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A new record and species of *Mopsolodes* ŻABKA, 1991 from New  
Guinea  
(Araneae: Salticidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Mopsolodes furculosus* is newly described from southern Papua New Guinea and *M. australensis* ŻABKA, 1991, hitherto known from Australia and Torres Strait, is newly recorded from New Guinea.

Key words: arachnology, taxonomy, Araneae, Salticidae, *Mopsolodes*, new record, new species, New Guinea.

INTRODUCTION

*Mopsolodes* is a monotypic genus, established by ŻABKA (1991) for *M. australensis*, known from Australia (Queensland and Northern Territory). Current studies extend the generic range to New Guinea.

The structure of body and male palpal organ (ŻABKA 1991) proves close relationship of *Mopsolodes* with *Mopsus* KARSCH, 1878 and *Sandalodes* KEYSERLING, 1883 (both genera known from Australia, New Guinea and Pacific Islands).

Unlike many records of *Mopsolodes*, the representatives of *Mopsus* prefer humid habitats and they usually occur in rainforest, while the specimens of *Sandalodes* may be found in dry habitats, under *Eucalyptus* bark. The specimens presented in this paper were collected in rainforest of Papua New Guinea (Central Province).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material comes from the collections of the Queensland Museum, Brisbane (QMB). The photographs were taken using a Canon A620 camera and Nikon 800 stereomicroscope and processed with ZoomBrowser and HeliconFocus software.

Abbreviations used: AEW - anterior eye row width, AL - abdomen length, AME - anterior medial eyes, AW - abdomen width, CH - cephalothorax height, CL - cephalothorax length, CW - cephalothorax width, EFL - eye field length, LI-IV: legs lengths (femur-tarsus), PEW - posterior eye row width, RTA – retrolateral tibial apophysis of palp.

**Genus *Mopsolodes* ŽABKA, 1991**

*Mopsolodes* ŽABKA, 1991: 621-644.

Type species: *Mopsolodes australensis* ŽABKA, 1991, by original designation.

***Mopsolodes furculosus* new species**

(Figs 1-13)

ETYMOLOGY

The specific name is derived from the characteristic shape of the RTA: *furculosus* (Lat.) = forked, divided.

DIAGNOSIS

*M. furculosus* may be easily distinguished by the details of the RTA, which is relatively wide, forked and slightly bent towards the cymbium.

DESCRIPTION

Male holotype (Figs 1-13). Large spider (9.65 mm). Cephalothorax: rounded, (CW/CL 0.84), upper surface smooth, light brown, with eye field dark brown and fovea region covered with white, easily rubbed hairs. Clypeus: about 30% of AME, dark brown, with scattered fine hairs. Chelicerae: of unidentate pattern, vertical, straight and elongate, with wrinkled anterior surface and strongly sclerotized lateral margins, dark brown in colour. Endites and labium: with strongly sclerotized lateral margins, dark brown, inner margins yellow. Sternum: narrow, its anterior margin narrower than labium, yellowish, brown on sides. Abdomen: elongate, grey, with longitudinal herring-bone pallid stripe, covered with numerous hairs; anal tubercle with pale patch of hairs. Venter grey, darker centrally. Spinnerets dark grey. Legs long, hairy, with numerous spines. Legs I: the strongest and longest, dark brown, with pale brown coxae and trochanters (the left leg of the first pair probably damaged and regenerated, then somewhat smaller than the right one). Other legs lighter than the first pair, with yellow coxae, trochanters and femora. Leg formula I-IV-III-II. Male palpal organ: embolus thin, filiform, tegulum oblique elliptical and with considerable dorso-ventral depth, translucent part of spermphore not meandering, retrolateral tibial apophysis with small teeth, forked.



1-7. *Mopsolodes furculosus*, male holotype: 1 – general appearance, dorsal view; 2 – abdomen, dorsal view; 3 – general appearance, lateral view; 4 – cephalothorax, frontal view; 5 – endites and labium; 6 – sternum; 7 – cheliceral dentition. Scale bars = 1mm

Dimensions: CL 4.20; CW 3.53; CH 2.00; AEW 2.35; PEW 2.35; EFL 1.75; AL 5.45; AW 2.38; LI 14.65 (4.00+2.65+3.60+3.15+1.25); LII 9.10 (2.70+1.60+1.90+2.00+0.90); LIII 9.45 (3.15+1.60+1.60+2.15+0.95); LIV 10.10 (3.15+1.50+2.05+2.50+0.90).

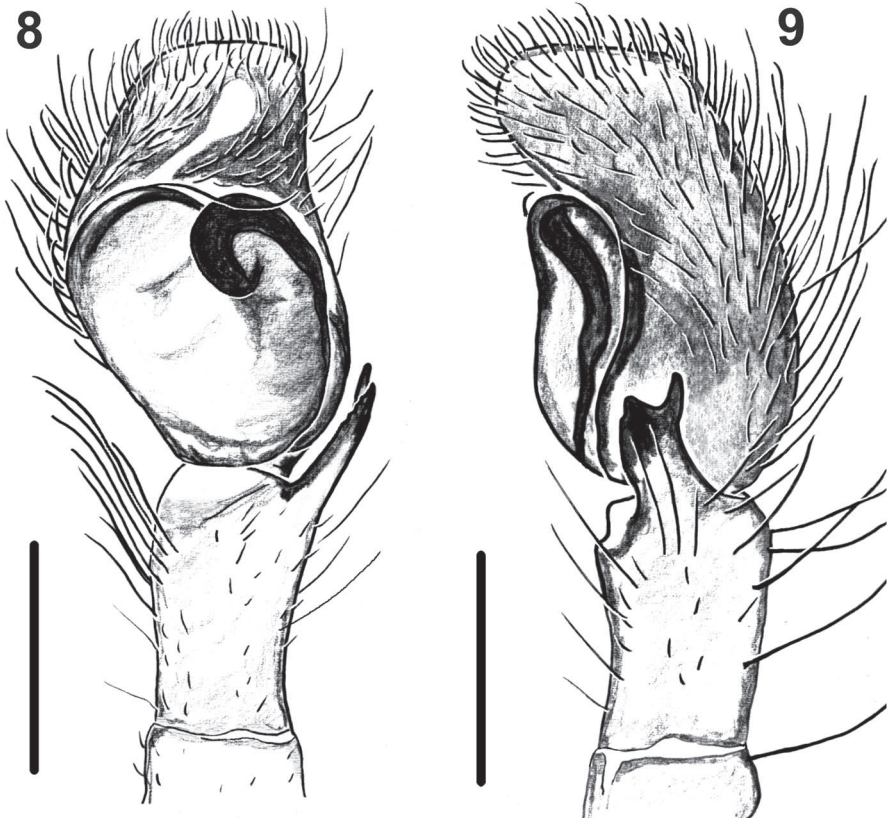
Female unknown.

DISTRIBUTION

Known only from type locality: Central Province in New Guinea, SE of Sogeri.

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype: M (QMB), Papua New Guinea (Central Province), SE of Sogeri, 17 May 1986, coll. D.J. COURT.



8-9. *Mopsolodes furculosus*, male holotype: palpal organ: 8 – ventral view; 9 – retrolateral view. Scale bars = 0.5 mm

*Mopsolodes australensis* Žabka, 1991  
(Figs 14-17)

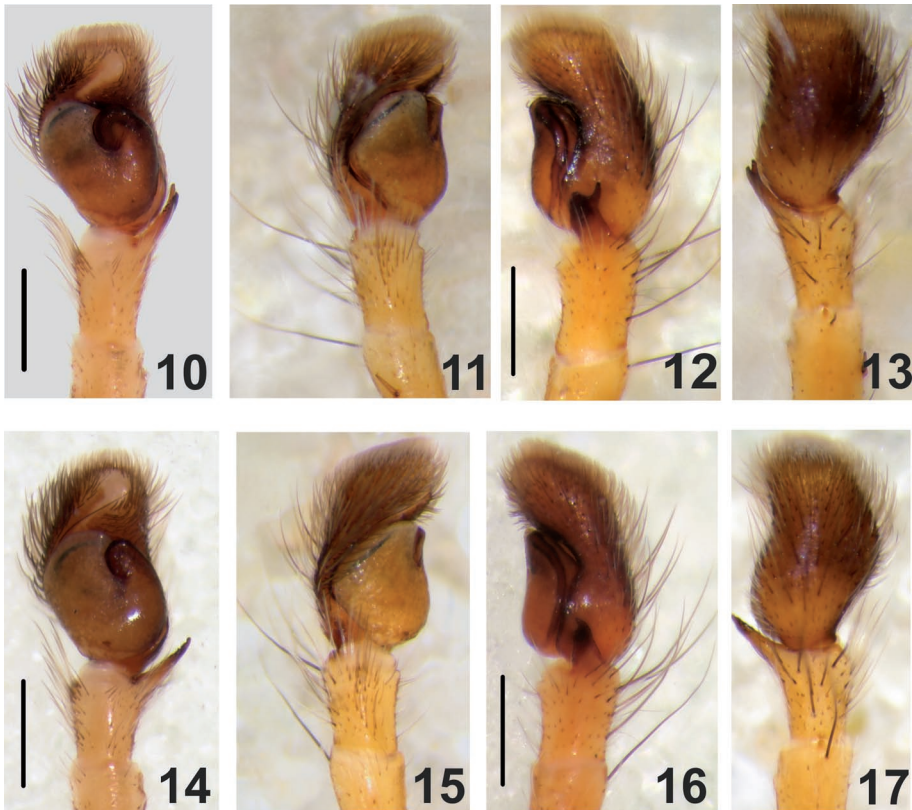
## MATERIAL

1 M (QMB), Papua New Guinea (Central Province), Brown River, lowland rainforest, 29 June 1988, coll. D.J. COURT.

Remarks. *Mopsolodes australensis* is known from dry *Eucalyptus* forest, with some individuals collected from leaves and litter of oak forest and rainforest (ŽABKA 1991).

## DISTRIBUTION

New record for PNG.



10-17. Comparison of structure of the palpal organs: 10-13 – *Mopsolodes furculosus*, male holotype: ventral, prolateral, retrolateral and dorsal views; 14-17 – *Mopsolodes australensis*, male from Papua New Guinea: ventral, prolateral, retrolateral and dorsal views. Scale bars = 0.5 mm

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