A survey of East Palaearctic Lycosidae (Araneae). 11. Two new genera from the Acantholycosa complex

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Abstract

Two new genera of wolf spiders belonging to Pardosinae, Gulocosa gen. n. and Melecosa gen. n., are erected to accommodate Gulocosa eskovi sp. n. (♂ ♀, Khabarovsk Province, Russia) and Sibirocosa alpina Marusik, Azarkina & Koponen, 2004, respectively. A new combination was also established: Melecosa alpina (Marusik, Azarkina & Koponen, 2004) comb. n. (ex. Sibirocosa). Polytomous and dichotomous keys are provided for the Palearctic Pardosinae genera.

Key words: Pardosinae, wolf spider, Central Asia, Far East Asia, new species

Introduction

Originally, Acantholycosa was proposed for three species of European Pardosa that have more than three pairs of ventral tibial spines on leg I (Dahl 1908). Until very recently, this genus included 14 species and one subspecies (Marusik et al. 2004). Revision of the genus (Marusik et al. 2004) revealed that Acantholycosa is not monophyletic and three new genera were described for species placed in this genus or as new species: Mongolicosa Marusik, Azarkina & Koponen, 2004, Pyrenecosa Marusik, Azarkina & Koponen, 2004 and Sibirocosa Marusik, Azarkina & Koponen, 2004. The number of species in the Acantholycosa complex increased from 14 to 40. Most of the species in these genera have rather limited ranges and comprise three hot spots of diversity in the Palaearctic: the Pyrenees, three endemic species in one genus; the Altay-Sayan Mountain system, over 20 endemic species; the Sikhote Alin’ Mountain Range in the Far East, three endemic species. Subsequent reviews of Far Eastern species (Marusik & Omelko 2011; Omelko & Marusik 2013) increased the species number of Acantholycosa and “related” genera to 44. This recent research makes the Far East the second largest diversity hotspot, with 10 species, 7 of which are endemic.

A study of new material collected in 2013 in the centre of the Sikhote Alin’ Mountain Range in the Far East revealed an additional species belonging to the Acantholycosa complex. Like other members of this complex, this species has more than three pairs of ventral tibial spines on leg I, long legs, and a similar pattern, but the copulatory organs in both females and males precludes placement in any described genus. Thus, we decided to describe a new genus and new species for this material and also erected a new genus for Sibirocosa alpina Marusik, Azarkina & Koponen, 2004 whose placement in Sibirocosa was doubted by Marusik et al. (2004, 2007) and Omelko & Marusik (2013). Along with descriptions of new genera, we provide a dichotomous key to the Acantholycosa complex genera and a polytomous key for the Palaearctic Pardosinae genera.