REPORT
FROM
PROFESSOR T. GISLÉN'S EXPEDITION TO AUSTRALIA IN 1951–1952

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HARVEST-SPIDERS FROM S.W. AUSTRALIA

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C. W. K. GLEERUP
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Read before the Royal Physiographic Society, March 10, 1954.
In recent times the harvest-spiders of Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania were re-examined and extensively studied. Many new discoveries were made by FORSTER, ROEWER, MARPLES, GOODNIGHT, and others (e.g. the finding of an Acropsopilionide in New Zealand), and old genera were revised. This holds mainly for East Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and New Guinea. West Australia, on the other hand, has been much less the object of arachnological investigations.

In the literature available I found only 7 species — members of three families — mentioned for West Australia:

**Triaenonychidae:**
- *Nunciella aspera* (Pocock)
- *Calliuncus ferrugineus* RWR. 1931.
- *Perthacantha jugata* RWR. 1931.
- *Dingupa glauerti* FORSTER 1952.

**Assamidae:**
- *Dampetrus australis* KARSCH (Roewer 1935).

**Phalangodidae:**
- *Bindoona glauerti* RWR. 1928/29.

It was therefore of special interest to be able to study the harvest-spiders from Prof. TORSTEN GISLENN’S expedition to S.W. Australia (1951—52). I am very much obliged to Prof. T. GISLENN for having put his collections at my disposal. One new genus and five new species will be described in this paper.

**Laniatores**

**Triaenonychidae.**

*Nunciella aspera* (Pocock)


1. FORSTER (1952) is apparently right in synonymizing *Nunciella frontalis* with *Nunciella aspera.*
Hans Kauri

Fig. 1. *Nunciella aspera*, A, penis from side. *Nunciella karriensis* n. sp., B, penis from side.

Forster (1952) gave a valuable re-description of Pocock’s old species. Roewer’s descriptions (1914, 1931) do not now meet modern demands, his statement (1931, p. 163) “Frontalrand des Cp. oben glatt” being erroneous.

To Forster’s description I want to add that the granules on the frontal margin vary in number and size (which holds for both sexes!). The first joint of the cheliceres mostly carries in the middle small dorsal denticles which are arranged in two rows, one lateral and one submedian (♂♀ and ♂♂). The sexual dimorphism is well developed. The population of the Rottnest Island is slightly smaller than that of the mainland but the two populations cannot be distinguished specifically:

The body length:

Rottnest Isl. ♂♂ 3.9; 4.0; 4.8; 4.9; 5.2; 5.2; 5.7; M=4.8
♀♀ 4.1; 4.7; 4.8; 4.8; 5.0; M=4.7
Mainland: ♂♂ 4.1; 4.8; 5.1; 5.5 (3×); 5.6 (3×); 5.8 (2×); 6.0 (2×); M=5.6
♀♀ 4.3; 4.5; 4.6; 4.7; 4.8; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4; 5.6; M=4.9.

Rottnest, Lake Baghdad, 26.11. 1945, 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀.
Rottnest, Lake Baghdad, 25.11. 1945, 4 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀.
Nedlands, dry sandy soil, 18.11. 1951, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, 1 juv. ♀.
Margaret River, off entrance to Mammouth Cave. 10.12. 1951, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀.

*Nunciella karriensis* nov. sp.

Resembles the foregoing species. The frontal margin carries fewer tubercles than that of *N. aspera* (especially the ♂). The first joint of the cheliceres is provided with a dorso-apical spine and a basal tooth (in both sexes). It is strange that the sexual dimorphism in this species is not so markedly developed as in *N. aspera*. However, the cheliceres of the female are shorter and the spines more weakly developed. The number of the median dorsal tubercles is reduced (to 1 or 2). The second joint on its dorsal side is provided with small tubercles which are more or less arranged in one longitudinal row. There is a tooth at the base of the movable claw (♀ and ♂).
Both shape and armature of the pedipalpes are just as in *N. aspera*. Length of body: ♀ 5.9; 5.7; ♂ 5.8; 5.6; 5.4; 5.9.

The spines on the ventral side of the pedipalp-femur are more slender, and there are fewer teeth on the dorsal side. The best distinguishing features are to be found on the penis (fig. 1 B).

It may be that this form has to be regarded only as a separate race of the foregoing species. However, to solve this question a larger material than was in my possession ought to be examined.

Porongorups, Karri forest, 30.1. 1952, 4 ♂, 2 ♀.
Type in Zoological Institute, Lund.

*Breviacantha* nov. gen.

Frontal margin normal, armed with two spines. Ocular tubercle situated on the extreme edge of the frontal margin, carrying a medial spine. 1 to 5 areas fused to one scutum and not separated by transverse grooves. Each of the 4 anterior areae is provided with a pair of tubercles which each carry one seta. The fifth area and the free tergites of the abdomen have transverse rows of tubercles.
The femur of the first leg is strongly armed with ventral spines. Number of tarsal joints: 1+2, 5+3, 4, 4. The lateral branches of the 2. and 3. tarsal claw much weaker and shorter than the medial portion. Type species: *Breviacantha Gisléni* n. sp.

*Breviacantha Gisléni* nov. sp.

Length of body 2.0—2.7 mm. Colour a reddish or darkish brown with black pattern. The field of the areae are surrounded by a black ribbon. The ocular tubercle carries one strong spine pointing forwards. On either side of the ocular tubercle there are 3—4 small tubercles on the frontal margin of the scutum. The areae 1—4 are faintly defined and carry a pair of warts in the middle. The 5. area and the free tergites of the abdomen are provided with a transverse row of tubercles. There are neither spines nor tubercles on the basal joint of the cheliceres (Fig. 2 D). The second joint is provided with some minute granules on its anterior side. The femora of the first legs are provided with 4 ventral spines. As to the structure of pedipalps and penis compare fig. 2, A, B, C.

Denmark, Karri forest, near opening of the Denmark river, 26.1. 1952. 1 ♂.
Pemberton, brook at Burma road. 2.3. 1952. 1 ♂.
Thompson Walpole. 12.1. 1952, 1 juv.
Type in Zoological Institute, Lund.

*Calliuncus glabra* nov. sp.

Length of body: ♂: 5.1—5.0—4.7 mm
♀: 4.9 mm

Male. Colour a reddish brown with conspicuous black patterns, especially on the pedipalps and on the cheliceres where they form a regular network. The legs are yellow with black patterns. The areae are faintly defined. There are no rows of granules on them, only the last 2—3 areae each carry a row of fine bristles. The anterior hook of the ocular tubercle is small. The frontal margin forms a projection on the exterior side of each chelicere, and there is a small tubercle in the middle between the two projections. The basal joint of the cheliceres is flattened dorsally and provided with the apex with a dorso-medial spine, pointing forwards. Basally there is a dorso-lateral tooth-like chitinous fold. The second joint of the cheliceres is strongly protruding (seen from dorsal). The frontal side of the second joint of the cheliceres is provided with tubercles. There are denticles on the unmovable cheliceral claw, and a list on the movable (fig. 3 C).

As to the femora of the pedipalpes see fig. 3 D.

The present species is easily distinguished from *C. ferrugineus* by the two medial-apical small tubercles (teeth) of the pedipalp-femur which — according to Roewer 1931 — are lacking in the latter species.

It is distinguished from *C. ephippiatus* by the presence of the latero-basal denticle on the basal joint of the cheliceres.

The female resembles the male.
The penis is shown in fig. 3 A, B.
Porongorups, 30.1. 1952, 3 ♂, 1 ♀, 2 juv.
Type in Zoological Institute, Lund.

The new species is larger than the two hitherto known. The body lengths of the males are 4.7—5.0—5.1 mm, the female is 4.9 mm long. The length of C. ferrugineus and C. ephippiatus is given as 3.5 mm by Roewer.

Palpatores

Phalangiidae:

There exist no records for members of the family Phalangiidae from West Australia. The specimens belonging to this family were found by Gislén in various localities, and have to be referred to as new species.

Spinicrus minimus nov. sp.

♂ 2.0 mm, ♀ 3.6—3.8 mm.

The male has a body typical for the liobunides, i.e. disk-like with very long legs, the second pair of the latter being the longest. The distance of the ocular tubercle from the frontal margin equals about the diameter of the former. The ocular tubercle on either side of the medial groove is provided with 4—5 minute, irregularly arranged granules. The carapace is armed with numerous small spicules.

The cheliceres vary in size. There are ♂ in which the length of the two cheliceral joints approximately equals the length of the body, and there are others in which the cheliceres exceed three times the length of the body:
Between these extremes transitions can be found. The cheliceres are covered with tubercles. The coxae are smooth and provided with some black hairs. Trochanter with small spines on its apical edge. Femora covered with scattered denticles. The penis is shown in fig. 4.

The colour is light brown with dark brown and silvery patches. The ventral side is whitish and on the apical third of the coxae there is a brown ring. Trochanter whitish on the ventral side, brown on the dorsal side. The remaining parts of the legs are brown.

The female is larger, i.e. 3.6 mm, and of more oval shape. The cheliceres are small. Carapace without spines. On the dorsal side of the first abdominal segments there is a brown transverse patch. On the scutum and on the lateral sides of the abdomen there are silvery patches below the brown ones.


Type in Zoological Institute, Lund.

*Spinicrus porongorupensis* nov. sp.

The new species resembles *Sp. minimus* very much and is of the same size:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of body</th>
<th>I joint</th>
<th>II joint</th>
<th>locality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♂</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.0, Margaret River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♂</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.9, ♂</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♂</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.5, ♂</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♀</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.1, ♀</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The colour of the male is yellowish. It is paler than *sp. minimus*. The patterns are inconspicuous. The carapace is devoid of spicules. The cheliceres are covered with denticles as in *minimus*, but their length is less variable (see the measurements).
Harvest-spiders from S.W. Australia

Fig. 4. Spinicrus minimus n. sp., penis, A, from below, B, from side. C, Spinicrus porongorupensis n. sp., pedipalp.

The pedipalps are provided with spicules (Fig. 4 C). It is especially the femur which is strongly armed, less so patella and tibia.

No distinguishing characters are to be found in the genital organs. The female resembles minimus. There is a well-defined white band in the middle of the back stretching from the ocular tubercles to the posterior end of the body. The brown pattern is conspicuous.

According to European experiences the armature of the pedipalpes ought to have been ascribed high taxonomic value, but it is doubtful whether this holds also in this case. It is most probably that this form occurs only in the isolated mountain-forest of Porongorups.

Porongorups, Karri forest, 31.1. 1951, 3 ♂, 1 ♀.
Type in Zoological Institute, Lund.
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