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New species of jumping spiders from South Africa (Araneae: Salticidae)

Wanda Wesolowska

ABSTRACT

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Descriptions of two new species of African salticids, *Heliophanus thaleri* sp. nov. and *Rhene konradi* sp. nov. are given.

Key words: Arachnology, Araneae, Salticidae, *Heliophanus*, *Rhene*, new species, Afro-tropical Region.

Introduction

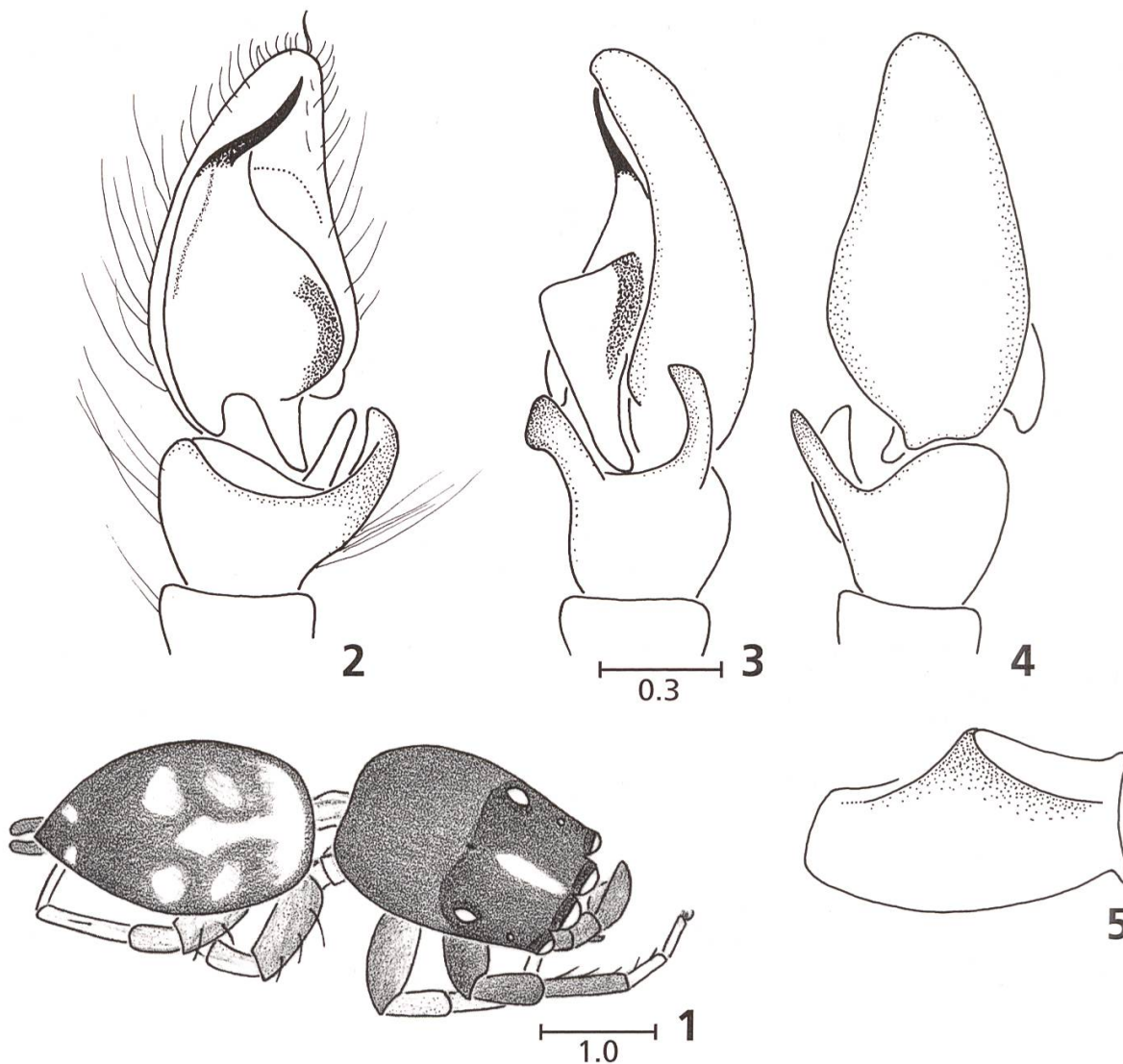
Jumping spiders of southern Africa were first extensively explored by Peckham & Peckham (1902, 1903). In recent decades, studies of many authors followed. Despite the intensification of work, the salticids of this part of Africa are still poorly known. Contributing to the knowledge of this area, I describe here two new salticids from Free State Province.

Taxonomy

***Heliophanus thaleri* sp. nov.** (Figs. 1–5)

Holotype, male, South Africa, Free State Province, Sandveld Nature Reserve, 22. IX. 2003, leg. C. Haddad, National Collection of Arachnida, ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.

Diagnosis: The species resembles *Heliophanus claviger* SIMON, 1901 from South Africa, but can be distinguished by the distinctly longer embolus and



Figs. 1–5. *Heliophanus thaleri* sp. nov., holotype. – 1: General appearance; – 2: Palpal organ in ventral view; – 3: Same in lateral view; – 4: Same in dorsal view; – 5: Palpal femur. Scale in mm.

the shape of the tibial apophysis, which is narrower (compare Figs. 2–4 herein with figs. 54–57 in Wesołowska 1986).

Etymology: The species is dedicated to the late Prof. Konrad Thaler, the prominent specialist of spiders and expert for the alpine fauna.

Description:

Measurements (in mm): Carapace length 2.3, width 1.6, height 1.0. Abdomen length 2.5, width 1.6. Eye field length 1.0, anterior width 1.3, posterior width 1.4.

Male. General appearance as in Fig. 1. Carapace ovoid, medium high with prominent flat area extending half way along the thorax and steeply inclined posterior thoracic slope. Thoracic area dark brown, eye field black with metallic lustre. Dorsal surface of carapace covered with delicate, thin, dark hairs, longer and denser in vicinity of eyes, within eye field a median light streak

composed of white hairs. Reddish fawn scales surround anterior eyes and form small tufts between them. Clypeus very low. Chelicerae unidentate, labium and sternum dark brown, gnathocoxae with lighter inner margins. Abdomen oval, dark brown, clothed in dark shining hairs, long brown bristles at anterior margin of abdomen. White hairs on dorsal surface form a pattern consisting of a large T-shaped patch and three pairs of rounded spots, the one at the end of abdomen smallest (Fig. 1). Venter brown, lighter than dorsum. Spinnerets brownish. First leg dark brown, remaining pairs light brown with darker femora. Leg hairs and spines brown. Pedipalps dark brown. Bulb triangular with two prominent posterior lobes, embolus short (Fig. 2), two long tibial apophyses, the ventral one wider (Fig. 3). Palpal femur with big process on ventral surface (Fig. 5).

Female unknown.

Affinities: This species belongs to the subgenus *Heliocapensis* WESOŁOWSKA, 1986.

***Rhene konradi* sp. nov.** (Figs. 6–8)

Holotype, female, South Africa, Free State Province, Tussen-die-Riviere Nature Reserve, Ill. 2001, leg. C. Haddad, National Collection of Arachnida, ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.

Paratypes: together with holotype, 1 female, NCA, Pretoria; together with holotype, 1 female, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium.

Diagnosis: The species is similar to *Rhene formosa* ROLLARD & WESOŁOWSKA, 2002 from West Africa, but may be recognized by the form of the epigyne; the new species possesses two epigynal depressions separated by a median elevated septum, while *R. formosa* has a single large depression (compare Fig. 7 herein with fig. 16 B in Rollard & Wesołowska 2002). The presence of accessory glands is distinctive too.

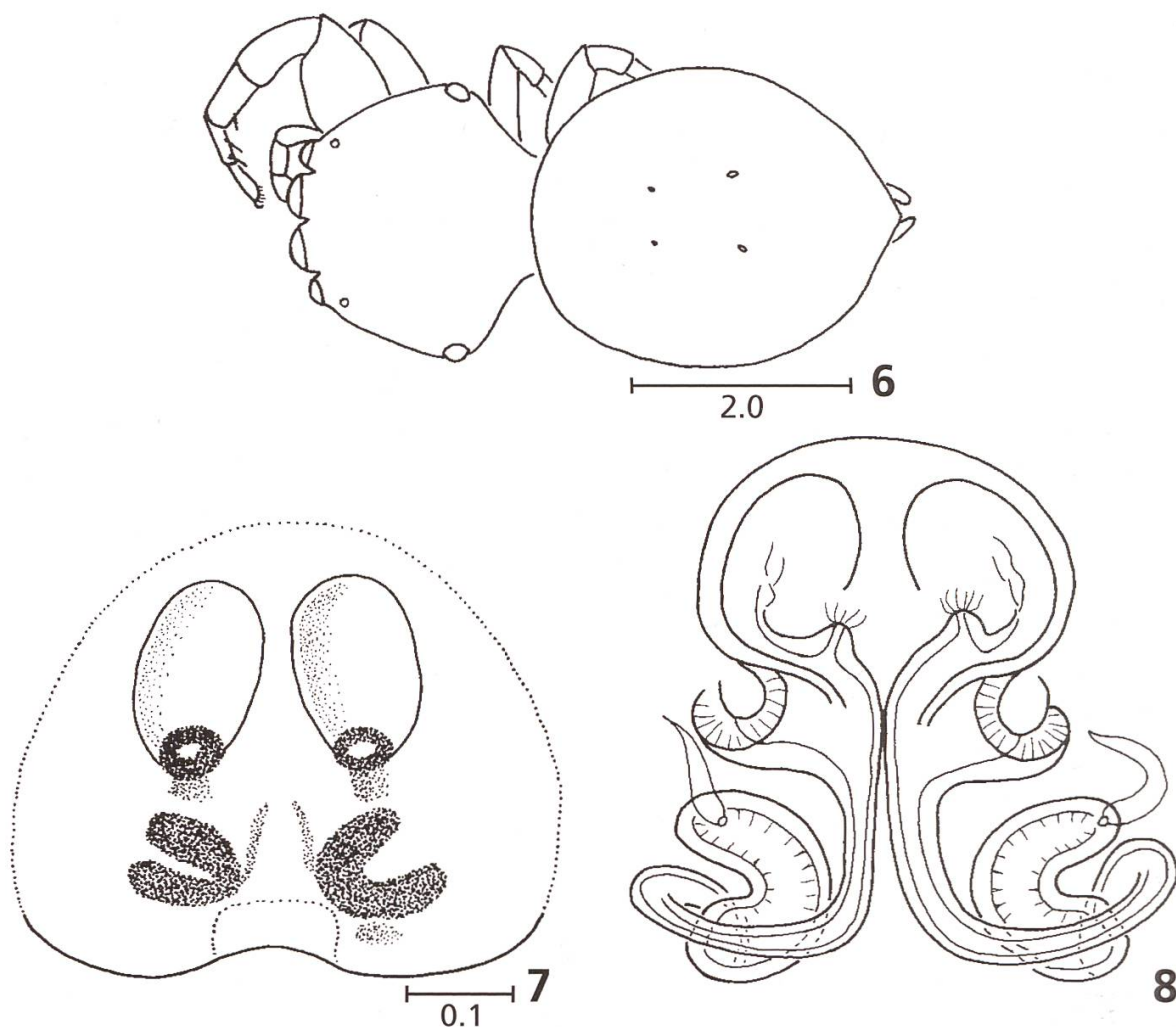
Etymology: The species is named in honour of Konrad Thaler.

Description:

Measurements (in mm): Carapace length 1.3–1.5, width 1.6–1.7, height 0.6–0.7. Abdomen length 1.9–2.3, width 1.7–1.9. Eye field length 0.8–1.0, anterior width 0.9–1.0, posterior width 1.6–1.7.

Male unknown.

Female. Shape of body as in Fig. 6. Small, robust, flattened spider. Carapace wider than long, with very large trapeziform eye field occupying two



Figs. 6–8. *Rhene konradi* sp. nov., paratype. – 6: General appearance; – 7: Epigyne; – 8: Internal structure of epigyne, dorsal view. Scale in mm.

thirds of its length. Second row of eyes near first one. Posterior part of carapace flattened, covered by anterior part of abdomen. Carapace dark brown, clothed in dense greyish hairs, some long thin bristles in vicinity of eyes, small patches formed by grey hairs between eyes of front row. Clypeus very low, covered with light hairs extending on lateral margins of carapace. Chelicerae dark brown, unidentate. Labium and sternum dark brown, gnathocoxae brown with light margins. Abdomen rounded, wider than carapace, with readily visible sigilla, dark brown, almost without hairs. Venter lighter than dorsum. Spinnerets brownish. Legs short, first pair slightly longer and thicker than remaining, dark brown. One pair of thick spines on tibia I ventrally, two pairs on metatarsus. Remaining legs light brown with darker distal parts of segments, tarsi orange. Leg hairs thin, brown. Epigyne large, strongly sclerotized, with broad pocket at epigastric fold and two oval shallow depressions anteriorly (Fig. 7), plugged with waxy secretion. Copulatory openings hidden in entrance cavities, seminal ducts long and thin, receptacles large, accessory glands fall into initial part of seminal ducts, at entrance cavities (Fig. 8).

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