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## Redescription of three species of Filistatidae (Araneae) described by C.F. Roewer from Afghanistan

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### Abstract

Types of three filistatid species described by Roewer (1960, 1962) from Afghanistan are redescribed and two of them transferred to other filistatid genera. The new combinations proposed are: *Zaitunia afghana* (Roewer 1962) **comb. n.** (ex. *Filistata* Latreille, 1810) and *Tricalamus lindbergi* (Roewer, 1962) **comb. n.** (ex. *Pritha* Lehtinen, 1967). The taxonomic position of *Pholcooides afghana* Roewer, 1960 is discussed and the species is placed in the filistatid subfamily Prithinae Gray, 1994.

**Key words:** Araneae, spiders, Filistatidae, taxonomy, redescription, Afghanistan

### Introduction

Filistatidae is a small, globally distributed family with 112 extant species placed in 17 genera (Platnick 2013). Half of the species (56) and seven genera are known from the Palaearctic. The northern limit of distribution of the family in Eurasia is 47°N. Filistatidae is a rather poorly studied family worldwide, but especially in the Palaearctic. So far only one genus in the Palaearctic has been revised, namely *Tricalamus* Wang, 1987 (Wang 1987). Twenty-six species (almost half of the species reported from Eurasia) are known only from one sex: five species are known from males, and 21 from females. The same number (26) is known from a single taxonomic publication. Furthermore, if we were to exclude publications which contain copies of previously published figures, then the number of single entry species would be almost 40.

Our poor knowledge of this family can be explained by several reasons: 1) different species of Filistatidae have a rather similar habitus and colour pattern; 2) most of the species are known from areas such as Central Asia, Afghanistan, Iran, and China, which are often problematic to access; 3) descriptions were published by several authors who used different standards, sometimes lacking important morphological details regarding various features, such as eye pattern (eye tubercle present or absent), structure of the calamistrum (1, 2 or 3 rows), height of the carapace (low or normal), etc.; 4) most of the descriptions lack figures of the vulva. There is the additional problem that many species are misplaced, not only within Filistatidae, but also in other families. *Pholcooides* Roewer, 1960 was originally placed in Pholcidae, although it has the typical body shape of Filistatidae.

While revising the species occurring in Central Asia we decided also to revise the types of species described from adjacent regions. In this first paper we redescribe three species described by Roewer (1960, 1962) from Afghanistan. All three species were described from females, two species were placed in *Filistata* Latreille, 1810: *F. afghana* Roewer, 1962 & *F. lindbergi* Roewer, 1962 and one was described as *Pholcooides afghana* Roewer, 1960 (Pholcidae). *Filistata lindbergi* was transferred to *Pritha* Lehtinen, 1967 by Lehtinen (1967) and *Pholcooides* was transferred to Filistatidae by Huber (2009).

colored *Z. beshkentica* (Andreeva & Tyshchenko, 1969)—by the shape and position of the spinnerets group (cf. Andreeva 1976: fig. 11); from *Z. alexandri* Brignoli, 1982, *Z. medica* Brignoli, 1982, *Z. persica* Brignoli, 1982, *Z. inderensis* Ponomarev, 2005 and *Z. zonsteini* Fomichev & Marusik, 2013 with described and figured female copulative organs—by the different configuration of the receptacles (cf. Brignoli 1982: figs 14–16; Fomichev & Marusik 2013: figs 12–15).

**Description. Female** (paratype): Total length 5.35. Color in alcohol: whole body and legs light brownish-yellow, abdomen without dorsal pattern, tarsi of palp and legs I–IV darkened, eye tubercle blackish-brown. Carapace (Figs 21, 22, 24): 2.13 long, 1.77 wide. Eye diameters: AME 0.09, ALE 0.23, PLE 0.20, PME 0.20. Interdistance AME–AME: 0.11. Measurements of legs and palp as shown in Tab. 2. Calamistrum placed on small ridge, strongly bent setae arranged in one row (Fig. 25).

Genital area of endogyna as in Figs 13, 26–27; 2 genital plates covered with fine wrinkles (Figs 13, 26), hairs near epigastric fold long, equal in length to the distance between the lateral margins of the main receptacles; two pairs of receptacles, all receptacles round and separated from each other by the diameter of the accessory (lateral) receptacles.

**TABLE 2.** Leg measurements.

	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
Palp	1.07	0.65	0.87		0.97	3.56
I	2.33	0.87	2.23	1.97	1.30	7.90
II	1.97	0.83	1.65	1.63	1.05	6.40
III	1.75	0.75	1.33	1.38	0.97	6.18
IV	2.37	0.80	1.85	1.83	1.03	7.88

**Male:** unknown.

**Note.** A short steeply inclined clypeus, the loss of the thoracic fovea and the presence of short spatulate setae on tarsi I–IV are characteristic for *Zaitunia* and indicate that the given species belongs in this genus and not to *Filistata*, as previously assigned.

**Distribution.** Central and northern parts of Afghanistan. We are not sure if all records of immature conspecific filistatids listed by Roewer (1962) refer to this species.

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