



On a new *Agyneta* species from Ukraine related to *A. suecica* Holm, 1950 (Araneae: Linyphiidae)

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Abstract

Agyneta pinicola sp.n. is described from Northeastern Ukraine. *Agyneta suecica* Holm, 1950 is redescribed and a complete comparison of the two species is given.

Key words: spider, Aranei, new species, redescription

Introduction

The genus *Agyneta* Hull, 1911 currently includes 195 species from all over the World (Platnick 2014), which includes 33 species found in Europe (Helsdingen 2013). Although *Agyneta* is a species-diverse group, only 69 Nearctic species have been divided into 10 species groups, which were based on the embolic division (Dupérré 2013). Hippa & Oksala (1985) revised some of the Palaearctic *Agyneta* and the authors recognised ten species. Of these, seven species were illustrated and two species, *A. arietans* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872) and *A. suecica* Holm, 1950 were mentioned as species with uncertain status. *Agyneta suecica* occurs in northern Fennoscandia (Norway, Sweden and Finland) (Helsdingen 2013) and has also been recorded from northeastern Ukraine (Evtushenko 1991; Gnelitsa 1993). However, Mikhailov (1997) and Helsdingen (2013) doubted the occurrence of this species in Ukraine because of the considerable remoteness of the Ukrainian localities from the places where this spider was known before (Sweden, Finland and Norway) (Platnick 2014).

I studied additional specimens of *A. suecica* from Ukraine and compared them with specimens from Finland. This revealed that the Ukrainian specimens represent an undescribed species, which is similar to *A. suecica*. This species is described below as *Agyneta pinicola* sp. n., and comparative redescription and drawings of *A. suecica* are provided as well.

Material and methods

Abbreviations of the names of palp and epigyne structures follow Merrett (1963) and Saaristo & Tanasevitch (1996): ap—apical part of paracymbium; apo—anterior pocket of paracymbium; c—cymbium; dps—distal part of scape; e—embolus; ep—embolus proper; lc—lamella characteristica; mm—median membrane; pa—patella; pc—paracymbium; ph—pit hook; pp—proximal part of paracymbium; ps—proscapus; pti—palpal tibia; r—radix; sa—suprategular apophysis; st—subtegulum; su—suprategulum; t—tegulum; tu—tubercle of embolus; i, ii, iii, iv, v- signs of the same palp parts. All measurements are in millimetres.

configuration (general view laterally, dorsal view of the frontal part and the clypeus configuration) and the arrangement of the eyes. Both O. Pickard-Cambridge (1872) and Simon (1884) described the patella, tibia and the cymbium of male palp in detail and described surface of carapace and sternum. Simon (1884) mentioned short, barely visible spines on the tibiae of the legs. The rest of the features described referred to the colour of carapace, sternum, abdomen, palps and legs. The existing taxonomic descriptions of *A. arietans* are not sufficient to distinguish it from *A. suecica* or *A. pinicola* sp. n. The present status of *A. arietans* remains unclear so far.

I have unsuccessfully attempted to find and redescribe type specimens of *Agyneta arietans*. There is no information regarding the holotype specimen in the catalogue of the O. Pickard-Cambridge collection at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (James Hogan, personal communication) and the holotype was not found at the Natural History Museum in London (Janet Beccaloni, personal communication). *Agyneta arietans* is reported from Italy, Germany, Romania and Poland (Helsdingen 2013).

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