



Two new species of the spider genus *Cataleptoneta* from Balkan Peninsula (Araneae, Leptonetidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of the spider family Leptonetidae from caves of Balkan Peninsula are diagnosed, described, and illustrated, i.e., *Cataleptoneta lingulata* **sp. nov.** from Northern Dalmatia, Croatia, and *Cataleptoneta semipinnata* **sp. nov.** from Island Kythira, Greece.

Key words: taxonomy, Europe, variation, cave, description

Introduction

Leptonetids have a worldwide distribution and contain 17 genera and 213 species (Platnick 2010). Leptonetids are tiny spiders (1–3 mm), usually have a distinctive 6-eyed pattern with the posterior median eyes situated behind the posterior lateral eyes (Song *et al.* 1999).

The genus *Cataleptoneta* Denis, 1955 includes four species, *C. edentula* Denis, 1955, the type species, from Lebanon, *C. aesculapii* (Brignoli, 1968) and *C. sbordonii* (Brignoli, 1968) from Turkey, and *C. sengleti* (Brignoli, 1974) from Crete. Except for the type species, all other three species were transferred from *Paraleptoneta* to *Cataleptoneta* by Kratochvíl (1978) based on the shape and number of spines on the male palp.

The genus *Cataleptoneta* was considered to be a subgenus of *Barusia* Kratochvíl, 1978 by Kratochvíl (1978), but treated as two genera in the world spider catalog by Platnick (2010). The genus *Cataleptoneta* are very similar to *Barusia* and can only be separated by the presence of one more or less modified retrolateral spines on the male palpal tarsus (Kratochvíl 1978).

In this paper, two new *Cataleptoneta* species are reported: *C. lingulata* **sp. nov.**, *C. semipinnata* **sp. nov.**

Material and methods

Specimens were examined and measured using a LEICA M205 C stereomicroscope. Further details were studied and measured under an Olympus BX41 compound microscope. All drawings were made using a drawing apparatus attached to Olympus BX41 compound microscope, and then inked on ink jet plotter paper. Male palps and female genitalia were examined and illustrated after they were dissected from the spiders' bodies. Vulvae of female were removed and treated in lactic acid before illustration. Left palp of male spiders were illustrated, except otherwise indicated. All type specimens were reserved in 80% ethanol solution. Photos were taken with an Olympus C7070 wide zoom digital camera (7.1 megapixels) mounted on an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope. The images were montaged using Helicon image stacking software. All measurements were given in millimeters. Leg measurements are shown as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). Leg segments were measured on their dorsal side.

Abbreviations used in text including: AER — anterior eye row; ALE — anterior lateral eyes; PER — posterior eye row; PLE — posterior lateral eyes; PME — posterior median eye; ALE-PME — interval between ALE and