



Harpactea konradi, a new spider species from Bulgaria, (Araneae, Dysderidae)

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Abstract

A new spider species, *Harpactea konradi*, is described and illustrated from specimens collected in South Bulgaria (Eastern Rhodopes). The male palps of the species resemble those of *Harpactea srednagora* Dimitrov & Lazarov, 1999, in having the bifurcate embolus, but this is thicker and more massive, and the conductor is tighter and longer. It is known only from the type locality.

Key words: Eastern Rhodopes

Introduction

The Dysderidae, a rather species-rich spider family in the Mediterranean countries, shows remarkable diversity in Southeastern Europe, and especially on the Balkan Peninsula (Platnick 2008, Deltshev 1999). The genus *Harpactea*, one of the species-richest genera in the family, is currently known to comprise 15 species in Bulgaria. Three of them, *H. abantia* (Simon), *H. apollinea* Brignoli and *H. sturanyi* (Nosek), are more or less widespread in the Balkan Peninsula, while further six species, *H. alexandrae* Lazarov, *H. deltshevi* Dimitrov & Lazarov, *H. konradi* sp. n., *H. samuili* Lazarov, *H. srednagora* Dimitrov & Lazarov and *H. strandjica* Dimitrov, are only known from a limited number of locations throughout the country and can be considered Bulgarian endemics (cf. Dimitrov & Lazarov 1999, Lazarov 2004, 2006a,b, 2007). The remaining species have a broader distribution in the Northmediterranean (e.g. *H. babori* [Nosek]) and European (e.g. *H. hombergi* [Scopoli], *H. lepida* [C.L. Koch], *H. saeva* [Herman]) regions. *Harpactea rubicunda* (C.L. Koch) shows another distributional pattern including Europe and the Caucasus. The number of species in the country is comparatively high, but compared to that recorded from neighboring countries, e.g. Turkey (18 species), Greece (22 species) (cf. Topcu and al. 2005, Bosmans & Chatzaki 2005), the Bulgarian fauna should be much richer and many new taxa are expected in the future. The bigger part of species is distributed in Bulgaria in the Submediterranean and Submontane belts, very often inhabiting dry rocky habitats overgrown with bushes. The only exception is *H. deltshevi*, a species occurring in the humid leaf litter of the Mountain coniferous zone, at ca. 1200 m above sea level. *Harpactea* has not yet been found in the subalpine and alpine belts in the mountains. The species of *Harpactea* are ground spiders and small to medium-sized nocturnal wandering hunters. Some of the species are common inhabitants in artificial mine gallery and entrance parts of caves as e.g. *H. babori* and *H. saeva*. The species *H. samuili*, *H. srednagora* and *H. deltshevi* are abundant in MSS traps in a depth from 60 to 100 centimeters.

However, in terms of taxonomy and faunistics, there are still quite a few regions remaining insufficiently investigated as the Danubean Plane, Western and Eastern Stara planina Mts., Ihtimanska Sredna Gora Mts., Sarnena Sredna Gora Mts., Western Rhodopy Mts., Thracian Lowland, Mesta River valley, Sakar Mts. and the region of Kraishte. The current paper provides a description of a new species of *Harpactea*, which was recently discovered in Southern Bulgaria.