



Revision of the genus *Berinda* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) in the East Mediterranean with the description of two new species

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Abstract

Berinda is a small genus of the family Gnaphosidae (Araneae) known only from the East Mediterranean. Up to now three species were known, namely *B. amabilis* Roewer, 1928, *B. ensigera* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1874), and *B. aegilia* Chatzaki, 2002, all recorded from the Greek islands (*B. amabilis* is also recorded from Uzbekistan and Turkey) and the mainland (*B. ensigera*). In this paper we revise the genus adding new records of the previously recorded species and a new synonymy for *B. ensigera* (*Haplodrassus graziano* Caporiacco, 1948) and describe two new species, one found on the island of Cyprus, *B. cypria* Chatzaki & Panayiotou n.sp., and one found in Kayseri, Central Anatolia, Turkey, *B. hakani* Chatzaki & Seyyar n.sp., thus leading to a total of five species included in this genus.

key words: ground spiders, taxonomy, zelotines, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Kayseri, Aegean, Crete

Introduction

The genus *Berinda* (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) was first introduced by Roewer (1928) who described *B. amabilis* from Crete. *B. amabilis* stood as a Cretan endemic until the revision of the genus by Chatzaki *et al.* (2002a) who placed into the synonymy of this species *Talanites aculeatus* Charitonov, 1946 from Uzbekistan. This synonymy was based on the similarity of the tibial apophysis and the embolus of the palpal organ of the latter. The species was later recorded from the area of Niğde, central Turkey by Seyyar *et al.* (2007). In the revision of Chatzaki *et al.* (2002a) identical characters were also recognized in two other species, namely *Drassodes ensiger* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1874) described from Smyrne and *Drassodes reimoseri* Bristowe, 1935 described from Rodos and further recorded from several localities of Attiki by Hadjissarantos (1940). Based on a close taxonomic examination, the authors concluded that none of those species could belong to the genus *Drassodes* and that they are in fact one single species belonging to the genus *Berinda*. *B. ensigera* was, therefore, the second species of the genus listed in the catalogue of the Greek arachnofauna. In Chatzaki *et al.* (2002b) a third species of the genus was described, *B. aegilia* Chatzaki, 2002 from the island of Antikythira, located south of Peloponnisos.

In this paper we revise the genus by presenting diagnostic characters of all species, further records and a distribution map (Fig. 24) and provide the description of two new species, one from Cyprus, *B. cypria* Chatzaki & Panayiotou n.sp., and one from Kayseri, Turkey, *B. hakani* Chatzaki & Seyyar n.sp., thus leading to a list of five species included in this genus.