



First description of the male of *Sason sechellanum* Simon, 1898 (Araneae: Barychelidae)

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Barychelidae is a pantropical mygalomorph family with 44 genera and 303 species (Platnick 2010). *Sason* Simon, 1887 is a genus of average-sized spiders with nine species distributed from Seychelles to Ponape, Palau Islands and eastern Australia (Raven 1986; Platnick 2010). Five species of this genus are known from two sexes, two species are known only from females, one species is known only from the male, and one species is known only from a juvenile specimen. All species, except for *S. robustum* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1883), inhabit places not very far from seashore and have very limited distribution.

The westernmost species, *S. sechellanum* Simon 1898, has been known only from females since its description. Recently, the second author collected an adult male of the genus *Sason* that is most likely conspecific with *S. sechellanum*, the only species of the genus known from the archipelago. Another barychelid genus and species, *Idioctis intertidalis* (Benoit & Legendre, 1968), is known from the archipelago and differs by females have a distinctly different eye pattern (PLE larger than AME), a rhomboidal eye group shape, a very narrow sternum (Raven 1994), labium without line of cuspules in the female and the absence of abdominal pattern. The goal of this paper is to provide the first description of the male of *Sason sechellanum*.

Pictures of habitus and genitalia have been made using an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope with an Olympus E-520 camera and prepared using the CombineZP software. Photographs were taken in dishes of different size with paraffin in the bottom. Different sized holes were made in the bottom to keep the specimens in the correct position. All measurements are given in mm. The terminology used here follows Raven (1986).

Sason sechellanum Simon, 1898

Figs 1–12

S. s. Simon, 1898: 370 (D♀).

S. s.: Benoit 1978: 407, figs 1A–D (♀).

S. sechellanum: Raven, 1986: 67, figs 46–49 (♀).

S. s.: Saaristo 2010: 23, figs 1.1–6 (♀).

Material examined: SEYCHELLES: 1♂ (Zoological Museum, University of Turku, Finland), Silhouette Isl., Mon Plaisir, 550 m, 1.04.2010 (J. Gerlach).

Description. Male, total length 7.0. Carapace 4.25 long, 3.55 wide, fovea straight, transverse 0.57 wide; brown, with black eye area, dark brown cephalic part and dark-brown chevrons (Fig. 3) and radial stripes; margins of carapace with strong spiniform bristles (Fig. 1). Sternum 2.25 long, 1.7 wide, sigilla not evident. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.3, ALE 0.27, PME 0.14, PLE 0.2, AME–AME 1.4, ALE–ALE 0.66, AME–ALE 0.16, PME–PME 0.51, PLE–ALE 0.2, ALE–PLE 0, AME–PME 0.07; anterior row– 1.07, posterior row – 1.1. Chelicera each with 7 large prolateral teeth and 5 fine retrolateral teeth. Maxilla 1.64 long, 0.64 wide, cuspules absent. Labium 0.29 long, 0.64 wide, distinct cuspules absent (Fig. 4), but with row of strong setae. Abdomen blackish with 3 pairs of whitish spots dorsally. Legs long, tibia I with mating spur (megaspine), with 4 prolateral ventral spines (including megaspine) and 4 retrolateral ventral spines (Figs 5–6). Scopula on tarsi I and II and terminal part of metatarsi I–II. All claws with two rows of teeth; number of teeth vary on different sides, from 4–4 on leg I, 2–2 and 3–3 on legs III–IV respectively.