



## First description of the female of *Lysiteles minimus* (Araneae: Thomisidae) from Liupan Mountains, Ningxia, China

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The genus *Lysiteles* was established by Simon (1895) for the type species *Lysiteles catulus* from India. At present, it includes 56 species (Platnick 2011) that are mainly found in southern and eastern Asia (Ono 1988). *Lysiteles* spiders are small thomisids with body length 2.0–4.5 mm, therefore, it is difficult to collect them in the field. Almost 50% of the known species are described from single sex (Tang *et al.* 2008). A total of 41 species have been described from China, among them 18 species are single sex (Li & Wang 2011; Song & Zhu 1997). *Xysticus minimus* was described firstly by Schenkel (1953) for a male specimen from southeast of Gansu Province, China. Then Ono (1979) transferred it to the genus *Lysiteles*. Song and Wang (1991) described a new species named *Lysiteles xianensis*, but Song (1995) synonymized it with *Lysiteles minimus* (Schenkel 1953). While studying the *Lysiteles* specimens collected from Liupan Mountains, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China, we found pairs of male and female *Lysiteles* specimens in the same locality. We identified the male as *L. minimus*. The female specimens have habitus and markings very similar to the male of *L. minimus*, and the characters of epigynum conform to the genus *Lysiteles*. We therefore identified it as the female of *L. minimus*, and describe it here.

All measurements are given in millimeters. All specimens are preserved in 75% alcohol and were examined, drawn with the aid of a prism mounted above eyepiece of a compound microscope and under a Leica M165c stereomicroscope with a drawing tube. Photographs were taken using the Free Angle Observation System VHX-100. Specimens are deposited in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBU).

The following abbreviations are used: ALE, anterior lateral eyes; AME, anterior median eyes; AME–ALE, distance between AME and ALE; AME–AME, distance between AMEs; CO, copulatory openings; E, embolus; FD, fertilization ducts; MOA, median ocular area; PLE, posterior lateral eyes; PME, posterior median eyes; PME–PLE, distance between PME and PLE; PME–PME, distance between PMEs; RTA, retrolateral tibial apophysis; S, spermatheca; SD, sperm ducts; T, tegulum; TSP, transversal sclerotized plate; VTA, ventral tibial apophysis.

### *Lysiteles minimus* (Schenkel, 1953)

(Figs 1–7)

*Xysticus minimus* Schenkel, 1953: 55, figs 27a–b. [Holotype: male, from southeastern Gansu, presumably lost, not examined]

*Lysiteles minimus* (Schenkel). Ono 1979: 106; Song 1995: 125; Song and Zhu 1997: 126, figs 89A–B; Song, Zhu and Chen 1999: 482, fig. 278M.

*Lysiteles xianensis* Song and Wang, 1991: 2, figs 2A–C. [Synonymized with the present species by Song (1995)]

**Material examined. CHINA: Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region:** Liupanshan Natural Reserve Region: **Jingyuan County:** 2♀, Jingheyuan Town [N35°24', E 106°23'], 21 June 2008, Chao Zhang leg; 3♂5♀, Erlonghe Forest Farm [N35°20', E 106°20'], 24 June 2008, Chao Zhang leg; 2♂3♀, Hongxia Forest Farm [N35°29', E 106°17'], 25 June 2008, Chao Zhang leg; 11♂1♀, Xixia Forest Farm [N35°30', E 106°15'], 27 June 2008, Chao Zhang leg; 1♂, Dongshanpo Forest Farm [N35°35', E 106°14'], 4 July 2008, Chao Zhang leg; 1♀, Longtan Forest Farm [N35°22', E 106°21'], 19 August 2008, Guo-Dong Ren leg; 2♂, Dongshanpo Forest Farm, 6 July 2009, Dong-Sheng Hu leg; 3♂, Erlonghe Forest Farm, 8 July 2009, Dong-Sheng Hu leg; 2♂, Longtan Forest Farm, 10 July 2009, Dong-Sheng Hu leg; 1♂, Xixia Forest Farm, 12 July 2009, Dong-Sheng Hu leg; 5♀, Erlonghe Forest Farm, 31 July 2010, Dong-Sheng Hu leg; 2♀, Longtan Forest Farm, 3 August 2010, Dong-Sheng Hu leg. **Longde County:** 1♂1♀, Fengtai