

A redescription of ant-like jumping spider *Depreissia myrmex*
LESSERT, 1942
(*Araneae: Salticidae*)

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ABSTRACT. *Depreissia myrmex* LESSERT, 1942 is redescribed and figured.

Key words: Arachnology, *Araneae*, *Salticidae*, *Depreissia myrmex* redescription, Afrotropical Region.

LESSERT (1942) described an ant-like jumping spider from North Eastern Zaire, so different from other *Salticidae*, that he placed it in a newly established genus *Depreissia*. However, drawings of male copulatory organs in the original description are rather inadequate, not allowing for the correct identification. Here I provide detailed figures of male copulatory organs of this species along with its redescription.

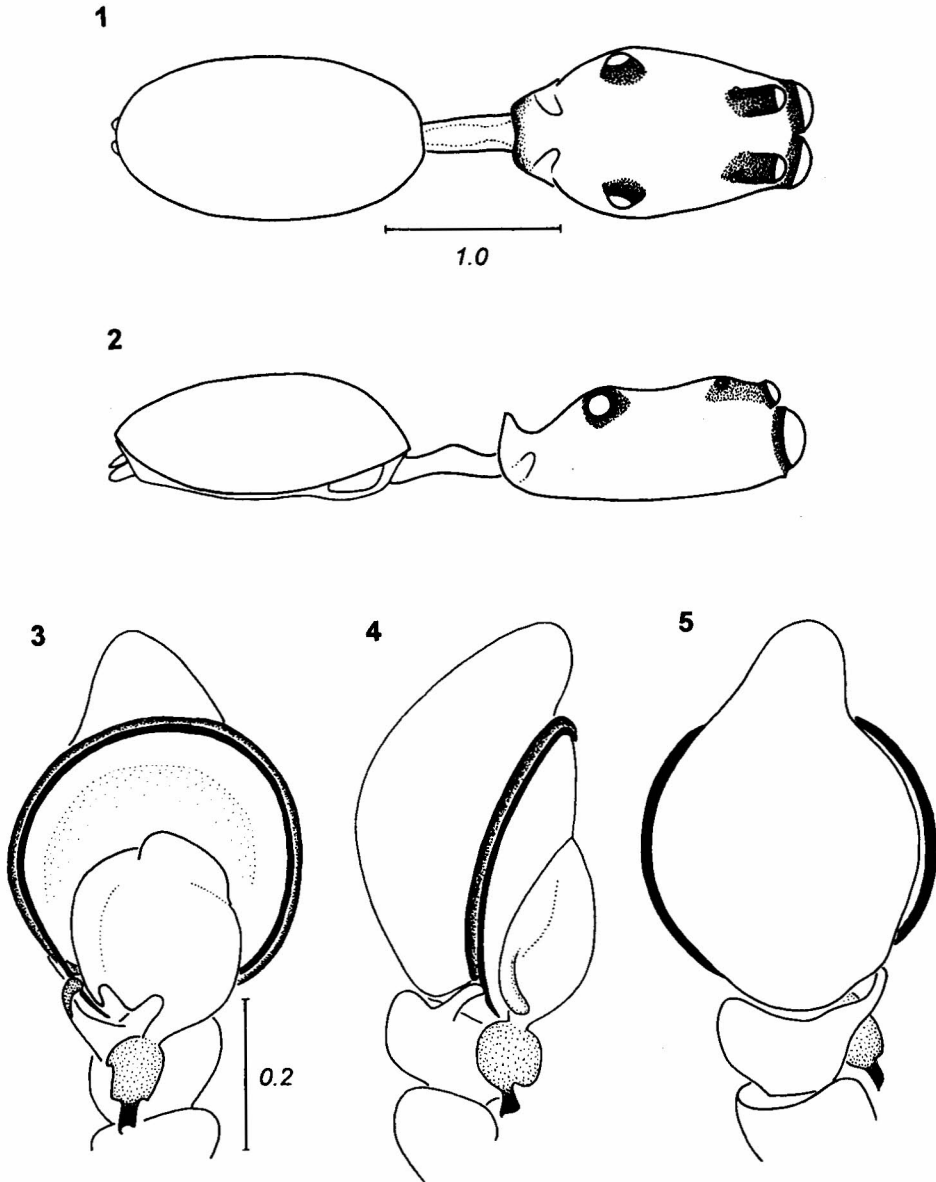
***Depreissia myrmex* LESSERT, 1942**
(Figs 1-5)

MATERIAL

Zaire: Haut Uelé, Moto, leg. L. BURGEON, 1 male - holotype (without right palp), (Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren 16 476); the same label, only right palp from holotype (MRAC 11 839).

DESCRIPTION

Male. Measurements: length of carapace 1.4 [mm], width of carapace 0.8, height of carapace 0.5, length of abdomen 1.4, width of abdomen 0.8, length of



1-5. *Depreissia myrmex* LESSERT, holotype: 1-2 - general appearance, dorsal and lateral views, 3-5 - palpal organ, ventral, lateral and dorsal views

pedicel 0.4, length of eye field 0.9, anterior width of eye field 0.5, posterior width of eye field 0.7. General appearance shown in Figs 1 and 2. Very small ant-like spider. Whole body without hairs, shiny. Carapace oval, widest at last row of eyes, with elevated posterior edge. Eye field very long, occupies about two third of carapace length., anterior eyes largest, eyes of second row situated above first. Two oval depressions at posterior edge of carapace. Coloration of carapace light brown, eye field punctured-reticulate, few thin hairs between anterior eyes. Clypeus very low. Chelicerae light brownish, three small teeth on promargin and single retromarginal tooth. Maxillae and labium orange-brownish with pale tips, sternum light brown. Pedicel very long with small central elevation. Abdomen oval, dark brown, with large scutum covering dorsum and lateral surfaces. Venter light brown. Spinnerets short, light, situated below tip of abdomen. Legs short, without spines, yellowish with slightly darker femora.

Pedipalp brown. Palpal organ shown in Figs 3-5. Tibial apophysis short and flattened. Tegulum rather convex, with retrolateral process, posteriorly bulbous ended by spherical structure with spout-like apophysis. Embolus thin and long, encircles bulbous two times.

Female unknown.

SYSTEMATIC NOTE

The systematic position of this species is highly unclear. Eyes arranged in four rows are rather not typical for *Salticidae*; only spiders belonging in the subfamily *Lysomaninae* (sensu GALIANO 1976) and the genus *Athamas* PICARD-CAMBRIDGE, 1877 have similarly placed eyes. However, both *Athamas* and all *Lysomaninae* genera are phylogenetically remote. Especially unique pedipalp structure, unlike that in any other *Salticidae*, makes inferences about relationships of *Depreissia myrmex* specially difficult, and suggests that this species belongs to a very well separate genus. Structure of chelicerae and deficiency of leg spines suggest proximity with another ant-like genus - *Leptorchestes* THORELL, 1870. However, far advanced morphological convergences among ant-mimicking spiders and commonness of that type of mimicry call for making very cautious inferences on relationships of ant-like spiders. Finding of female of this species, as well as getting some information on biology of *Depreissia myrmex* could be helpful in establishing the systematic position of this species.

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