

First record of *Trichoncus aurantiipes* Simon, 1884 (Araneae Linyphiidae) in Italy

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ABSTRACT

The spider *Trichonchus aurantiipes* Simon, 1844 (Araneae Linyphiidae), a species never reported before for Italy, was found, sampled and identified in two different Sicilian locations: Ispica, province of Ragusa, in the south-eastern coast of Sicily, and Castelvetro, province of Trapani, in the north-western side of the region. This record represents a new genus and a new species for Sicily and Italy. Additional notes on the taxonomy, distribution and biology are provided.

KEY WORDS

Araneae; Araneofauna; Spider; Linyphiidae; Sicily.

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INTRODUCTION

Up to date, there are about 28 different species belonging to the genus *Trichoncus* Simon, 1884 (Araneae Linyphiidae) in the world, mostly distributed in the Mediterranean basin (World Spider Catalog, 2020). Among them, 21 are present in Europe (Netwing, 2020) but only 8 in Italy, excluding the Islands (Pantini & Isaia, 2019): *T. affinis* Kulczynski, 1894, reported for Calabria (Ijland & Helsdingen van, 2019), Friuli Venezia Giulia (Hansen, 2011; Nardi et al., 2019), Toscana (Picchi et al., 2016), Trentino Alto-Adige (Steinberger, 2005; Steinberger, 2007; Ballini, 2009; Steinberger, 2010; Stauder et al., 2010) and Veneto (Hansen, 1995); *T. ambrosii* Wunderlich, 2011, reported for Basilicata (Ijland & Helsdingen van, 2016), Campania (Ijland & Helsdingen van, 2014), Emilia Romagna and Lombardia (Wunderlich, 2011) and Molise (Trotta, 2020); *T. auritus* (L. Koch, 1869) reported for Lom-

bardia (Pantini et al., 2016) and Trentino Alto-Adige (Rief & Ballini, 2017); *T. hackmani* Millidge, 1955, reported for Emilia Romagna (Pesarini, 1991), Lombardia (Pantini, 2000), Toscana (Picchi et al., 2016) and Veneto (Hansen, 1996); *T. helveticus* Denis, 1965 recorded for north Italy (Pesarini, 1994, sources not available); *T. saxicola* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1861) reported for Veneto (Hansen, 1995); *T. scrofa* Simon, 1884 reported for Veneto (Di Caporiacco, 1940) and *T. sordidus* Simon, 1884 reported for Basilicata (Ijland & Helsdingen van, 2016), Calabria (Ijland & Helsdingen van, 2016; 2019), Campania (Ijland & Helsdingen van, 2014) and Friuli Venezia Giulia (di Caporiacco, 1922; 1927).

In Europe, the species *Trichoncus aurantiipes* Simon, 1884 is only reported for Majorca (Orghidan et al., 1975) and Portugal (Telfer et al., 2003).

It is instead widely reported for Maghreb: in Morocco it was cited from Aln-es-Sebaa, Mar-

rakech and Sidi Yahia du Rharb (Denis, 1965), in Algeria from Alger (Simon, 1884; Bosman, 2007), Blida, Guelma, Oran, Tizi Ouzou and Tlemcen (Bosman, 2007) and in Tunisia from Ain Draham (Simon, 1885) and Tabarka (Bosman, 2007).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Both specimens were sampled on sight, preserved and transported in centrifuge tubes and fixed in 75% ethanol (Levi, 1977); subsequently, they were observed under a stereomicroscope for a correct determination and some details were also photographed, using a Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 1–5× Macro Photo lens along with a Canon 1300D reflex camera. The program CombineZP was used to fuse images. The samples collected are currently stored in the collection of one of the authors (A. Dentici).

Classification, taxonomic order, nomenclatural arrangement, and presence/absence in the Sicilian region, follow Bosman (2007), Pantini & Isaia (2019) and the World Spider Catalog (2020).

RESULTS

Systematics

Classis ARACHNIDA Lamarck, 1801

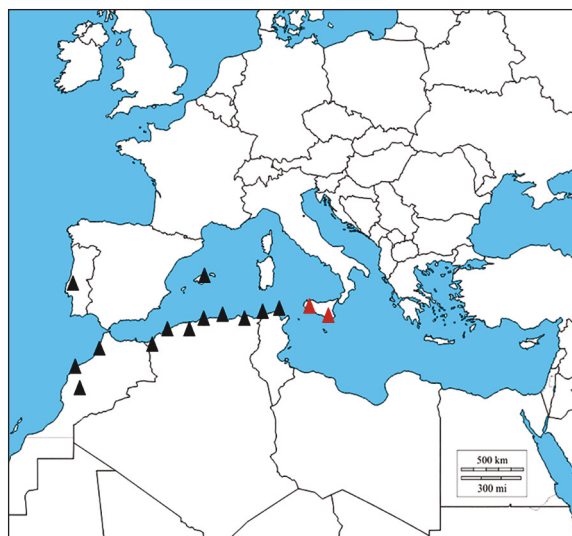


Figure 1. Distribution of *Trichoncus aurantiipes* Simon, 1884,

Ordo ARANEAE Clerck, 1757

Infraordo ARANEOMORPHAE Smith, 1902

Familia LINYPHIIDAE Blackwall, 1859

Genus *Trichoncus* Simon, 1884

Trichoncus aurantiipes Simon, 1884

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Sample A: Italy, Sicily, Ragusa, Pantano Longarini (Mouth), 36°42'15.3"N 14°59'58.0"E, 08.I.2020, 1 male, legit A.Dentici. Sample B: Sicily (Italy), Trapani, Castelvetro, 37°40'20.6" N 12°47'53.7" E, 02.VII.2020, 1 male, legit A. Barbera.

DISTRIBUTION AND BIOLOGY. Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia (Fig. 1).

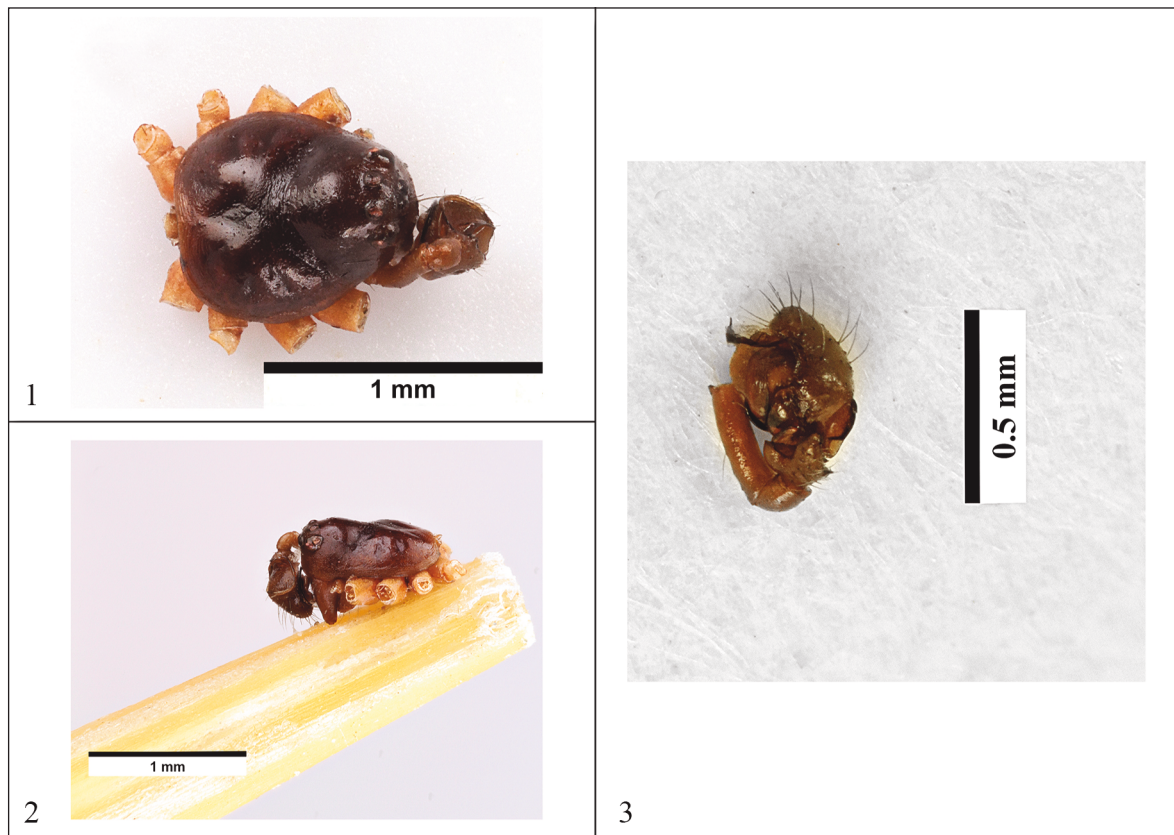
Trichoncus aurantiipes prefers large spaces with low vegetation, often found in grasslands or parks, in some cases with trees, on which, however, it has not been sampled. The specimen from Ragusa was collected among the low vegetation, near to the mouth of Pantano Longarini's swamp lake (Ispica, Ragusa). It has not been observed in other places, its finding close to the water suggests a preference for very humid and wet habitats. The sample B was sampled on sight on low vegetation, in a small private garden (Castelvetro, Trapani) where there were a lemon tree and some aromatic plants.

REMARKS. Identification follows Denis (1965) and Bosmans (2007), whose description of the male's palp coincides perfectly with the specimens found: "Tibia with long, semicircular anterolateral, and shorter, obtuse prolateral apophysis, with two small teeth in between, one pointed, one truncate; embolic division with rounded tail-piece, a somewhat twisted anterior apophysis and a gradually narrowing embolus, describing a complete circle" (Figs. 2–4).

This record represents a new genus and a new species for Sicily and Italy.

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Figures 1–3. *Trichoncus aurantiipes* Simon, 1884, sample A. Fig. 1: prosoma, dorsal view. Fig. 2: prosoma, lateral view. Fig. 3: palp, external face (photos by E. Schifani).

Italy) for their useful advice, and our families, who are always close to us.

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