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## Revision of the *Histopona italica* group (Araneae: Agelenidae), with the description of two new species

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### Abstract

During a large survey of agelenid spiders from different private and museum collections, a closer examination of material from all over Italy (including type material and fresh material) previously identified as *Histopona italica* Brignoli 1977, disclosed two new species for science, both belonging to the *italica* group. Based on the results of the present work, we describe *Histopona leonardo* sp. n. and *H. fioni* sp. n. and revise the distribution pattern of *H. italica* group in Italy and Switzerland. Drawings and photographs of relevant structures and a table summary of the diagnostic characters allowing a fast separation of the species are provided.

**Key words:** taxonomy, endemic fauna, biogeography, Alps, Apennines

### Introduction

According to Platnick (2012) the genus *Histopona* Thorell 1869 currently includes 18 valid species, two of them, *H. krivosijana* (Kratohvíl 1935) and *H. palaeolithica* (Brignoli 1971) with undescribed males. Deeleman-Reinhold (1983) treated 17 of those species, grouping them into five species groups based on morphological characters. Later, Weiss & Rusdea (1998) revalidated *H. laeta* (Kulczyn'ski 1897) and provided the description of the unknown male. Recently, Gasparo (2005) described *H. thaleri* Gasparo 2005 from Greece, including detailed taxonomical information and placing the new species in the *myops* group.

Concerning the phylogeny of the genus, Lehtinen (1967) placed *Histopona* into the tribe Tegenariini, together with *Hadites* Kezserling 1862, *Malthonica* Simon 1898, *Tegenaria* Latreille 1804 and *Pseudotegenaria* Caporiacco 1934. On the base of morphological and molecular evidence, Bolzern *et al.* (accepted) support Lehtinen's hypothesis, confirming the close phylogenetic relationship between *Histopona*, *Malthonica* and *Tegenaria*.

Most representatives of the genus are distributed in Southeastern Europe. Only *H. torpida* (C. L. Koch 1837) has a wider range of distribution, reaching France, Northern Europe and Russia (Le Peru 2007; van Helsdingen 2012). During a larger survey of agelenid spiders from different private and museum collections, a close examination of material from all over Italy (including type series and fresh material collected by MI and PP) previously identified as *H. italica* Brignoli 1977, disclosed two new species for science, both belonging to the *italica* group (*sensu* Deeleman-Reinhold 1983). Based on the results of the present work, we describe the two new species and revise the distribution pattern of the *H. italica* group.

The descriptions are based on detailed examination of morphological characters of genital structures which were found as discrete, allowing a clear separation of the species. Drawings and photographs of relevant structures and a summary of diagnostic characters, allowing a fast separation of the species, are provided.