



A new species of *Parasyrisca* (Araneae: Gnaphosidae) from Xinjiang, China

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The Holarctic genus *Parasyrisca* Schenkel, 1963 so far encompasses 46 species (Platnick 2008). It is one of the best-known species-diverse gnaphosid genera in the northern Hemisphere, due to a recent revision (Ovtsharenko et al. 1995). Most of the species are known from the Caucasus, Central Asia, South Siberia and Mongolia. While studying spiders of Central Xinjiang we found one undescribed *Parasyrisca* species (Marusik et al. 2007). Here we present a description of it. The format of the description and standard abbreviations of morphological terms follow those of Platnick & Shadab (1975) and Ovtsharenko et al. (1995).

Specimens were photographed using an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope and Olympus Camedia C-5050 camera in the Zoological Museum, University of Turku. The images have been composed using “CombineZM” image stacking software. All measurements are given in millimeters. Types will be deposited in the Zoological Institute in Beijing (ZIB).

Parasyrisca songi sp. n.

Type material. Holotype ♂ (ZIB): CHINA, **Xinjiang**, 70 km SW of Urumqi, Nantaizi, 43.399°N–43.438°N 87.214°E–87.262°E, 1800–2100 m, 4.05–10.05.2004 (Leg. N.R. Fritzén). Paratypes 2 ♀ (ZIB), same locality, 3.05–26.06.2004 (Leg. N.R. Fritzén).

Etymology. The specific name is a patronymic in honor of the late Prof. Daxiang Song who made great contribution to studies of Chinese spiders.

Diagnosis. The new species can easily be distinguished from the other congeners by the long stretched tibial apophysis, the shape of the conductor, the lack of a distinct median apophysis, and the elongate epigyne (length twice its width) with a distinct posterior ridge. *P. songi* sp. n. resembles *P. turkenica* Ovtsharenko et al., 1995, known from Turkey. Females of both species have epigynes much longer than wide with a narrow anterior hood widely separated from the atrium. *P. songi* sp. n. is, however, easily recognized by the distinct posterior ridge. Males of these species have a long subconical tibial apophysis, while other congeners have a flattened (lamellate) tibial apophysis. However, the conductor and the terminal apophysis are very different. The females of *P. songi* sp. n. are also similar to *P. guzeripli* Ovtsharenko et al., 1995, known from Caucasus, due to the widely spaced atrium and anterior hood, but the Caucasian species lacks the posterior ridge (Fig. 156, Ovtsharenko et al. 1995) and have parallel epigynal folds (rounded in the new species).

Description. Male. Total length 9.0. Carapace 4.05 long, 3.15 wide, with central dark spot and pair of stripes separating cephalic part from thoracic one (Fig. 7). Femur II 3.3 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.13, ALE 0.17, PME 0.16, PLE 0.16; AME-AME 0.20, AME-ALE 0.07, PME-PME 0.23, PME-PLE 0.31, ALE-PLE 0.19; MOQ length 0.50, front width 0.56, back width 0.56. Leg spination: femora; II p0-1-1 (left side without prolateral spine); IV p0-0-1; tibiae; I v0-2-1 (right side v0-2-0); II v0-2-1; III p1-0-1, v0-1-2 (right side v1-1-2). Palp as in Figs 1–3, with long, stretched, sharply pointed, almost conical tibial apophysis, reaching approximately 0.25 of cymbial length. Conductor transparent, weakly sclerotized, straight, widened at tip. Terminal apophysis straight, median apophysis invisible. Embolus thin, spine-like.

Female. Total length 7.5–11.2. Carapace 3.4–3.7 long, 2.5–2.93 wide, without pattern (Fig. 5). Femur II 2.35–2.4 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.14, ALE 0.16, PME 0.16, PLE 0.16; AME-AME 0.14, AME-ALE 0.07, PME-PME 0.20, PME-PLE 0.27, ALE-PLE 0.17; MOQ length 0.51, front width 0.49, back width 0.51. Leg spination: femora; II p0-0-1; IV p0-0-1; tibiae; I v0-2-0; II v0-2-0; III p1-1-0, v1-1-2. Spinnerets spaced by less than one diameter