

Pholcid spiders of the granitic Seychelles (Araneae, Pholcidae)

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Abstract: Nine pholcid spiders are recorded from the granitic Seychelles. One genus, *Cenemus* n. gen. and two species *Cenemus silhouette* n. sp. and *Spermophorides lascars* n. sp. are described as new to science.

Key words: Araneae, Pholcidae, Seychelles.

Introduction

The pholcids have elongate or globose abdomens and frequently very long and thin legs with false segments in tarsi. Hence they are often mistaken for daddy longlegs. The overall colouration of the pholcids is quite variable but the legs are usually characteristically annulated; femora with dark and pale apical rings, patellas entirely dark, tibiae with a dark proximal ring and dark and pale apical rings. Eye region frequently more or less elevated bearing eight or six eyes; when present AMEs smallest, others in two triads. Presence of the cheliceral stridulatory organs variable (Huber 1995). Male chelicerae frequently equipped with special apophyses which are often species-specific (Huber 1995, 1999).

Male pedipalps are conspicuously large and strong (Huber 1999). Their complex morphology have been well demonstrated by Uhl *et al.* (1995). Externally the female genitalia is usually relatively simple, comprising of a more or less elevated area divided by a simple slit into anterior and posterior plates. On the anterior or genital plate (Uhl 1994) there may be special outgrowths, pits etc; posterior plate is here called accessory plate. Internal morphology of the female genitalia is very complicated (Huber 1995b, 1996b, 1998a). Recently several papers have been published about the genital mechanics of the Pholcidae (Huber 1994, 1995, 1996b, 1998b and Huber & Eberhard 1997).

Pholcids spin loose, irregular webs and males live in the same webs as females. The females carry the spherical egg cluster in their chelicerae. When disturbed many but not all (Huber, pers. com.) pholcid species can shake their webs in such a rhythm that they virtually disappear to the human eye. Also solitary specimens on firm ground can shake their bodies with the same result. Many pholcids are pantropical and synanthropic.

In the granitic Seychelles nine pholcid species belonging to eight genera have been recorded. Three of them are, at the present, found only on the granitic Seychelles while others are pantropical, apparently synanthropic species. The general distribution as well as

distribution in the granitic Seychelles is given for each species.

The material treated below belongs to the following collections:

MNHN = Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France.

MRAC = Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium.

MZT = Zoological Museum of Turku University, Finland.

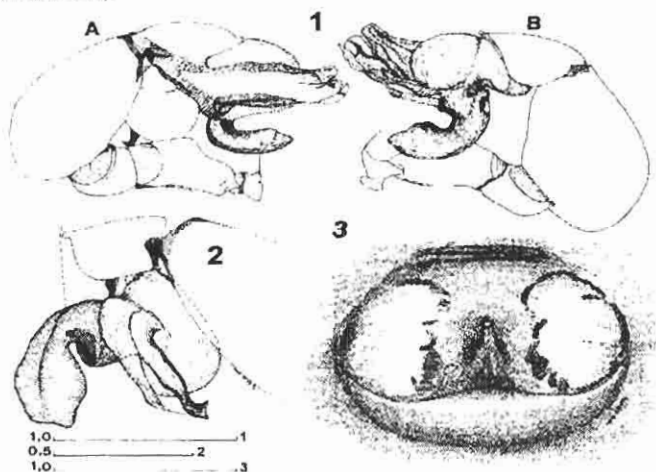
New island records presented in this paper are indicated by an asterisk.

***Pholcus longiventris* (Simon, 1893), new combination (Figs. 1-6)**

Spermophora longiventris Simon, 1893d: 321 (D j.m).

—, Kritscher 1956: 263, f. 15, 16 (D m).

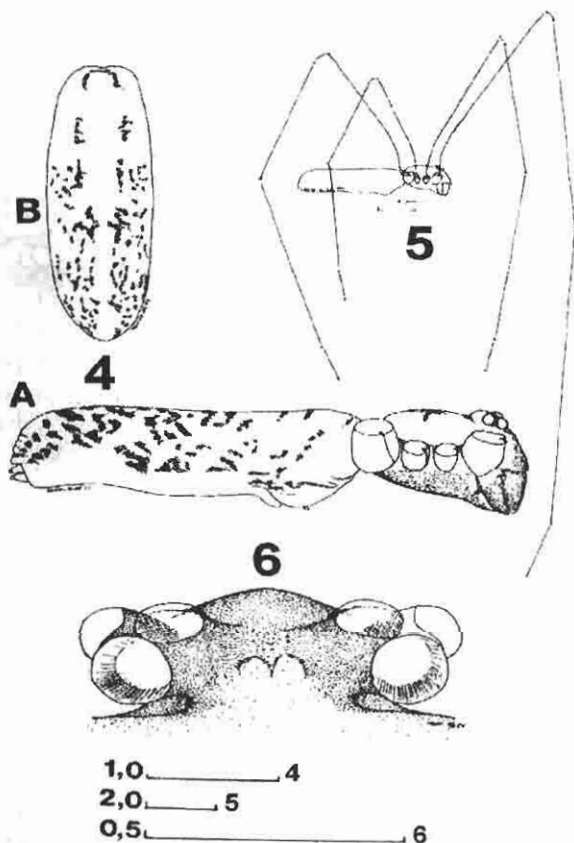
Material examined: SEYCHELLES: Mahé, Centre, Morne Blanc, versant Sud (470m elev.), 2mm6ff2j. 26.6.1972, P.L.G. Benoit & J.J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.070), Centre, La Misère (438m elev.), 1m6ff1j., 16.-17.6.1972, P.L.G. Benoit & J.J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.214), Baie Lazare, 1f, 26.6.1972, P.L.G. Benoit & J.J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.326), and Riv. Grand St. Lois, Le Niol, 1f, 30.9.-1.10. 1967, G. Marlier leg. (MRAC 148.417); Praslin, Vallée de Mai, 22.-23.7.1972, P.L.G. Benoit & J.J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 132.115); Silhouette, La Passe, 2ff, 11.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.059 and 1.060) and Belle Vue, pitfall traps, 1j., 16-20.07.1999, J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.308); FIJI: Viti Levu, 9mm6ff24j., P.T. Lehtinen leg. (MZT AA 3.415-3.419); THE PHILIPPINES: Luzon, 2ff2j., P.T. Lehtinen leg. (MZT AA 3.420).



Figs. 1-3. *Pholcus longiventris* (Simon, 1893) - 1: Right male palp retrolaterally (a) and prolaterally (b). - 2: Bulb from behind. - 3: Epigynal area ventrally. - Orig.

Diagnosis: This is a medium-sized, rather darkish, long-legged pholcid with six eyes and a long, cylindrical abdomen. The males may be recognized by having a thin hair-like extension on the retrolateral side of the uncus and the females by the skittle-shaped, anteriorly pointing parmula on genital plate.

Description: A medium-sized species; total length ca. 4.2mm. Abdomen cylindrical, almost 4 time as long as high. Carapace with a darker median stripe starting from the clypeus and running to the posterior end of the carapace. Chelicerae, maxillae, labium and female palps also dark and sternum still darker. Abdomen with characteristic pattern formed by smaller scattered spots. Colouration of the legs of basic pattern. Both sexes have only six eyes, AMs being lost. Legs long and thin, the first pair being extraordinary long compared with the others. Leg formula 1,2,4,3; leg I ca. 7 x body length.



Figs. 4-6. *Pholcus longiventris* (Simon, 1893) - 4: Female abdomen dorsally (a) and cephalothorax and abdomen of the female dextralaterally (b). - 5: Female dextralaterally. - 6: Eyes of the female frontally. - Orig.

Male pedipalp massive. Trochanter very small with one lateral process bearing a hair. Femur with a ventral bulge. Tibia large, ovoid. Proximal part of the tarsus or cymbium galeiform, tarsal organ standing at the middle of its frontal edge. Distal part of the tarsus or procursus (= paracymbium of some authors) massive with complex apical part. Bulb on the ventral side of the cymbium provided with three prominent protrusions. The crooked uncus is heavily sclerotized, bearing a thin translucent, almost hair-like extension apically on its retrolateral side. The appendix is long and narrow with bifid apex. The embolus lying between uncus and appendix more or less soft, membranous. Genital and accessory plates somewhat protruding. Posterior border of the genital plate concave. Skittle-like, anteriorly pointing parmula approximately in the middle of the genital plate. Form of the translucent inner structures either side of the parmula very typical.

Distribution: Previously recorded from Sumatra. In this paper also from The Philippines, Fiji and Seychelles which indicates that the species probably has a wide distribution in the Old World tropics. In Seychelles it has been found on Mahé (Saaristo 1999 as *Pholcus sp. ign.*), Praslin (*), and Silhouette (Saaristo 1999 as *Pholcus sp. ign.*).

Discussion: So far, all members of the genus *Pholcus* have been recorded to have eight eyes. However, when the genital organs of the present species was compared with those of its type species, viz. *Pholcus phalangioides*, no fundamental differences could be found (see also Uhl *et al.* 1995 and Uhl 1994). Accordingly the present species is considered to be a member of the genus *Pholcus*. There are also other pholcid genera with variable number of the eyes.

Originally I believed this to be an undescribed species before Dr. B. A. Huber pointed out that it might be *Spermophora longiventris* Simon, 1893 which was originally described from a juvenile specimen from Sumatra. Later a male from the locus typicus has been described by Kritscher (1956). Comparisons of Kritscher's (1956) figures with my Seychellian samples as well as the material from The Philippines and Fiji have convinced me that they all represent the same taxon.

***Micropholcus fauroti* (Simon, 1887) (Figs. 7-15)**

Pholcus fauroti Simon, 1887: 453 (mf).

Micropholcus fauroti, Deeleman-Reinhold & Prinsen 1987: 73 (mf; n. comb.).

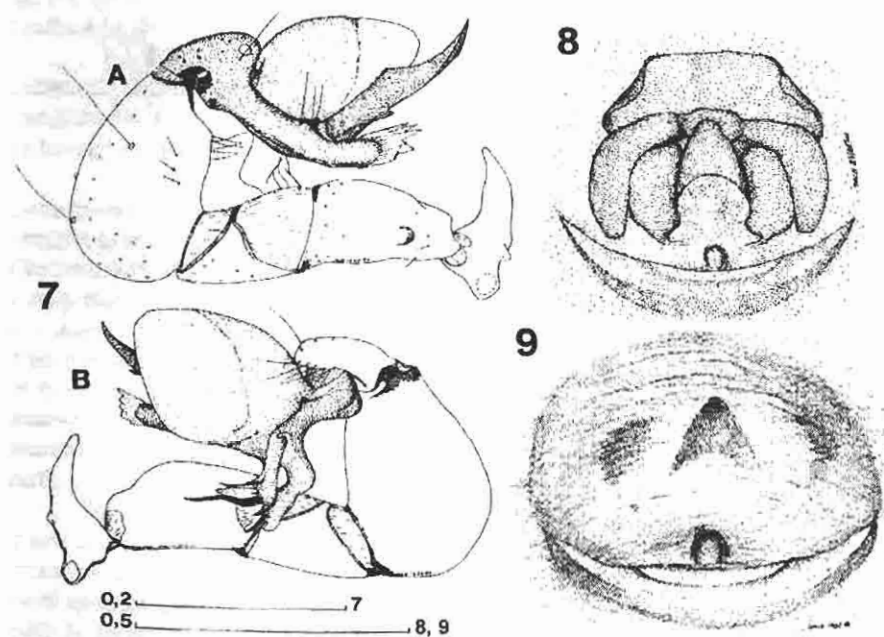
N.B.: For more detailed synonym list see Deeleman-Reinhold & Prinsen 1987

Material examined: SEYCHELLES: Aride, 1f, 19.08.1975, John Rowley leg. (MZT AA 0.051), Cousin, 1flj., 08-09.04.1978, Hugh Watkins leg. (MZT AA 0.049-0.050), Cousine, 1f, 25.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.083) and 4ff, 23.07.1995, O. Bourquin leg. (MZT AA 2.143), and Mahé, 1f, 26.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.082); SRI LANKA: Colombo district, Negombo, in cultural habitats, 1mf2j., 24.-27. 09.1972, P.T. Lehtinen and Ilkka Oksala leg. (MZT AA 3.443) and Galle district, Dodanduwa, Katudampe, 1mf, 02-03.03.1973, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 3.444); VIETNAM: Ha Noi, on walls, mf, 21

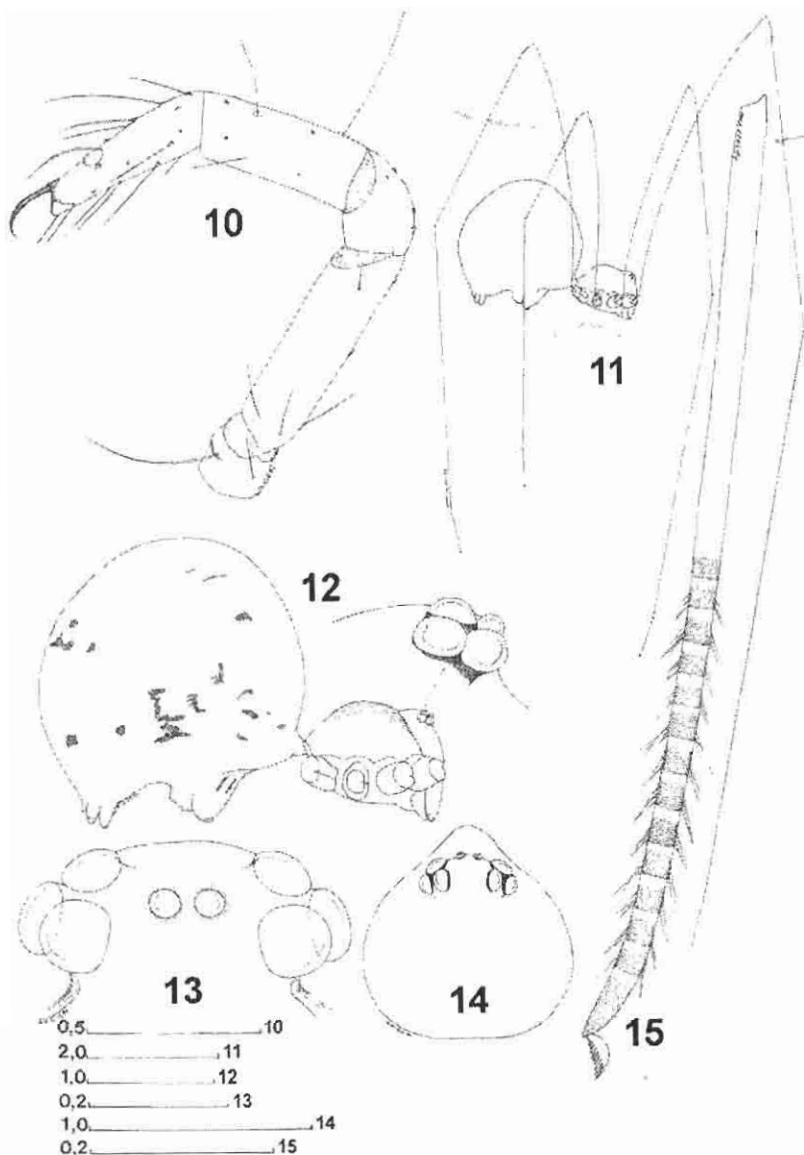
Diagnosis: This is a rather small, pale coloured, long-legged pholcid with eight eyes and a globular abdomen. The male of this species is most easily recognized by the large, blade-like apophysis hinged on the apicodorsal side of the procurus and the female by the small parmula at the posterior edge of the genital plate.

Description: A smaller species; total length ca. 2.8mm. The whole spider pale yellow; carapace with indistinct darker pattern and on abdomen some dark spots and streaks. Eye region barely higher than thorax, separated from it by a Y-shaped groove. AMEs small, others large, situated in two triads. Male chelicerae with three pairs of apophyses. Legs long and thin. Tarsi with some 13 secondary or false joints making it flexible from the half way onwards. Leg 1, 2, 4, 3; leg I ca. 6.5 x body length. Female palp with conspicuously large tarsal organ. Abdomen globular.

Male palpal trochanter with a small bulge in addition to the large spur. Procurus with a large blade-like extension hinged on its apicodorsal side. Embolus fringed apically; uncus divided apically in three sharply pointed strips; appendix reduced. Genital and accessory plates strongly protruding. Parmula short, lying at the posterior edge of the genital plate. Characteristic for the cleared epigyneal area is a large, cone-like median pocket behind



Figs. 7-9. *Micropholcus fauroti* (Simon, 1887). - 7: Right male palp laterally (a) and mesially (b). - 8: Structures of bursa copulatrix ventrally (epigyneal area cleared by KOH solution). - 9: Epigyneal area ventrally. - Orig.



Figs. 10-15. *Micropholcus fauroti* (Simon, 1887). - 10: Left female palp laterally. - 11: Female dextrolaterally. - 12: Dextrolateral view of the cephalothorax and abdomen of the female. - 13: Eyes of the female frontally. - 14: Carapace of the female dorsally. - 15: First tarsus of the female. - Orig.

Distribution: The species seems to have a very wide distribution being a pantropical, synanthropic species (Deeleman-Reinhold & Prinsen 1987). On the granitic Seychelles it has been collected from Aride (Bowler *et al.* 1999), Cousin (*), Cousine (Saaristo 1999) and Mahé (Saaristo 1999). The record from Silhouette (Saaristo 1999) is an error.

Artema atlanta Walckenaer, 1837 (Figs. 16-22)

Artema atlanta Walckenaer, 1837: 565 (mf).

Artema mauriciana Walckenaer, 1837: 565 (mf).

Artema mauricia, Simon 1893c.

Artema mauriciana, Simon 1898: 375.

—, Hirst 1911: 381.

A. atlanta, Chrysanthus 1967: 92 (mf; *mauriciana* = *atlanta*).

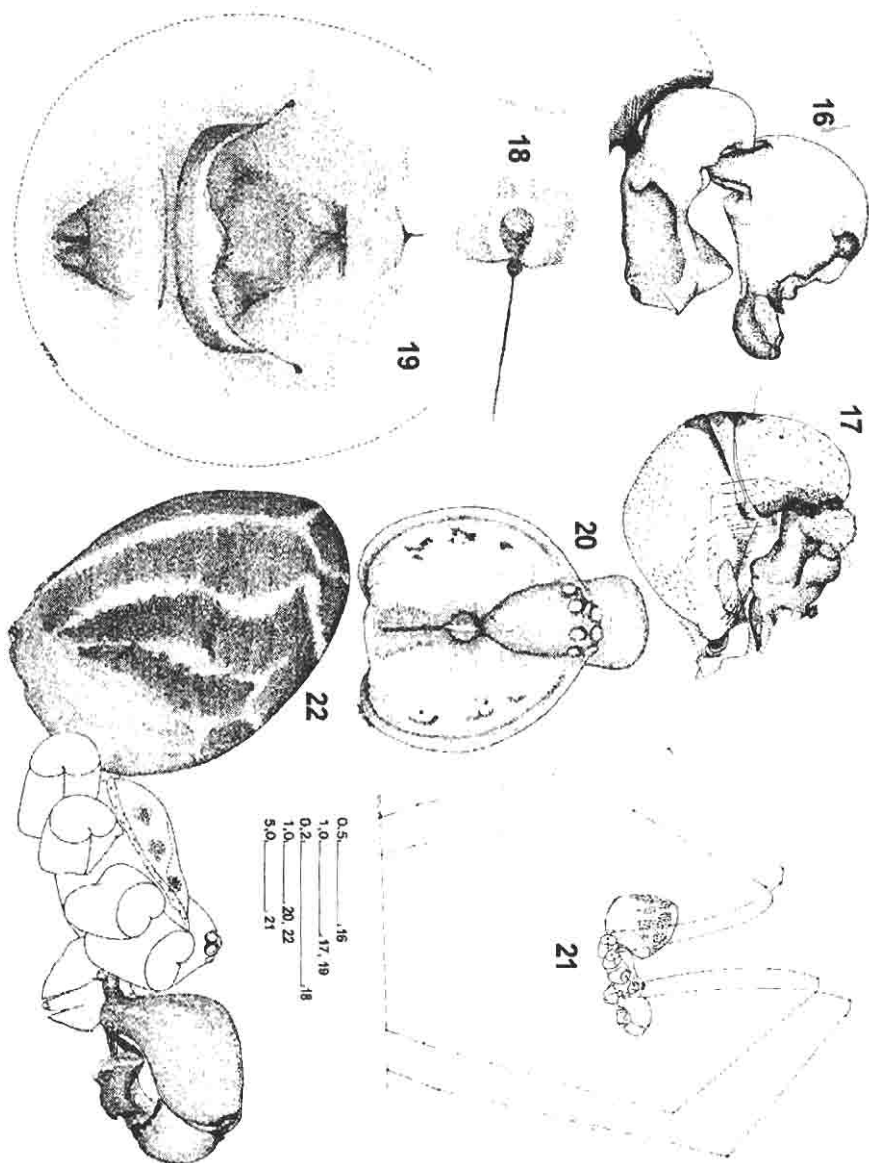
—, Brignoli 1981: 92, f. 1-7 (mf).

Material examined: SEYCHELLES: Silhouette, La Passe, 3fj., 08 & 11.01.1999, M. Saaristo and J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.061-1.063); INDIA: Kerala 1fj., P.T. Lehtinen leg. (MZT AA 3.387); INDONESIA: Sulawesi, 1fj., P.T. Lehtinen leg. (MZT AA 3.386); SRI LANKA: 1j., P.T. Lehtinen leg. (MZT AA 3.385); VIETNAM: Ha Noi, on walls, 1j., 21.10.1978, P.T. Lehtinen leg. (MZT AA 3.384).

Diagnosis: In addition to their appreciably large size the males of this species are easily recognized by the large serrate lamella on the anterior surface of the chelicerae and females by having two oval elevations anteriorly on the epigyneal area.

Description: This is a very large and robust species with more or less ovoid abdomen; total length 8-11mm. Legs long and heavily built. Leg 1,2,4,3; leg I ca. 6.5 times body length. Carapace rather flat, almost as wide as long. Ocular area elevated with eight eyes. Behind it a deep, roundish median depression which continues as a shallow channel towards the posterior edge of the carapace. Carapace pale yellow brown with brown median stripe starting from the lower edge of clypeus and running on both sides of ocular area to the posterior end of the carapace. On the lateral sides of carapace three more or less diffuse brown lateral patches, its edges also partially suffused with brown colour. Abdomen dirty white with dark somewhat bluish tint. Characteristic for the male are the large, serrate ridges at the anterior surface of each chelicer.

Male palp with a trochanter and large massive femur devoid of any apophyses. The procursus relatively small compared with the size of the bulb. There is a strong tooth-like extension on basal part of the procursus which has a quite simple apex. Bulb dorsally with a small spherical apophysis bearing tiny teeth; other bulbal sclerites fused together forming an embolic complex. Posterior border of the genital plate strongly concave and its posterolateral sides somewhat elevated. Two elliptical elevations on the anterior part of the epigyneal area, almost touching anteriorly and strongly diverging posteriorly.



Figs. 16-22. *Artemia atlantica* Walkenaer, 1837. - 16: Distal part of the right male palp dorsally. - 17: Right male palp mesially. - 18: Colulus of the female. - 19: Abdomen of the female ventrally. - 20: Carapace of the male dorsally. - 21: Dextrolateral view of the male. - 22: Dextrolateral view of the male cephalothorax and abdomen. - Orig.

Distribution: This synanthropic species has a wide distribution in warm and tropical parts of the world. On the granitic Seychelles islands it has been collected from Bird (Hirst 1911), Mahé (Simon 1893c 1898, Hirst 1911), Praslin (Hirst 1911) and Silhouette (Saaristo 1999).

Discussion: In spite of the fairly busy collecting of the spiders on the granitic Seychelles during the last 25 years no specimens of *A. atlanta* were found. So, during my visit on Silhouette in 1999, it was very exiting to find a well established colony inside the dark and fairly humid basement of the main house of "Grande Case" as well as in an abandoned chicken house.

***Physocyclus globosus* (Taczanowski, 1893) (Figs. 23-34)**

Pholcus globosus Taczanowski, 1893: 105 (f).

Physocyclus globosus, Simon 1893b: 470 (n. comb.).

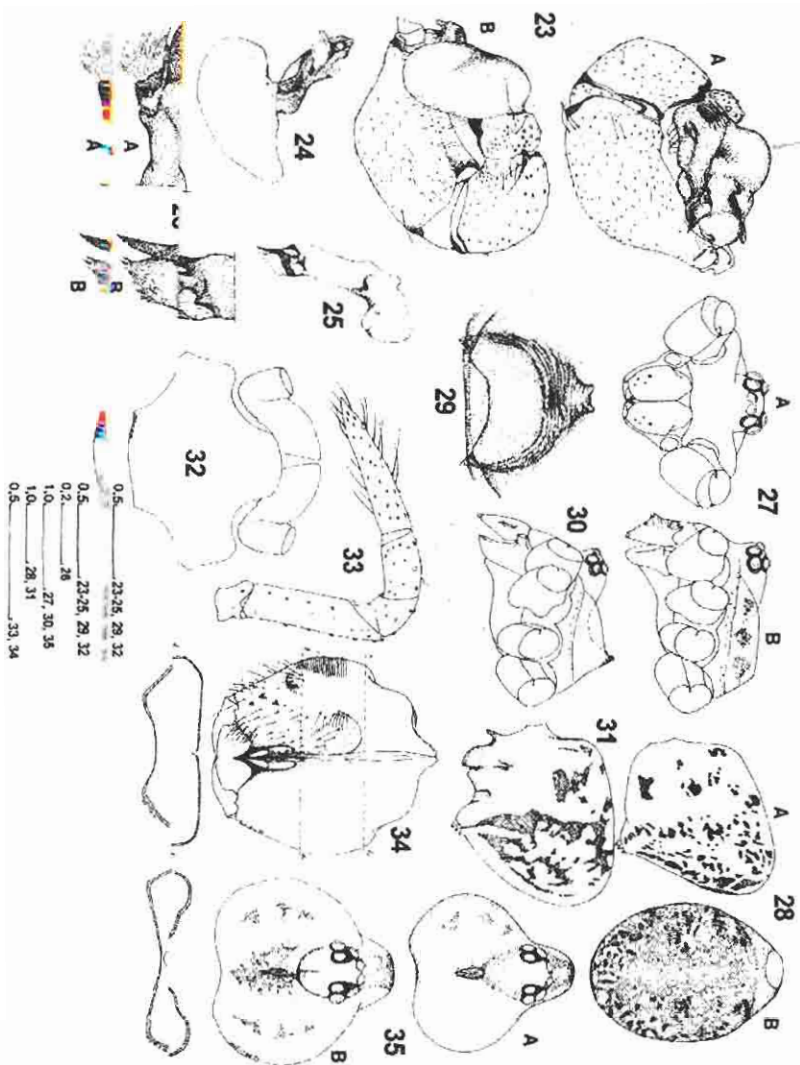
—, Brignoli 1981: 94, f. 14-18, 21-24 (mf).

Material examined: SEYCHELLES: Cousine, 1f1j., 25.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg.; Mahé, La Rosière 3m1f, Jan. 1999, P. Matyot leg. and 1m, 1990, J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.090-1.091) and Anse à la Mouche, July-August 1972, 2mm2ff7 juvs., P.L.G. Benoit & J.J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.436 & 143.453); Silhouette, La Passe, 1subad m, 2f2j., 08-15.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.086-1.088); ZANZIBAR: airport, 1m1f3j., 04.11.1975, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 3.389)

Diagnosis: This is a quite large, pale coloured, long-legged pholcid with eight eyes and a globular abdomen, which is triangular in side view. The males are easily recognized by the voluminous bulb bearing a large embolic complex. Females may be recognized by the cone-like elevation of the posterior part of the carapace and the bifurcate elevation at the anterior part of the epigyne.

Description: A quite large species; total length varying between 3.5-5.3mm. Abdomen globular, pale brownish with intense dark spotting. Both sexes have stridulatory ridges on the lateral sides of the chelicerae. The area occupied by the ridges is darker than the rest of the chelicerae and also much smaller in the female than male. Median depression on the carapace deep and narrow. In the female there is a characteristic cone-like elevation at the posterior border of this depression and a heavily sclerotized spot opposite on the abdomen. Leg formula 1,2,4,3; leg I ca. 8 x body length.

Male palp with a simple trochanter and large massive femur devoid of any apophyses. The procurus relatively small compared with the size of the bulb. There is a strong apically rounded extension on basal part of the procurus which has a quite complex apex. Bulb smooth with a large embolic complex formed by fused bulbal protrusions. Posterior border of the genital plate concave. Anterior part of the epigyneal area with strong transverse wrinkles and a bifurcate elevation.



Figs. 23-34. *Physocelus globosus* (Taczanowski, 1873). - 23: Lateral (a) and mesial (b) view of the leg palp. - 24: Bulb dorsally. - 25: Cymbium and procurus dorsally. - 26: Tip of procurus dorsally (a) and mesially (b). - 27: Cephalothorax of the male frontally (a) and laterally (b). - 28: Abdomen of the male laterally (a) and dorsally (b). - 29: - - Epigeal area ventrally. - 30: Cephalothorax of the female laterally. - 31: Abdomen of the female laterally. - 32: Maxillae, labium and sternum of male. - 33: Left female leg laterally. - 34: Male chelicerae frontally. - 35: Dorsal view of the female carapace (a) and that of the male (b). - Orig.

Distribution: According to Brignoli (1981) this is an American species which has been introduced to the tropics of the old world. On the granitic Seychelles it has been recorded from Cousine (Saaristo 1999), Mahé (*) and Silhouette (Saaristo 1999).

Genus *Cenemus*, new genus

Type species: *Holocnemus culiculus* Simon, 1898.

Etymology: The generic name is an arbitrary combination of letters and feminine in gender.

Diagnosis: In general appearance the new genus is closer to *Smeringopus* than *Holocnemus*, the genus in which its type species was originally described. The females of this new genus have the lip of the genital plate heavily sclerotized and of complex structure while females of *Smeringopus* and *Holocnemus* have unmodified, only lightly chitinized lips. Furthermore, on the genital plate there are two pairs of small pits and a large unpaired median depression which are all wanting in *Smeringopus* and *Holocnemus*. The males of the new genus have two translucent strips on the embolic complex which are not found in *Smeringopus* and *Holocnemus*.

Cenemus culiculus (Simon, 1898) (Figs. 36-41 & 47-48)

Holocnemus culiculus Simon, 1898: 375 (imm. f).

—, Saaristo 1978: 103-104, f.23-26, 39-45 (mf).

Material examined: SEYCHELLES: Mahé, La Misère (438 m elev.), 2mm5ff, 12.07.1972, P.L.G. Benoit & J.J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.201); Silhouette: Mare aux Cochons (500m elev.), 1f5j., 2.-8.7.1972, P.L.G. Benoit & J.J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.373), Chemin Montagne Possee, 2m2f2j., 09.01.1999, M. Saaristo and J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.103-1.104) and 1fljuv., sweep netting *Clidemia/Ipomoea macrantha/Asystasia*, 13.07.2000, J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.329), La Passe, 3m6f6j., 19.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.106-1.107), and Jardin Marron, 5m1f2j., 20.01.1999, M. Saaristo and J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.108-1.110).

Diagnosis: This is a colourful, quite large, long-legged species with cylindrical abdomen. The male of this species may be recognized by having the embolus arising from its base in an almost straight angle when the bulb is observed posteriorly. The female has the median part of the genital lip fairly deeply concave between the two small pits at its posterior edge while laterally from these pits the lip is convex, smoothly curving anteriorly.

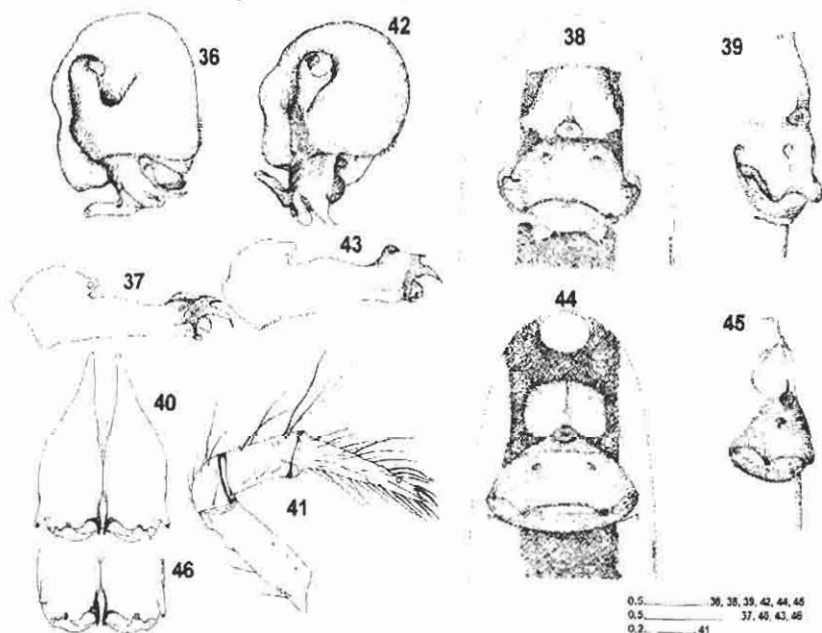
Description: Rather large species; total length ca. 4.5mm. Carapace snow white with black median and moss green lateral bands; chelicerae, maxillae and labium brown; sternum dark

purple with yellow-brown edges and median stripe; abdomen dirty white with dark bluish pattern; legs brown tinged with dark purple-blue, tips of femora and tibiae snow white. Carapace rather flat, about as wide as long (except at the area of the protruding clypeus). Ocular area moderately raised, turret-like with eight eyes; MAs rather small, others equal in size and in two triads. Chelicerae of both sexes with lateral stridulatory striae. Male chelicerae each with one apicolateral boss bearing a specialized, plug-like hair on its apex. Leg formula 1,2,4,3; leg I ca. 8.5 x body length.

The bulb of male palp smooth, spherical; embolus, appendix and uncus more or less fused together forming a relatively compact embolic complex. At the edge of the concave epigyneal lip two small, lateral pits and two somewhat larger pits more anteriorly on the genital plate. In addition an unpaired larger median sclerotized depression still anteriorly from the last mentioned pits.

Distribution: This endemic species has been collected from the following islands: Mahé (Simon 1898, Saaristo 1978 and 1999) and Silhouette (Saaristo 1999).

Discussion: The species was originally described from a juvenile specimen from Mahé. Adult males and females were first described by Saaristo (1978) from topotypical material collected in 1974 and compared with the type.



Figs. 36-46. *Cenemus culiculus* (Simon, 1898) (Figs. 36-41) and *Cenemus silhouette* n. sp. (Figs. 42-46). - 36 & 42: Right bulb posteriorly. - 37 & 43: Right cymbium and procurus dorsally. - 38 & 44: Epigyneal area ventrally. - 39 & 45: Epigyneal area dextrolaterally. - 40 & 46: Male chelicerae frontally. - 41: Right female palp laterally. - Orig.

Cenemus silhouette, new species (Figs. 42-46)

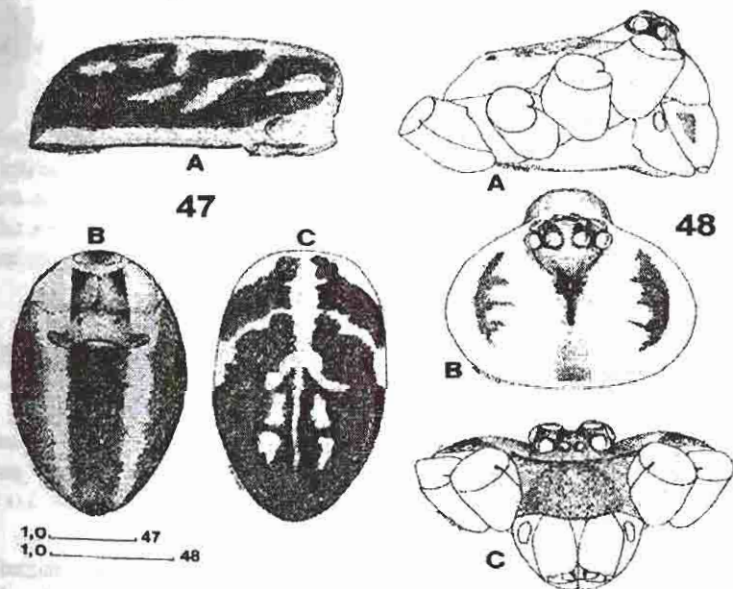
Types: Holotype male and two paratype females: SEYCHELLES, Silhouette, La Passe, among boulders behind the dam, 15.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.105); paratype male and subad. male: SEYCHELLES, Silhouette, *Pisonia* forest, 1990, Justin Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 0.280); four paratype females: SEYCHELLES, Silhouette, *Pisonia* forest, 1990, Justin Gerlach leg. (MZT AA = 0.281); one paratype female: SEYCHELLES, Silhouette, *Pisonia* forest, sweep netting, 06.07.2000, J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.331).

Etymology: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

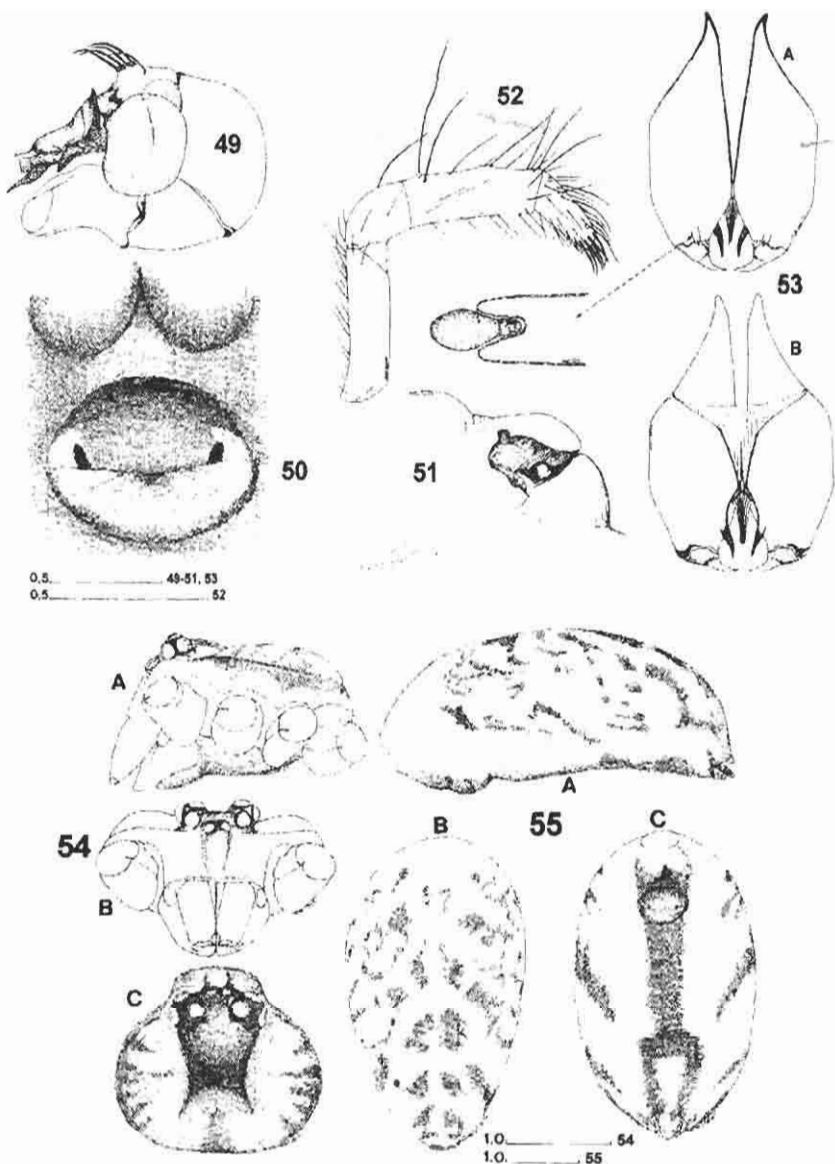
Diagnosis: Very close to preceding species. The male may be recognized by having the embolus arising from its base at an acute angle when the bulb is observed posteriorly. The female has the median part of the genital lip only slightly concave between the two small pits at its posterior edge while laterally from these pits the lip at first abruptly curves anteriorly and then laterally.

Description: This species is about the same size as the preceding species. Also the colour pattern is alike. The two species can be distinguished by their genital organs.

Distribution: Known only from Silhouette.



Figs. 47-48. *Cenemus culiculus* (Simon, 1898). - 47: Abdomen of the female dextrolaterally (a), dorsally (b), and ventrally (c). - 48: Carapace of the female dextrolaterally (a), dorsally (b), and frontally (c). - Orig.



Figs. 49-55. *Smeringopus pallidus* (Blackwall, 1858). - 49: Right male palp mesially. - 50: Epigyneal area ventrally. - 51: Epigyneal area dextralaterally. - 52: Right palp of the female laterally. - 53: Chelicerae of the male frontally (a) and from behind (b). - 54: Abdomen of the female dorsally (a), dextralaterally (b), and ventrally (c). - 55: Cephalothorax of the female dorsally (a) frontally (b), and sinistrolaterally (c). - Orig.

Smeringopus pallidus (Blackwall, 1858) (Figs. 49-55)

- Pholcus pallidus* Blackwall, 1858: 433 (-).
Pholcus elongatus Vinson, 1863: 307 (-).
Smeringopus elongatus, Simon 1890: 10 (n. comb.).
-, Simon 1898: 375.
Smeringopus pallidus, Mello-Leitao 1918: 121 (n. comb.).
S. elongatus, Hirst 1911: 381.
S. pallidus, Kraus 1957: 219, f. 1-6 (mf; *elongatus* = *pallidus*).
-, Saaristo 1978: 102, f. 23-30, 31-38 (mf).
(N.B.: For more detailed synonym list see Kraus 1957)

Material examined: SEYCHELLES: Cousine, from under rocks (cave) on N. hill, 2f, 05.05.1997, Peter Hitchins leg. (MZT AA 0.386) and 2m10f5j., 23. and 25.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.092-94 and 1.10-1.101); Mahé 1f, VIII-IX.1966, Miss Zoologique MRAC-ILB (MARC 130.809), riv. Grand Anse, 10.10.1976, 1m7f7j., G. Marlier leg. (MRAC 148.430), and Montagne Posée Road, underside of huge granite blocks, 31.10.1975, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 0.005); Silhouette, La Passe, 4m3f4j., 07.-17.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.095-1.098), Chemin Montagne Posée, 4f, 09.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg. (MZT AA 1.099) and Mare aux Cochons, 1m, 2-8.7.1972, P.L.G. Benoit & J.J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.373).

Diagnosis: This is a colourful, fairly large, long-legged (leg I ca. 8.5 x body length) species with a cylindrical abdomen. The male of this species can be easily recognized by having both branches of the T-shaped embolic complex of equal size. The female has a dark spot in the posterior corners the genital plate and a pair of small dots in its anterior edge, accessory plate large, mostly dirty white with a narrow darker border.

Description: The species has been well described by Kraus (1957) and Saaristo (1978).

Distribution: In the granitic Seychelles this cosmopolitan species has been found on the following islands: Cousine (Saaristo 1999), Long Island (Hirst 1911), Mahé (Simon 1898, Hirst 1911, Saaristo 1978 and 1999), Praslin (Hirst 1911) and Silhouette (Saaristo 1999).

***Modissimus culicinus* (Simon, 1893) (Figs. 56-60)**

Hedyspilus culicinus Simon, 1893a: 322 (m).

—, Simon 1893b

: 484, f.483, 484, 486 (m).

Hedyspilus Lawrencei de Lessert, 1938: 434, f. 15-17 (mf).

Hedyspilus culicinus, Gertsch & Peck 1992: 1191, f. 20-26 (mf).

Modissimus culicinus, Huber 1996: 233, f. 2-4 (mf = *Hedyspilus lawrencei* de Lessert, 1938).

Material examined: VENEZUELA, Orinoco, type material of *H. culicinus* (MNHN: B 730, n:o 9629); ZAIRE: Kananga (= Luluaburg in former Belgian Congo), syntypes (m2ff) of *H. lawrencei* (MRAC 12943/12944); SEYCHELLES: Aride: by pitfall trap, subad.m, 19.08.1975, John Rowley leg. (MZT AA 0.052); Cousin: 3f, 1978, Hugh Watkins leg. (MZT AA 0.053-0.055); Cousine: 6m20f10j., 23.-25.01.1999, M. Saaristo leg., Curieuse: Baie Laraie, 1f, 12.7.1972, P. L. G. Benoit & J. J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.277), Grande Soeur: 4m, 10. and 17.09.1975, M. Mühlenberg leg. (MRAC 177.130, 177.151, 177.172, and 177.173), Mahé: 1 f28.12.1993, J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.081), Petit Soeur: 7m, 17. and 24.09.1975, M. Mühlenberg leg. (MRAC 177.102, 177.107, 177.137, 177.139, 177.141, and 177.174), Praslin: Fond de l'Anse, 4mm9ff, 16.-23.8.1972, P.L.G. Benoit & J. J. van Mol leg. (MRAC 143.394) and Silhouette: La Passe and Anse Cimitiere, 10-22.01.1999, M. Saaristo and J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.065-1.071).

Diagnosis: This is a small species with moderately long legs (leg I ca. 4.5 x body length), globular abdomen and distinct pattern of dark spots on carapace. The male of this species is easily recognized by the rounded tubercle fringed with short hairs on the frontal side of the eye-turret. Female alike but without the tubercle.

Description: The species has been well described by Huber (1996).

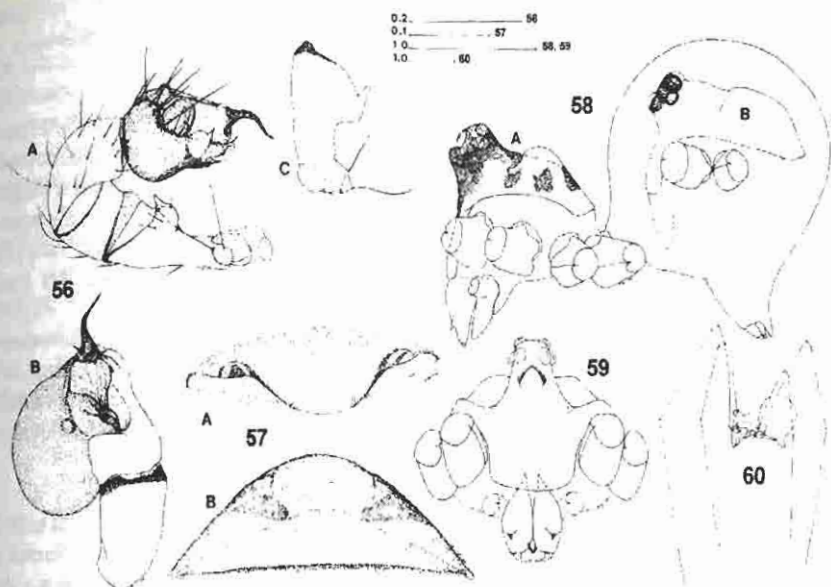
Distribution: According to Gertsch and Peck (1991) this is a widespread American species which has been introduced to many places by commerce and Huber (1996) supposed it to be pantropical. It is new to Seychelles and has been collected there on Aride (Bowler *et al.* 1999), Cousin (*), Cousine (Saaristo 1999), Curieuse (*), Grande and Petit Soeur (*), Mahé (Saaristo 1999), Praslin (*) and Silhouette (Saaristo 1999).

***Spermophorides lascars*, new species (Figs. 61-64)**

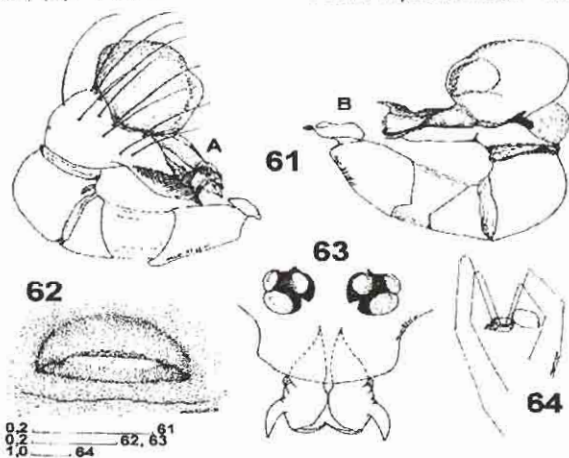
Types: Holotype m and 3f and 4j. paratypes: Seychelles, Silhouette, eastern slope of Mont Poules Marrons close to Anse Lascars, 12.01.1999, J. Gerlach leg. (MZT AA 1.064).

Etymology: The specific name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

Diagnosis: A small, rather pale coloured, long-legged pholcid with six eyes and a globular



Figs. 56-60. *Modisimus culicinus* (Simon, 1983). - 56: Right male palp laterally (a), dorsally (b), and palpal femur dorsally (c). - 57: Epigynal area ventrally (a) and dorsally (b). - 58: Sinistrolateral view of the male with legs omitted (a) and carapace of the female sinistrolaterally (b). - 59: Frontal view of the male cephalothorax. - 60: Lateral view of the male. -



Figs. 61-64. *Sperophorides lascars* n. sp. - 61: Right male palp laterally (a), dorsally (b), and palpal femur dorsally (c). - 62: Epigynal area ventrally. - 63: Frontal view of the male cephalothorax. - 64: Lateral view of the male. - Orig.

abdomen. The male may be recognised by the dorsally attached bulb and by the two retrolateral cheliceral apophyses and the female by having a small denticle on either side of the posterior edge of the genital plate.

Description: This is a small species with a globose abdomen, total length 1.14-1.29mm. Cephalothorax pale orange; legs of the same colour but darker; abdomen dirty white, dorsally decorated by numerous violetish patches. Carapace low; both sexes with six eyes arranged in two triads. Male chelicerae armed with two retrolateral horn-like apophyses; the apical one acute, pointing downwards and some three times as large as the more basal, upward pointing, blunt-tipped one. Legs long and thin. Leg formula 1,2,4,3; leg I ca. 7 x body length.

Bulb of the male palp attached dorsally. Its globular part large; on its anteromesal side a large, shallow bulge. Embolus relatively long, flat and transparent. On its mesial side it projects an elongated protrusion, probably appendix. It has a triangular basal part and a thin, strongly sclerotized, crooked apical part. Genital and accessory plates slightly elevated. Genital plate with a small denticle on either side of its posterior edge.

Discussion: In his study "On the spider fauna of the Macronesian islands" Wunderlich (1991) noted that all those pholcid species from Canary Islands that he had earlier placed in *Spermophora* Hentz, 1848 were not congeneric with the type species of that genus. Accordingly he created a new genus, *Spermophorides*. I fully agree with Wunderlich (1991) and therefore describe the above new species in *Spermophorides*. It should also be noticed here that the dorsally attached bulb of *Spermophorides* reminds one of the New World genus *Metagonia* Simon, 1893 (Hubert 2000: 53). However, in several other respects *Spermophorides* differs considerably from *Metagonia*.

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