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Redescription and notes on biology and distribution of *Talavera westringi* (SIMON, 1868) comb. nov. (*Araneae: Salticidae*)

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ABSTRACT. *Talavera westringi* (SIMON, 1868) is newly recorded from Poland. Its diagnosis, description, biology and distribution are presented. Remarks on the genus *Talavera* are given and two new combinations are proposed.

Key words: arachnology, *Araneae, Salticidae, Talavera westringi,* new combinations, redescription, Poland.

INTRODUCTION

During the long-term arachnological investigations of the Biebrza River National Park some new species for the Polish fauna have been found (KUPRYJANOWICZ 1994, 1995). Now *Talavera westringi* (SIMON, 1868) is recorded to extend our faunistic list.

The genus *Talavera* was originally described by PECKHAM and PECKHAM (1909) from North America for *T. minuta* (BANKS, 1985) - the species presently known from USA, Canada (RICHMAN & CUTLER 1978) and Magadan area in Russia (MARUSIK 1988). LOGUNOV in 1992 redefined the genus, verified the list of species and provided remarks on relationships. According to his study, the genus *Talavera* can be distinguished by the following set of characters: palpal tibia with no apophysis, embolus straight or slightly curved, connected with distal haematodocha by sclerotised ligament, bulbus with anterior sclerite, sperm duct complex, insemination ducts thin, not coiled.

Some species do not fit the above diagnosis. In *T. petrensis*, *T. monticola* and *T. thorelli*, for example, bulbus sclerite is either missing or not distinctive. In the first species and in *T. aequipes* the basal part of embolus is coiled and epigyne is much

Euophrys-like, having proximal parts of the insemination ducts coiled instead of straight. In a majority of species there is a distinctive lighter band around the eye field.

According to LOGUNOV (1992) *Talavera* is a sister genus of *Euophrys frontalis*-group of species. The genus *Euophrys* in its present sense is a composition of unrelated species and requires comprehensive revision. Even amongst its Polish representatives [*E. erratica* (WALCK.), *E. frontalis* (WALCK.) and *E. obsoleta* (SIM.)] the morphological variability of genitalia is so distinctive that the genus has been divided in two separate genera (ŻABKA in prep.).

Most *Talavera* species are usually recorded either from boreal or mountain localities, some are also found in peat-bogs as post-glacial relicts. *T. aequipes* may be found outside that zone - on vegetation in different plant communities.

The following species of *Talavera* have been recorded from Poland so far: *T. aequipes* (O. P.-CAMBRIDGE, 1871), *T. monticola* (KULCZYŃSKI, 1884), *T. petrensis* (C. L. KOCH, 1837) **comb. nov.**, *T. thorelli* (KULCZYŃSKI, 1891) and *T. westringi* (SIMON, 1868) **comb. nov.**; *T. petrensis* and *T. westringi* being transferred from *Euophrys*.

Abbreviations used: AS - anterior bulbus sclerite, AEW - anterior eyes width, AL - abdomen length, B - bulbus, CL - cephalothorax length, DH - distal haematodocha, EFL - eye field length, E - embolus, L1, L2, L3, L4 - legs' lengths, PEW - posterior eyes width, SD - sperm duct.

Talavera PECKHAM & PECKHAM , 1909

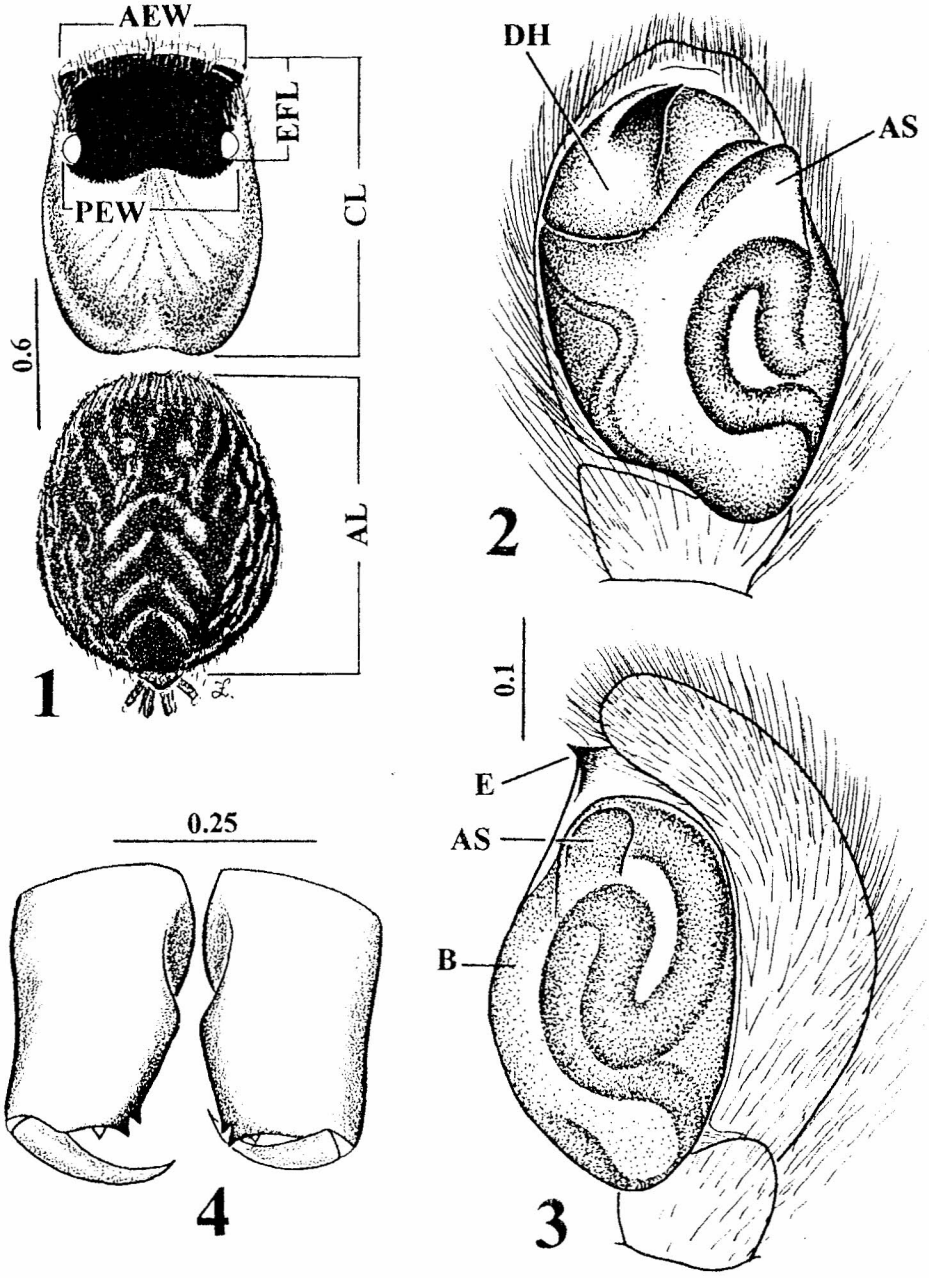
1909 *Talavera* PECKHAM & PECKHAM , Trans. Wisc. Acad. Sci. Arts Let., **16**: 378.
1992 *Talavera*: LOGUNOV, Bull. Inst. R. Sci. Nat. Belg., Ent., **62**: 75-82.

TYPE SPECIES
Talavera minuta (BANKS, 1895).

DIAGNOSIS
Body length 2.5-3 mm. Eye field dark, usually surrounded by lighter band. Sometimes whole thorax distinctively lighter - especially in males. Palpal tibia without apophysis or at most with a small protuberance. Bulbus massive, in some species with anterior sclerite, sperm duct meandering. Distal haematodocha distinctive, embolus short and straight or longer, basally coiled. Insemination ducts long and twisted (*T. petrensis, T. aequipes*) or shorter and wavy. Spermathecae oval.

Talavera westringi (SIMON, 1868), comb. nov.
(Figs 1-4)

1868 *Attus westringi* SIMON, Ann. Soc. ent. Fr., **8**: 605.
1956 *Evophrys westringi*: BONNET, Bibl. Aran., **2**: 1891.
1954 *Euophrys westringii*: ROEWER, Kat. Aran., **2**: 1178.



1-4. *Talavera westringi*: 1- general appearance, 2, 3 - palpal organ, 4 - frontal aspect of chelicerae. Abbreviations in the text. Measurements in mm

1971 *E. westringi*: MILLER, Klič zvířeny, IV, p. 139.
1971 *E. westringi*: PRÓSZYŃSKI and STAREGA, Kat. Faun. Pol., 16, p. 271.
1991 *E. westringi*: PRÓSZYŃSKI, Spinn. Mitteleur., p. 500.

MATERIAL

POLAND: Biebrza National Park (53°22' N, 22°35' E), raised peat-bog (*Sphagnetum magellanici boreale*), 17 July 1991, leg. J. KUPRYJANOWICZ, 1M.

DIAGNOSIS

Retrolateral tibia densely haired, embolus hooked, its base not coiled, bulbus with anterior sclerite.

DESCRIPTION

Male (Fig. 1). Eye field black, thorax light-orange with radial darker pattern. Lower margin dark-grey. Hairs scattered, more numerous in the anterior part, light - adpressed and dark - protruding. Abdomen dark-grey with mosaic of light spots. Marginally numerous whitish hairs. Dark hairs and bristles also present. Spinnerets dark-grey. Clypeus centrally dark with whitish hairiness, laterally yellow. Chelicerae (Fig. 4) basally yellow, further honey-coloured. Maxillae and labium dirty-honey with yellow tips. Sternum dirty-grey-brown, medially lighter. Venter dark-grey. Legs I rather densely haired - especially dorsal femora. Podomeres almost black except for distal metatarsi and proximal tarsi which are dirty-orange and distal tarsi which are yellow. Femora II-IV slightly darker then in the first legs - especially dorsally and ventrally, other podomeres with yellow and dark-grey bands.

Palpal organ as in Figs 2-3.

Measurements: CL 1.65, EFL 0.65, AEW 1.15, PEW 1.20, AL 2.15, L1 2.80, L2 2.55, L3 2.40, L4 3.55.

BIOLOGY

The species has been collected in open, sunny raised forest peat-bog (*Sphagnetum magellanici boreale*) overgrown with scattered trees of *Pinus silvestris* and also by *Vaccinium uliginosum*, *Andromeda polifolia*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *Sphagnum magellanicum* and *S. rubellum*. The spider community there consists of the following species: *Agyneta cauta* (O. P.-C.), *Aphileta misera* (O. P.-C.), *Cnephalocotes obscurus* (BL.), *Pardosa maisa* HIPPA & MANILA, *Pardosa prativaga* (L. K.), *P. pullata* (CL.), *P. sphagnicola* (DAHL), *Pirata piraticus* (CL.), *P. tenuitarsis* SIM., *Dolomedes fimbriatus* (CL.), *Haplodrassus modratus* (KULCZ.), *H. signifer* (C. L. K.) and *Zora spinimana* (SUND.). Recently the species has been found among xerothermic vegetation (ROZWAŁKA pers. comm.).

DISTRIBUTION

Rare species, known only from scattered localities in the former Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland. PRÓSZYŃSKI and STAREGA (1971) list it from Poland (after SIMON 1868) as "doubtful", but in fact there is no evidence for the species to be

recorded so far. Except for the Biebrza National Park, the species has been recorded near Tomaszów Lubelski (ROZWAŁKA pers. comm.).

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