

Third contribution to the knowledge of Sicilian spider fauna (Arachnida Araneae)

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ABSTRACT

The following work shows new or interesting data on the araneofauna of Sicily (Arachnida Araneae). Particularly, 2 genera and 7 species new for Sicily are reported and the presence of *Linyphia triangularis* (Clerck, 1757) is confirmed. Additional biological, ecological and faunistic data are provided.

KEY WORDS

Araneae; Sicily; new data.

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INTRODUCTION

The arachnological researches carried out in Sicily in the last years to improve the knowledge on the araneofauna (Dentici 2017; Dentici & Amata 2018) allowed me to find new or at least interesting data that are reported in this work.

Particularly, 2 genera and 7 species new for Sicily are reported. The presence of *Linyphia triangularis* (Clerck, 1757) is confirmed for this island after the first observation by Pavesi (1868), little known in bibliography (see Pantini & Isaia, 2018).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All samples were collected on sight under rocks or barks or in their web.

All the samples, brought to laboratory, were treated with ethyl acetate, observed with binoculars and photographed with a Nikon d90 reflex and a macro lens of 100 mm with a series of extension tubes for identification. The program Helicon focus 6 was used to merge images taken at different focal

planes into single images with greater depth of field.

The specimens were stored in centrifuge tubes of different sizes, depending on the size of the sample, and were fixed in 75% ethanol and are stored in the collection of the author.

For each species literature, chorotype and distribution, biological notes and collector are indicated. The locality and/or collection site are cited in the original language (Italian).

The classification, taxonomic order, nomenclatural arrangement, and presence in the Sicilian territory follow Roberts (1995), Trotta (2004), Pantini & Isaia (2018), and World Spider Catalog (2019). Other sources have also been used for the correct identification and are, when used, signed in the species remarks.

RESULTS

Systematics

Ordo ARANEAE Clerck, 1757

Familia AGELENIDAE C.L. Koch, 1837

Genus *Tegenaria* Latreille, 1804

Tegenaria hasperi Chyzer, 1897 Figs. 1, 2

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Italy, Sicily, Palermo, Godrano, Bosco della Ficuzza, 37°51'18"N, 13°25'23"E, 05.VIII.2017, 1 female, legit R. Viviano.

DISTRIBUTION. France to Turkey, Russia (Europe).

REMARKS. The specimen was collected in the mouth of his retreat, his canvas was built in a crack in the rock and there were several other canvases like this nearby. New species for Sicily.

Familia ARANEIDAE Clerck, 1757

Genus *Leviellus* Wunderlich, 2004

Leviellus kochi (Thorell, 1870) Fig. 3

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Italy, Sicily, Palermo, Prizzi, 37°42'13.2"N 13°23'43.6"E, 30.VI.2018, 1 male, legit A. Dentici.

DISTRIBUTION. Southern Europe, North Africa, Central Asia.

REMARKS. The specimen was sampled during the night (1:30 am approximately), wandering on the bark of a tree, perhaps in search of a female. New genus and new species for Sicily.

Familia FILISTATIDAE Ausserer, 1867

Genus *Pritha* Lehtinen, 1967

Pritha pallida (Kulczynski, 1897) Fig. 4

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Italy, Sicily, Agrigento, San Biagio Platani, 37°32'34"N 13°32'39"E, 21.VII.2018, 1 female and 1 female subadult, legit R. Viviano.

DISTRIBUTION. Mediterranean.

REMARKS. The specimens were collected under rocks during daylight hours. The identification of the specimens follow Legittimo et al. (2017). New genus and new species for Sicily.

Familia GNAPHOSIDAE Pocok, 1898

Genus *Gnaphosa* Latreille, 1804

Gnaphosa dolosa Herman, 1897 Fig. 5

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Italy, Sicily, Palermo, Misilmeri, 37°59'33.4"N 13°27'51.4"E, 15.XII.2014, 1 male, legit A. Dentici.

DISTRIBUTION. Southern to Eastern Europe, Turkey, Syria, Iran, Caucasus, Russia (Europe) to Central Asia

REMARKS. Specimen collected under a wooden slab, wintering inside its silk cell. New species for Sicily.

Familia LINYPHIIDAE Blackwall, 1859

Genus *Linyphia* Latreille, 1804

Linyphia triangularis (Clerck, 1757) Fig. 6

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Italy, Sicily, Palermo, Monreale, Caculla, 38°02'59"N, 13°14'40"E, 05.IX.2018, 1 male, legit Antonino Dentici; Sicily, Palermo, Monreale, Caculla, 38°02'59.1"N, 13°14'35"E, 09.IV.2019, 1 male, legit A. Dentici.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Caucasus to Iran, Russia to China. Introduced to USA.

REMARKS. Specimen collected in its web. The discovery of this species, already observed by Pavesi (1878), confirms its presence (see Pantini & Isaia, 2018).

Familia TETRAGNATHIDAE Menge, 1866

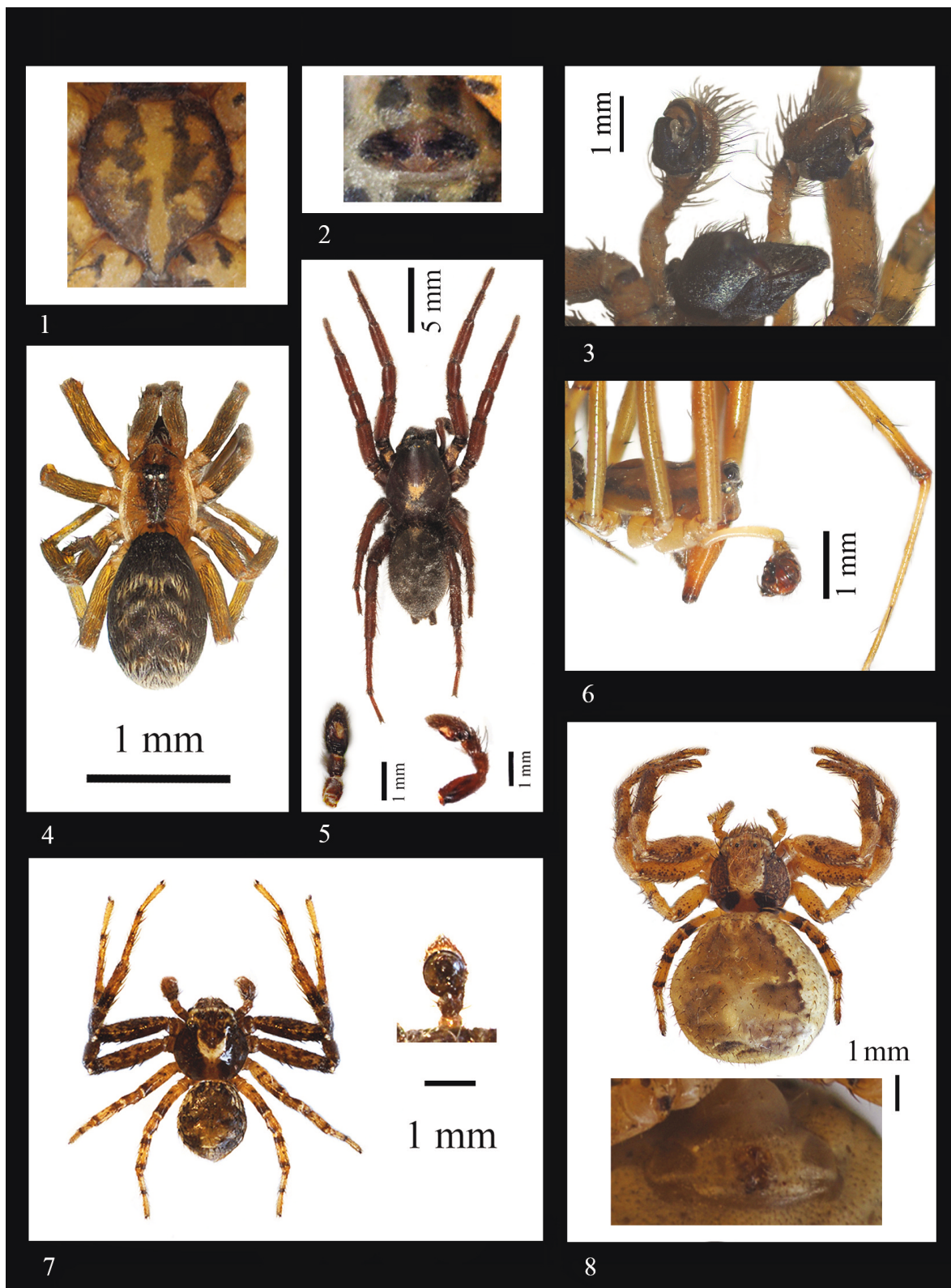
Genus *Metellina* Chamberlin et Ivie, 1941

Metellina mendei (Blackwall, 1869)

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Italy, Sicily, Palermo, Giacalone, Casaboli, 38°04'12.8"N, 13°13'35.2"E, 07.IV.2019, 1 male and 1 female, legit A. Dentici.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe to Caucasus, Iran, Russia (Europe to Altai).

REMARKS. Both specimens were collected in the same web. New species for Sicily.



Figures 1, 2. *Tegenaria hasperi*: sternum (Fig. 1) and epygine (Fig. 2). Figure 3. Palpi of *Leviellus kochi*. Figure 4. *Pritha pallida*, habitus. Figure 5. *Gnaphosa dolosa*: habitus and palpi. Figure 6. Palpus of *Linyphia triangularis*. Figure 7. *Xysticus desidiosus* male: habitus and palpus. Figure 8. Idem, female.

Familia THOMISIDAE Sundevall, 1833
Genus *Xysticus* C.L. Koch, 1835

Xysticus desidiosus Simon, 1875 Figs. 7, 8

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Italy, Sicily, Palermo, Bagheria, 09.IV.2017, 1 female, legit R. Viviano; Sicily, Palermo, Monreale, Bosco di Ficuzza, 37°52'48.8"N, 13°22'43.7"E, 1 male, legit A. Dentici.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe.

REMARKS. Both specimens were found on the ground beneath rocks. New species for Sicily.

Genus *Xysticus* C.L. Koch, 1835

Xysticus nubilus Simon, 1875

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Italy, Sicily, Palermo, Monreale, Caculla, 38°03'03.7" N, 13°14'45.1"E, 22.IV.2018, 1 male, legit A. Dentici.

DISTRIBUTION. Macaronesia, Mediterranean, Georgia.

REMARKS. This species was collected under bark of *Eucalyptus*. New species for Sicily.

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