



New ground-spider genera and species with annexed checklist of the Gnaphosidae (Araneae) of Israel

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Abstract

The new spiders addressed in this paper complement a series of revisions of the family Gnaphosidae from Israel. New records are reported and two new genera: *Leptopilos* and *Talanitoides* are defined. The following new species are described: *Berlandina avishur*, *Drassyllus adullam*, *Leptopilos levantinus*, *L. lakhish*, *Megamyрмаekion magshimim*, *Micaria galilaea*, *Phaeoedus mikha*, *Setaphis mediterranea*, *Talanitoides habesor*, *Trachyzelotes miniglossus*, *Zelotes baram*, *Z. harmeron*, *Z. geshur*, *Z. lehavim*, *Z. golanensis*, *Z. adderet*, *Z. paraderet*, *Z. naphthalii* and *Z. zekharya*. The unknown mates of *Haplodrassus atarot* Levy, 2004, *Leptopilos tenerrimus* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1872) n. comb., *L. manolisi* (Chatzaki, 2002) n. comb., *Megamyрмаekion caudatum* Reuss, 1834 (former mis-matched male transferred to *M. hula* n. nov.), *Trachyzelotes stubbsi* Platnick & Murphy, 1984, *Poecilochroa taborensis* Levy, 1998, *Z. meronensis* Levy, 1998, (former mis-matched female transferred to *Z. haifaensis* n. nov.), *Z. hierosolymitanus* Levy, 1998, *Z. shaked* Levy, 1998, *Z. zin* Levy, 1998 and *Z. sumchi* Levy, 1998, are described. Two new synonymies are defined: *Leptodrassus leclerci* Denis, 1966 = *Leptopilos tenerrimus* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1872) n. comb., and *Zelotes incisupalpis* Levy, 1998 = *Z. hierosolymitanus* Levy, 1998. A checklist of all the Gnaphosidae of Israel is provided.

Key words: Araneae, Gnaphosidae, new species, checklist Israel, Mediterranean

Introduction

This is the eighth paper on the spider family Gnaphosidae in Israel and is concerned with the coverage of new additions to genera formerly revised (1994–2004). Material accumulated mainly from pitfall trapping has yielded many new species, unknown mates, and new records for Israel. Two new genera: *Leptopilos* and *Talanitoides* are defined. Altogether 126 species, all with authenticated records, are known at present from Israel. These match the numbers recorded from many larger European countries which have been well investigated for a much longer period of time. Considering the small size of Israel and the species per area index, a remarkably species-rich gnaphosid fauna is revealed for this country. All species are recorded in the annexed checklist. The gnaphosid fauna of Israel has not been exhausted yet, as is reflected by the scores of new species and new records added in the present list and by the few species which are represented as singletons. Thus for example, *Leptodrassus* which was recorded hitherto by one species; under the present study it amounts to six species, of which four are here placed in the new genus *Leptopilos*. Also further additions of *Zelotes* can be predicted with certainty. In abeyance is a yet unknown genus of small, not rare, *Leptodrassex*-like spiders, sent to J.A. Murphy to be included in his forthcoming revision of similar genera. Endemics, unfortunately, cannot be stated unless better knowledge is acquired of the spider fauna of the adjacent countries. Gnaphosidae is at present the largest spider family in Israel, but this might be a casual result of the extensive studies devoted lately to this family.