examined using a Leica S8APO stereomicroscope. The identifications are based on the genitalia drawings of Roberts (1987). The specimens were deposited in the Zoology Museum of Anadolu University. All measurements provided in the text are in mm.

Taxonomy***Centromerus* Dahl, 1886**

C. Dahl, in Dahl, 1886: 73-74, type *C. brevivulvatus* Dahl, 1912

***Centromerus albidus* Simon, 1929**

(Figs. 1-3)

Material examined: 4 ♀♀, Zonguldak Province, Zonguldak-Bartın Hwy (41°26'16.06"N; 31°50'11.18"E), 28.06.2012, in leaf litter, K. B. Kunt leg.

Measurements (n=4): Carapace; 0.53 long, 0.40 wide (maximum) — **Abdomen;** 0.77 long, 0.54 wide (maximum) — **Epigyne** 0.22 long, 0.25 wide — **Leg I** 1.36 **II** 1.40 **III** 1.11 **IV** 1.52.

Description: Carapace, chelicera, sternum, gnathocoxae, labium and legs brownish yellow. Legs covered by thin, dark brown setae. Anterior median eyes circular and relatively small compared to the others. Anterior and posterior lateral eyes contiguous. Posterior median eyes separated by less than their diameter (Fig. 2). Abdomen greyish brown. Epigyne reddish, strongly sclerotized and broad. Almost equal in width and length. Scapus distinct; widened at sides, getting thinner and blunt towards the tip. Tip of the scapus loosely sclerotized and almost transparent (Fig. 3).

Note: Due to no males being found in our field surveys we could not present photographs of the male genitalia. Nevertheless, owing to the wrinkled scapus morphology of the female genitalia we were able to identify our specimens to the *sylvaticus* species group and were able to easily distinguish them from the previously known species in Turkey, *C. sylvaticus*, based on differences in the morphology of the female genitalia. In *C. sylvaticus* the epigyne is wider than long and the shape of the scapus is wide at the base, narrow in the middle, widening towards the end and semi-circular posteriorly (Fig. 4).

The number of known species of the family Linyphiidae in Turkey is now 105. However, we expect that more species will be recorded in the future, given the high species richness of this family (589 genera, 4419 species) and their biodiversity in adjacent countries such as Bulgaria (96 genera, 231 species), which has been more comprehensively studied (Blagoev et al., 2002; Platnick, 2012).

LITERATURE CITED

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Figures 1-3. *Centromerus albidus*, 1. Female, habitus, 2. Eyes, 3. Epigyne, ventral view (arrow indicates the transparent tip of the scapus), 4. *C. sylvaticus* (Çankırı Province, Ilgaz Mountain National Park, 16.09.2010, R. S. Özkütük leg.). Scale lines: 1 0.2 3 0.2