



A revision of the genus *Nomisia* in Greece and neighboring regions with the description of two new species

M. CHATZAKI

¹Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics Democritus University of Thrace, Dragana, 68100 Alexandroupolis, Greece.
E-mail address: maria.chatzaki@gmail.com, mchatzak@mbg.duth.gr

Abstract

In this revision ten species of the genus *Nomisia* are diagnosed and taxonomically commented. Of them, five are well established in the previous literature, namely, *N. aussereri* (L. Koch, 1872), *N. exornata* (C. L. Koch, 1839), *N. ripariensis* (O. P.- Cambridge, 1872), *N. orientalis* Dalmas, 1921 and *N. palaestina* (O. P.- Cambridge, 1872). *N. recepta* (Pavesi, 1880) and *N. excerpta* (O. P.- Cambridge, 1872) are critically compared and re-established. *N. excerpta* shows wide intra-specific variation, possibly leading to new species. *N. conigera* (Spassky, 1941) is here synonymized with the recently described *N. anatolica* Seyyar, Ayyildiz & Topçu, 2009. Finally two new species are described, namely, *N. levyi* **n. sp.** and *N. peloponnesiaca* **n. sp.** From the above list, only seven species are recorded in Greece, leaving out *N. orientalis*, *N. recepta* and *N. conigera*.

Key words: ground spiders, Mediterranean, taxonomy, *Nomisia*

Introduction

The genus *Nomisia* is a small genus of the family Gnaphosidae comprising 37 species in total. Their distribution is restricted mainly to temperate and subtropical regions of the Palearctic, with only two species (*N. aussereri* (L. Koch, 1872) and *N. exornata* (C. L. Koch, 1839)) presenting wide distribution over this area (Platnick, 2009). All other species have more local character being recorded only from one or a few countries of the same geographical zone (e.g. Mediterranean). In Greece six species were recorded until now and this is the highest number of *Nomisia* species recorded in a European country. This shows that the origin of the genus may be related to warm places of either Africa or East Mediterranean where the highest diversity is recorded.

In the present study, the genus *Nomisia* is revised in Greece and neighboring regions with the contribution of diagnostic characters and further records, some taxonomic clarifications and the description of two new species. Furthermore *N. anatolica* Seyyar, Ayyildiz & Topçu, 2009 is synonymized to *N. conigera* Spassky, 1941. The final number of species included in this genus and occurring in Greece results in seven.

Material and methods

Material from Aegean islands derives from field expeditions realized by members (including the author) of the Natural History Museum of Crete (NHMC) and is deposited there. Material from Thrace and Samothrace island derives from more recent field work of the author. Material from Peloponnisos derives from the Ph.D thesis of Ioannis Anastasiou and is deposited at the Zoological Museum of the University of Athens (ZMUA). The ZMUA also provided part of the collection of Haralambos Hadjissarantos. Comparative material from Turkey identified as *Nomisia anatolica* Seyyar, Ayyildiz & Topçu, 2009 was kindly loaned by Dr. Seyyar (NUAM). Further comparative material was also examined from the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History (SMF), the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria" (MSNG), the National Museum of Natural