

TWO NEW LIOCRANID SPECIES RECORDS FROM TURKEY (ARANEAE: LIOCRANIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: Two liocranid spiders, which are species new to Turkey, *Agroeca parva* Bosmans, 2011 and *Mesiotelus scopensis* Drensky, 1935, are recorded. The illustrations for all of the species are also provided.

KEY WORDS: *Agroeca*, fauna, *Mesiotelus*, spiny-legged sac spiders.

Liocranidae are small to medium-sized araneomorph spiders, generally known as ground dwellers occupying tree litter on the forest floor. Symbiosis with ants and termites has also been recorded in this family. They are entelegyne and cribellate, with two tarsal claws and eight eyes (Jocqué & Dippenaar-Schoeman, 2006). The global fauna consists of 186 known species in 30 genera; the family is represented in Turkey by 9 species and 7 genera (Bayram et al., 2012).

The purpose of this brief article is to present the liocranid spiders *Agroeca parva* and *Mesiotelus scopensis* as two new records for the Turkish araneofauna.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Samples examined were collected from olive groves in the Aegean region of Turkey using hand aspirators and pitfall trap surveys. All specimens were directly placed into 70% ethanol; while trap samples were previously exposed to 80% ethylene glycol used as a preservative liquid in the pitfall traps. Species identifications were made using a Leica S8AP0 stereomicroscope and based on genitalia drawings of Bosmans (2011) for *A. parva* and Bosmans et al. (2009) for *M. scopensis*.

RESULTS

Agroeca parva Bosmans, 2011 (Figs. 1-5)

A. p.; Bosmans, 2011: 19, f. 11-14 (original description of male & female).

Material examined Specimen collected at night in active searching of the ground in olive gardens; 1 female Muğla Province, Milas District, Kırıkkışlacık Village (37°16'38.80"N; 27°33'47.97"E), 10.04.2011, leg. M. Elverici | Specimen acquired from pitfall trap survey between 01.10.2010 - 20.11.2010 in olive gardens; 1 male same locality, leg. M. Elverici.

General distribution: Greece (Platnick, 2012)

Comments: The leg spination pattern of paired ventral spines on the anterior legs (three on the metatarsus, two on the tibia) is diagnostic for the genus

Agroeca, which is already represented by two species in Turkey: *A. inopina* O. P.-Cambridge, 1886 and *A. proxima* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1871). These two species can be readily identified by the morphology of male tibial apophysis. *A. parva* has a relatively longer tibial apophysis compared to the aforementioned species, with a truncate tip. It also has a smaller body size. As the type locality of *A. parva* is Lesbos Island (Greece), and considering the broad distribution of the genus in the region, it is not particularly surprising to find this species on the Aegean coastline of Turkey.

***Mesiotelus scopensis* Drensky, 1935**

(Figs. 6-11)

M. cyprius s.; Drensky, 1935: 106, f. 5 (original description of female).

M. cyprius s.; Hadjissarantos, 1940: 96, f. 32a-b (original description of male).

M. scopensis; Bosmans et al., 2009: 34, f. 29-33 (male & female; elevated to species level, **lapsus**).

Material examined Specimens collected at night in active searching of the ground or collected under rocks in olive gardens; 2 females Muğla Province, Milas District, Kırıkkışlacık Village (37°16'38.80"N; 27°33'47.97"E), 20.11.2010, leg. M. Elverici 1 male 5 females same locality, 4.03.2011, leg. M. Elverici 2 females same locality, 10.04.2011, leg. M. Elverici | Specimens acquired from pitfall trap surveys in olive gardens; 3 females Muğla Province, Marmaris District, Kırıkkışlacık Village (37°16'38.80"N; 27°33'47.97"E), 29.5.2010 - 29. 6. 2010, leg. M. Elverici 2 females same locality, 01.10.2010 - 20.11.2010, leg. M. Elverici 2 males 1 female same locality, 20.11.2010 - 4.3.2011, leg. M. Elverici 3 males 2 females same locality, 4.3.2011 - 9.4.2011, leg. M. Elverici.

General distribution: Greece, Bulgaria and Macedonia (Platnick, 2012)

Comments: *Mesiotelus* is represented by 15 described species, mostly known from the Mediterranean region and its peripheries; although there are representatives distributed from the Canaries to China along the southern part of the Palearctic region. The taxonomic validity of the only known species from Kenya, *Mesiotelus pococki* Caporiacco, 1949 is uncertain. This problem was first raised by Marusik & Guseinov (2003). After examining the female genitalia of *M. pococki* from illustrations and description provided by Caporiacco (1949), it is evident that the epigyne structure is simple and pentangular, well sclerotized at the margins and compressed in the middle; and thus inconsistent with the epigyne structure typical of the genus *Mesiotelus*. Moreover, Bosmans et al. (2009) have stressed the necessity of a generic revision. Other species of the genus already known from Turkey are *M. annulipes* (Kulczyński, 1897) and *M. tenuissimus* (L.Koch, 1866).

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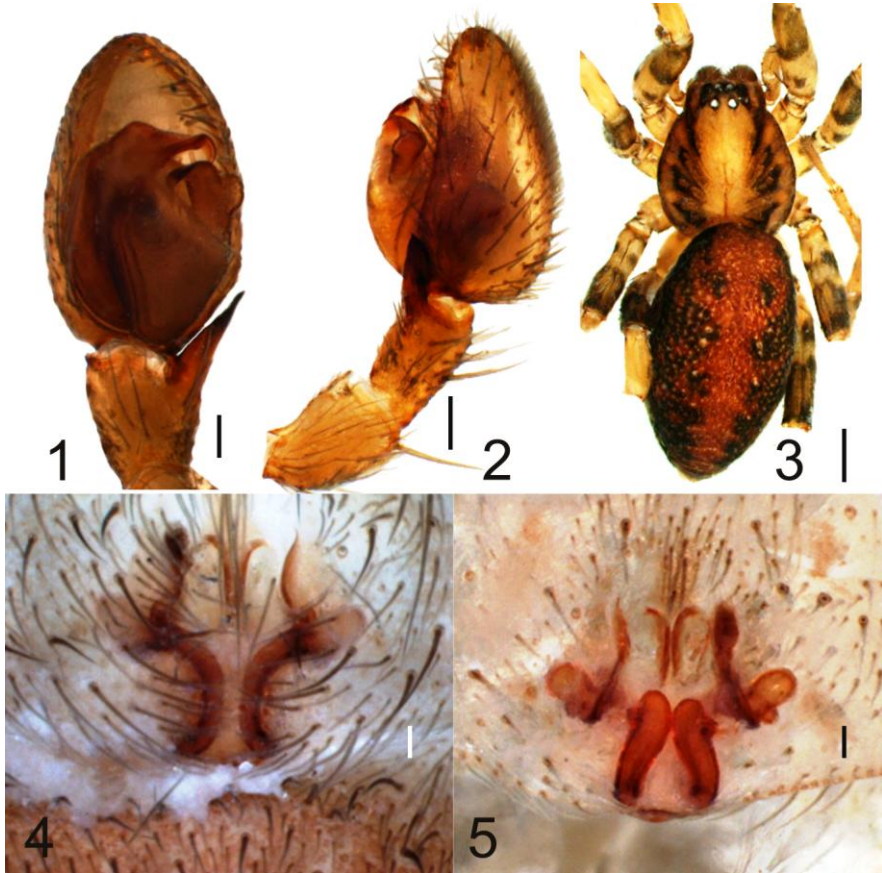
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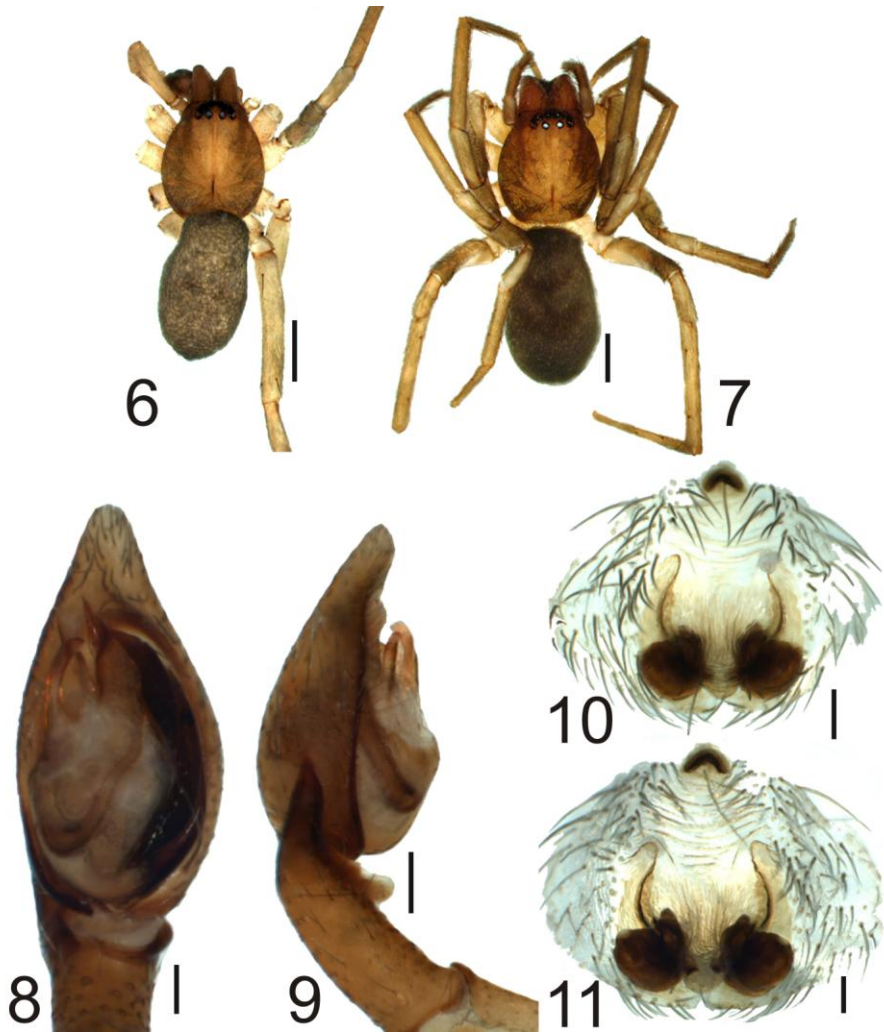
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Figures 1-5. *Agroeca parva* Bosmans, 2011: 1 Male palp, ventral view 2 Ditto, retrolateral view 3 Female, habitus 4 Epigyne, ventral view 5 Ditto, dorsal view Scale lines: 1, 2, 4, 5 0.1 mm 3 0.5 mm.



Figures 6-11. *Mesiotelus scopensis* Drensky, 1935: 6 Male, habitus 7 Female, habitus 8 Male palp, ventral view 9 Ditto, retrolateral view 10 Epigyne, ventral view 11 Ditto, dorsal view
Scale lines: 6,7 0.25 mm 8-11 0.1 mm.