



Synopsis of the *Ozyptila rauda*-group (Araneae, Thomisidae), with revalidation of *Ozyptila balkarica* Ovtsharenko, 1979

YURI M. MARUSIK

Institute for Biological Problems of the North RAS, Portovaya Str. 18, Magadan, Russia. E-mail: yurmar@mail.ru
Zoological Museum, University of Turku, FI-20014 Turku, Finland

Abstract

Ozyptila balkarica Ovtsharenko, 1979, belonging to the Holarctic *Ozyptila rauda*-group was thought to be a junior synonym of *O. orientalis* Kulczyński, 1926, because of its indistinguishable females. Comparison of topotype males from Caucasus and Kamchatka revealed clear differences in the shape of copulatory organs and carapace patterns; thus the junior name is revalidated here. Because the differences between the two taxa are of the same level as between *O. orientalis* and *O. basegica* Esyunin, 1992, which is considered a subspecies of the former species, subspecific rank to *O. orientalis balkarica* stat. nov. is suggested. Males of the two subspecies are illustrated, and a synopsis of the whole *O. rauda*-group accounting 14 species and subspecies is given. *O. sedotmikka* Levy, 2007, from Israel was found to belong to this group. Distribution of all species is mapped.

Key words: crab spiders, species-group composition

Introduction

Ozyptila balkarica belongs to the Holarctic *O. rauda*-group. This group was revised by Hippa *et al.* (1986) and at that time included seven species (*O. arctica* Kulczyński, 1908; *O. balkarica* Ovtsharenko, 1979; *O. conostyla* Hippa, Koponen & Oksala, 1986; *O. orientalis* Kulczyński, 1926; *O. pullata* Thorell, 1875; *O. rauda* Simon, 1875 and *O. yosemitica* Schick, 1965). Since that revision, six additional species (including one subspecies) have been described from the Palearctic: *O. secreta* Thaler, 1987; *O. sakhalinensis* Ono, Marusik & Logunov, 1990, *O. utotchkini* Marusik, 1990, *O. balkarica basegica* Esyunin, 1992, *O. ladina* Thaler & Zingerle, 1998 and *O. kaszabi* Marusik & Logunov, 2002. At this moment, *O. rauda*-group encompasses 12 species including one subspecies.

O. balkarica Ovtsharenko, 1979, was described from the Caucasus based on both sexes, and a female was chosen as the holotype, although epigynes within *O. rauda*-groups are very similar. Later this species was found in different parts of Siberia and also in China. Comparison of males from East Siberia and Ural allowed Esyunin (1992) to establish a new subspecies *O. balkarica basegica* restricted to Ural. The subspecies males have distinctly different tegular apophyses, while females are indistinguishable. Side by side comparison of females of *O. balkarica* from Siberia and the Caucasus (including paratypes) revealed no differences between them and the figures of holotype of *O. orientalis* described from Kamchatka. Therefore, the junior name was synonymised (Logunov & Marusik 1994).

An unusual distribution pattern of the two subspecies *O. o. orientalis* (Caucasus and all Siberia) and *O. o. basegica* (just inbetween two disjunctive parts of the range of nominative subspecies) triggered the idea to restudy males from Kamchatka and the Caucasus. Comparison of tegular apophyses of Kamchatkan and Caucasian specimens revealed distinct differences; therefore, *O. balkarica* has to be removed from synonymy