

## Linyphiid spiders collected by V. Mahnert in Kenya, with the description of a new genus and two new species (Arachnida: Araneae)

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**Abstract:** A collection of spiders from Kenya, assembled by Prof. Volker Mahnert and deposited in the Natural History Museum of Geneva, contains 16 identifiable linyphiid species. Among of them a new genus and two new species were revealed: *Afrotrichona* gen. nov., with *Afrotrichona mahnerti* sp. nov. as the type species, and *Agyneta spinifera* sp. nov. Males of *Pelecopsis subflava* Russell-Smith & Jocqué, 1986, *Lepthyphantes* (s. str.) *buensis* Bosmans & Jocqué, 1983, and *Machadocara gongyloides* Miller, 1970 are illustrated and briefly redescribed. The latter two species, together with *Agyneta habra* (Locket, 1968), *Metalepthyphantes vicinus* Locket, 1968, *Microctenonyx subitaneus* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1875) and *P. pasteurii* (Berland in Fage & Simon, 1936), are reported for the Kenyan fauna for the first time. In addition, *A. spinifera* sp. nov. is also reported from Tanzania.

**Keywords:** Taxonomy - Afrotropics - fauna - species records.

### INTRODUCTION

At present, the linyphiid fauna of the Afrotropical Region amounts to at least 422 species, 106 of them are recorded from Kenya (Caporiacco, 1947, 1949; Denis, 1950a, 1962; Holm, 1962, 1968, 1979; Bosmans, 1977, 1979; Jocque, 1984; Russell-Smith & Jocque, 1986; Scharff, 1989; etc.). Spider material collected by Prof. Volker Mahnert in Kenya, which is presented below, adds to the Kenyan spider list eight linyphiid species, two of them are described here as new to science.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

This paper is based on spider material collected by Volker Mahnert (1943-2018) in Kenya and kept at the Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève, Switzerland (MHNG) of which he was the director from 1989 to 2005 (Schwendinger, 2019). The MHNG field numbers are given in square brackets. Specimens preserved in 75% ethanol were studied using a MBS-9 stereomicroscope. A Levenhuk C-800 digital camera was used for taking some of the pictures. The chaetotaxy of Erigoninae is given in a formula, e.g., 1.1.1.1, which refers to the number of dorsal spines on tibiae I-IV. In Micronetinae the chaetotaxy is given in a different formula, e.g., Ti I: 2-1-1-0, which means that tibia I has two dorsal spines,

one pro-, one retrolateral spine, and no ventral spine (the apical spines are disregarded). All measurements are given in mm. The sequence of leg segment measurements is as follows: femur + patella + tibia + metatarsus + tarsus. Scale lines in the figures correspond to 0.1 mm unless indicated otherwise. Figure numbers are shown above the corresponding scale lines, the length they represent is given below them. The terminology of copulatory organs mainly follows that of Merrett (1963) and that of authors mentioned in the abbreviations below.

### Abbreviations

ARP	anterior radical apophysis
DSA	distal suprategular apophysis <i>sensu</i> Hormiga (2000)
E	embolus
EP	embolus proper <i>sensu</i> Saaristo (1971)
Fe	femur
FG	Fickert's gland
LC	lamella characteristica <i>sensu</i> Kulczyński (1898)
MM	median membrane <i>sensu</i> Helsdingen (1965)
Mt	metatarsus
P	paracymbium
PH	pit-hook <i>sensu</i> Saaristo (1973)
PMP	posterior median plate <i>sensu</i> Helsdingen <i>et al.</i> (1977)
R	radix

T	needle-shaped tooth
TA	terminal apophysis <i>sensu</i> Helsdingen (1965)
TmI	position of trichobothrium on metatarsus I
Ti	tibia
TP	tailpiece (= fusiform/worm-shaped proximal part of radix) <i>sensu</i> Crosby & Bishop (1925).

## RESULTS

### Genus *Afrotrichona* gen. nov.

**Type species:** *Afrotrichona mahnerti* sp. nov.

**Etymology:** The generic name is a combination of two words: “Afro”, referring to the “*terra typica*”, and a part of the generic name *Trichoncoides* (see taxonomic remarks below). The gender is feminine.

**Diagnosis:** The genus contains medium-sized erigonines (total length 1.90-2.25) characterized by the following combination of somatic and genitalic characters:

- 1) Carapace unmodified in both sexes (Figs 1-3), eyes normal, not enlarged, cephalic pits (= sulci) absent.
- 2) Chaetotaxy formula 1.1.1.1. Metatarsus IV without trichobothrium. TmI 0.29-0.32.
- 3) Palpal tibia modified (Figs 8, 10).
- 4) Paracymbium small, narrow, strongly curved and almost forming a loop (Fig. 8).
- 5) Distal suprategular apophysis moderately developed (Figs 8, 12).
- 6) Embolus twisted. Radix with an anterior process guiding and protecting embolus (Figs 8-9, 11).
- 7) Epigyne with a visor-shaped structure overhanging its cavity, lateral walls forming an arch (Figs 4-7, 13-15).

**Taxonomic remarks:** The new Afrotropical erigonine genus bears some resemblance to the Ancient Mediterranean *Trichoncoides* Denis, 1950b. Namely, the embolic division in *Afrotrichona mahnerti* sp. nov. is similar to that in *T. piscator* (Simon, 1884) and *T. striganovae* Tanasevitch & Piterkina, 2012 by the presence of an anterior radical process guiding and protecting the embolus (Figs 9, 11 cf. Tanasevitch & Piterkina, 2012: fig. 7). The presence of a “visor” in the epigyne of *A. mahnerti* sp. nov. makes it resemble the epigyne of *Trichoncoides* members (Figs 13-14 cf. Tanasevitch & Piterkina, 2012: figs 40-45). The new genus is clearly distinguished from *Trichoncoides* by the chaetotaxy formula (1.1.1.1 in *Afrotrichona* gen. nov. versus 2.2.1.1 in *Trichoncoides*), by the unmodified male carapace, i.e. absence of a special group of spines on its cephalic part, as well as by the absence of a median septum in the epigyne of females.

**Species included:** Only the type species.

**Distribution:** Kenya.

### *Afrotrichona mahnerti* sp. nov.

Figs 1-15

**Holotype:** MHNG; male [sample KENYA-74/35]; KENYA, Kerio Valley, 1100 m a.s.l., under stones; 18.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Paratypes:** MHNG; 1 male, 3 females [sample KENYA-74/35], collected together with the holotype. – MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/36]; KENYA, Lake Baringo, environs of Lake Baringo Lodge, 980 m a.s.l., sifting in savannah at foot of trees; 18.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Etymology:** The new species is named in honour of the well-known arachnologist, entomologist and ichthyologist Prof. Volker Mahnert, the collector of the type material.

#### Description

**Male paratype:** Total length 2.25 (Fig. 1). Carapace unmodified, 0.80 long, 0.68 wide, pale brown, with a grey polygonal spot in its centre and with a narrow grey margin (Figs 1-2). Chelicerae 0.35 long, unmodified. Legs pale brown to brown. Leg I 2.54 long ( $0.75 + 0.23 + 0.63 + 0.55 + 0.38$ ), IV 2.66 long ( $0.78 + 0.25 + 0.63 + 0.60 + 0.40$ ). Chaetotaxy 1.1.1.1, spines 1.5-2 times as long as diameter of corresponding leg segment. Metatarsus IV without trichobothrium. TmI 0.32. Palp (Figs 8-12): tibia conical distally, with a dark tooth retrolaterally; paracymbium narrow, almost forming a loop; distal suprategular apophysis relatively short, spoon-shaped; radix large; anterior radical process flat, tapering and directed forward, slightly curved and partially guiding and covering embolus; embolus thin, twisted. Abdomen (Fig. 1) 1.53 long, 1.18 wide, dark grey, sparsely covered with long hairs.

**Female paratype:** Total length 1.90 (Fig. 3). Carapace unmodified, 0.73 long, 0.58 wide. Chelicerae unmodified, 0.30 long. Legs pale brown. Leg I 2.26 long ( $0.63 + 0.20 + 0.55 + 0.50 + 0.38$ ), IV 2.49 long ( $0.75 + 0.20 + 0.63 + 0.53 + 0.38$ ). TmI 0.29. Abdomen (Figs 3-5) 1.23 long, 0.90 wide, dark grey, sparsely covered with long hairs (not visible in Figs 3-5 due to camera limitations). Epigyne (Figs 4-7, 13-15): epigynal cavity shallow, its anterior part somewhat covered by a rounded “visor”. Lateral walls forming an arch, tapering anteriorly. Posterior median plate as long as wide, its anterior edge with a wide and shallow invagination. Chaetotaxy as in male.

**Distribution:** Kenya.

### *Agyneta spinifera* sp. nov.

Figs 16-26

**Holotype:** MHNG; male [sample KENYA-74/06]; KENYA, Lake Naivasha, 10 km from Fisherman’s Camp, under bark and stones; 5.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Paratypes:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/38]; Laikipia County, near Mukutan source, sifting in bushes; 22.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG; 1 male; TANZANIA, Arusha; 5.II.1981; leg. Chr. Burckhardt.

**Etymology:** The specific epithet is a feminine noun in apposition referring to the needle-shaped tooth at the base of the embolus in the male.

#### Description

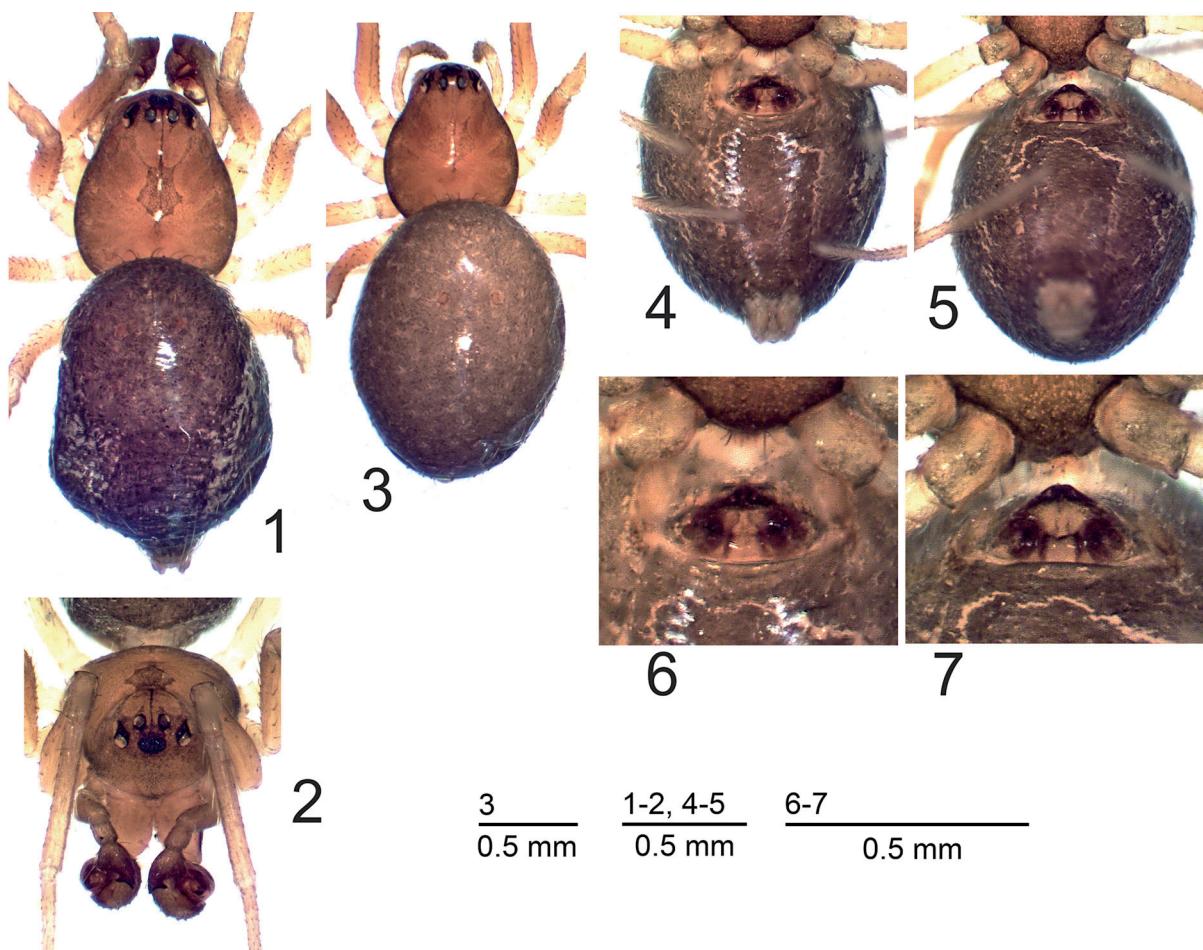
**Male holotype:** Total length 1.65. Carapace slightly elongated, 0.75 long, 0.38 wide, brown, with a narrow grey margin. Chelicerae 0.28 long. Legs pale brown, femora with grey longitudinal darkening, tibiae darkened distally. Leg I 2.52 long ( $0.65 + 0.18 + 0.68 + 0.58 + 0.43$ ), IV 2.52 long ( $0.68 + 0.18 + 0.68 + 0.63 + 0.35$ ). Chaetotaxy 2.2.2.2, prolateral spine on TiI absent. Metatarsus IV without trichobothrium. TmI 0.22. Palp (Figs 16-26): tibia apically with two projections: a small, rounded prolateral one, and a short, wide, keel-shaped retrolateral one; cymbium with a small tubercle prolaterally; paracymbium relatively large, its posterior

and anterior pockets poorly developed; distal suprategular apophysis with a small pit-hook; median membrane essentially reduced; lamella characteristica wide, apically notched, with small teeth/spikes on its upper edge and terminally; terminal apophysis long, widened proximally, tapered distally; embolus moderately bent, with a long, needle-shaped tooth at its base. Abdomen 0.90 long, 0.50 wide, dark grey.

**Female:** Unknown.

**Taxonomic remarks:** In the shape of its lamella characteristica the new species resembles *A. flandroyae* (Jocqué, 1985), known from Mt Karthala (1950-2300 m a.s.l.), Grande Comoros. *Agyneta spinifera* sp. nov. differs in the shape of the palpal tibia (Figs 18-21 cf. Jocque, 1985: fig. 28), in the shorter and slightly uncinate pit-hook on the distal suprategular apophysis (Fig. 22 cf. Jocque, 1985: figs 29, 31), as well as by the absence of a needle-shaped tooth at the base of the embolus.

**Distribution:** Known from Kenya and Tanzania.



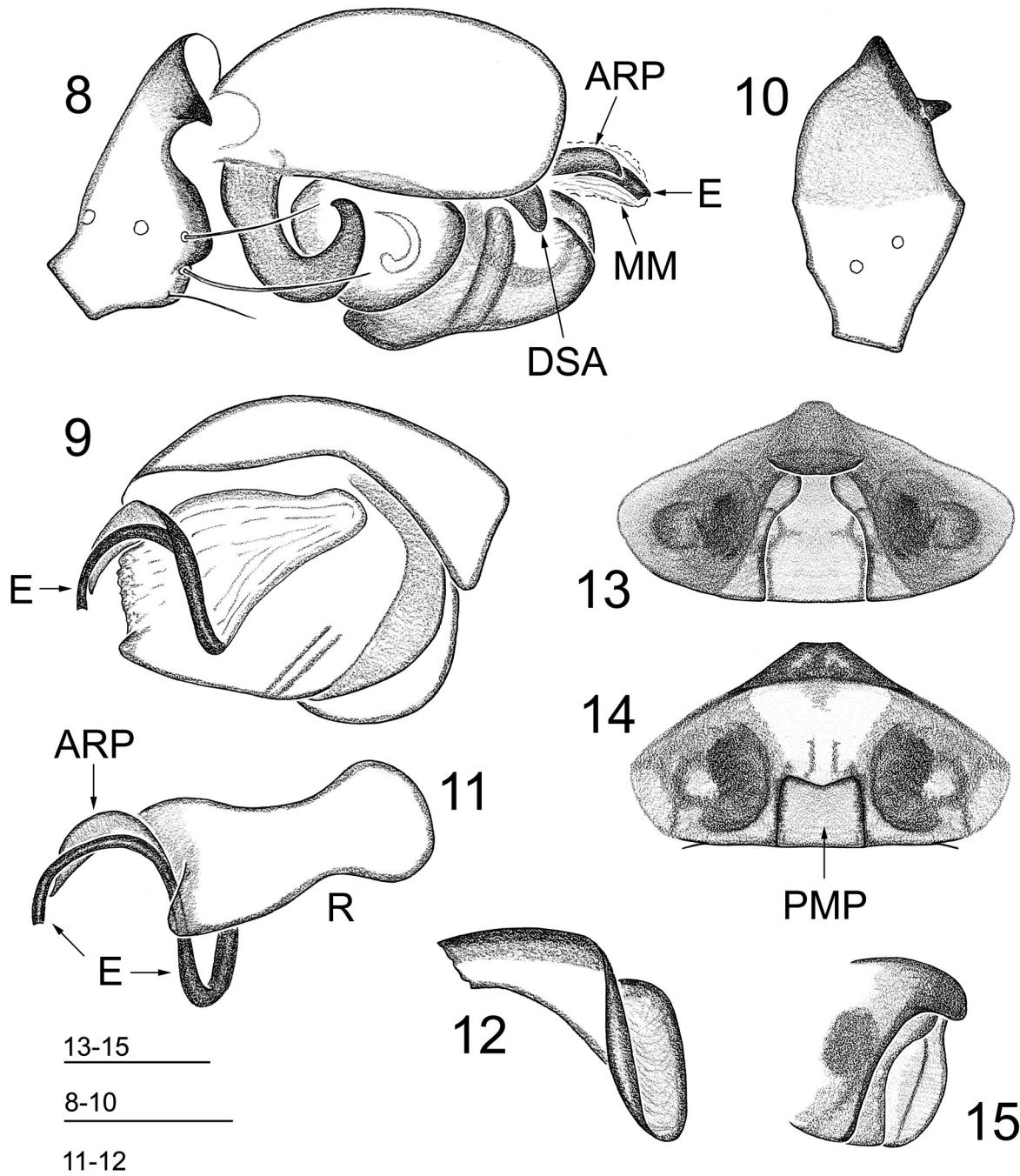
Figs 1-7. Photographs of *Afrotrichona mahnerti* sp. nov., male paratype (1-2) and female paratype (3-7). (1, 3) Habitus, dorsal view. (2) Prosoma, dorso-frontal view. (4-5) Abdomen, ventral and postero-ventral view, respectively. (6-7) Epigyne, ventral and postero-ventral view, respectively.

*Agyneta habra* (Locket, 1968)

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/01]; KENYA, Nairobi, sifting dead leaves in garden; 2.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG; 1 male, 1 female [KENYA-74/06]; 10 km from Fisherman's Camp, under bark and stones; 5.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG;

1 male [KENYA-74/38]; Laikipia, near Mukutan source, sifting in bushes; 22.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Remarks:** This species was hitherto known from Angola (Locket, 1968) and Nigeria (Locket & Russell-Smith, 1980). It is here recorded for the fauna of Kenya for the first time.



Figs 8-15. Details of male palp and epigyne structure of *Afrotrichona mahnerti* sp. nov., male paratype (8-12) and female paratype (13-15). (8-9) Right palp, retrolateral and ventro-prolateral view, respectively. (10) Palpal tibia, dorsal view. (11) Embolic division, ventro-prolateral view. (12) Distal supraregular apophysis, lateral view. (13-15) Epigyne, ventral, postero-ventral and lateral view, respectively.

*Ceratocyba umbilicaris* Holm, 1962

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/32]; KENYA, Mt Elgon National Park, ascent to Koitobos Peak, 2700 m a.s.l., sifting under bamboo; 15.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

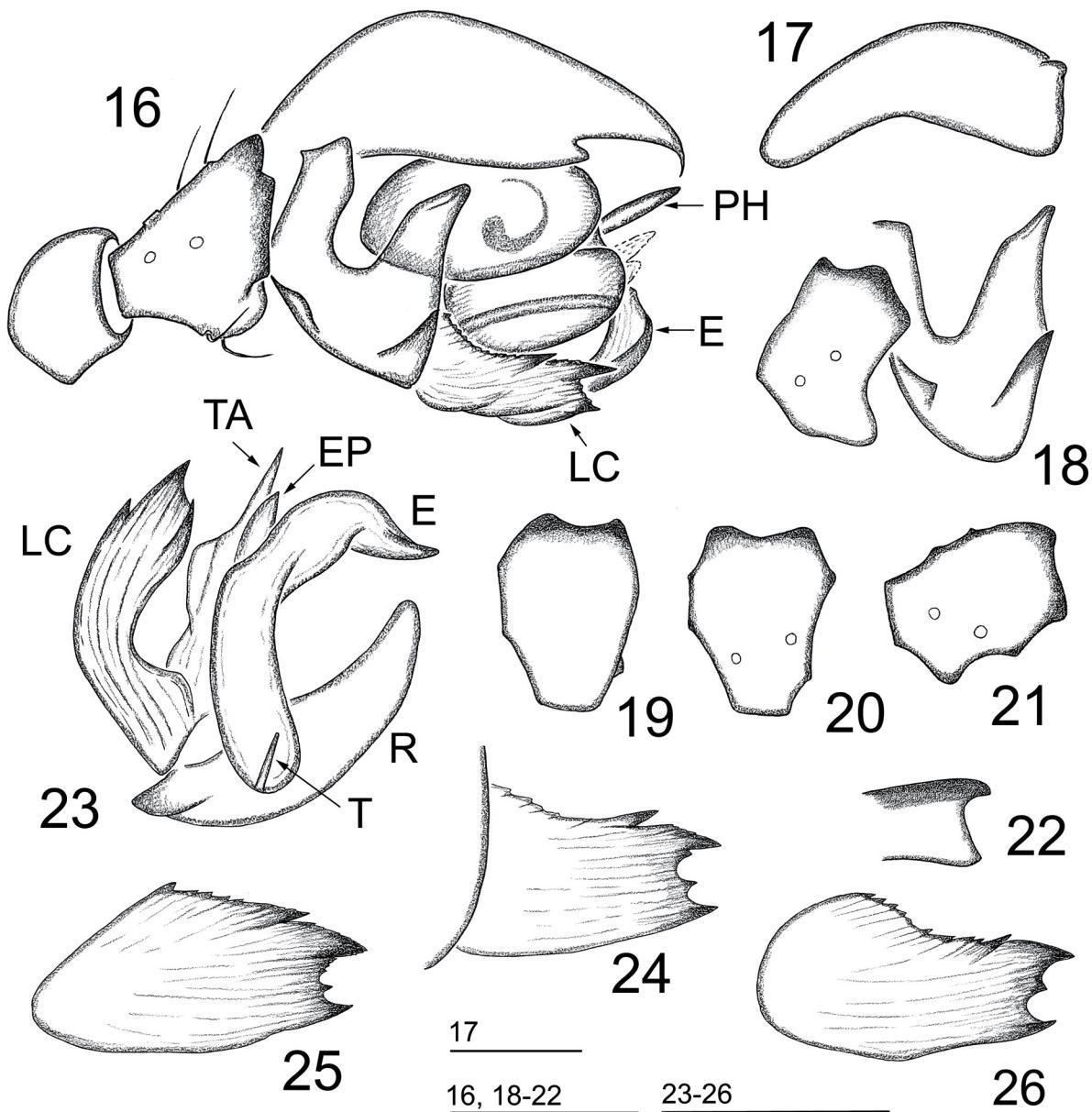
**Remarks:** This species was hitherto known from the same mountain, Mt Elgon, 2600 m a.s.l., Kenya (Holm, 1962).

*Leptyphantes buensis* Bosmans & Jocqué, 1983

Figs 27-28, 36-40

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male, 2 females [sample KENYA-74/01]; KENYA, Nairobi, sifting dead leaves in garden; 2.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Short re-description:** *Male.* Total length 2.00 (Fig. 27). Carapace unmodified, 0.88 long, 0.75 wide, greyish pale brown, with narrow grey radial stripes. Chelicerae 0.33 long. Legs pale brown to yellow. Leg I 4.10 long ( $1.05 + 0.25 + 1.05 + 1.10 + 0.65$ ), IV 3.63 long (1.00

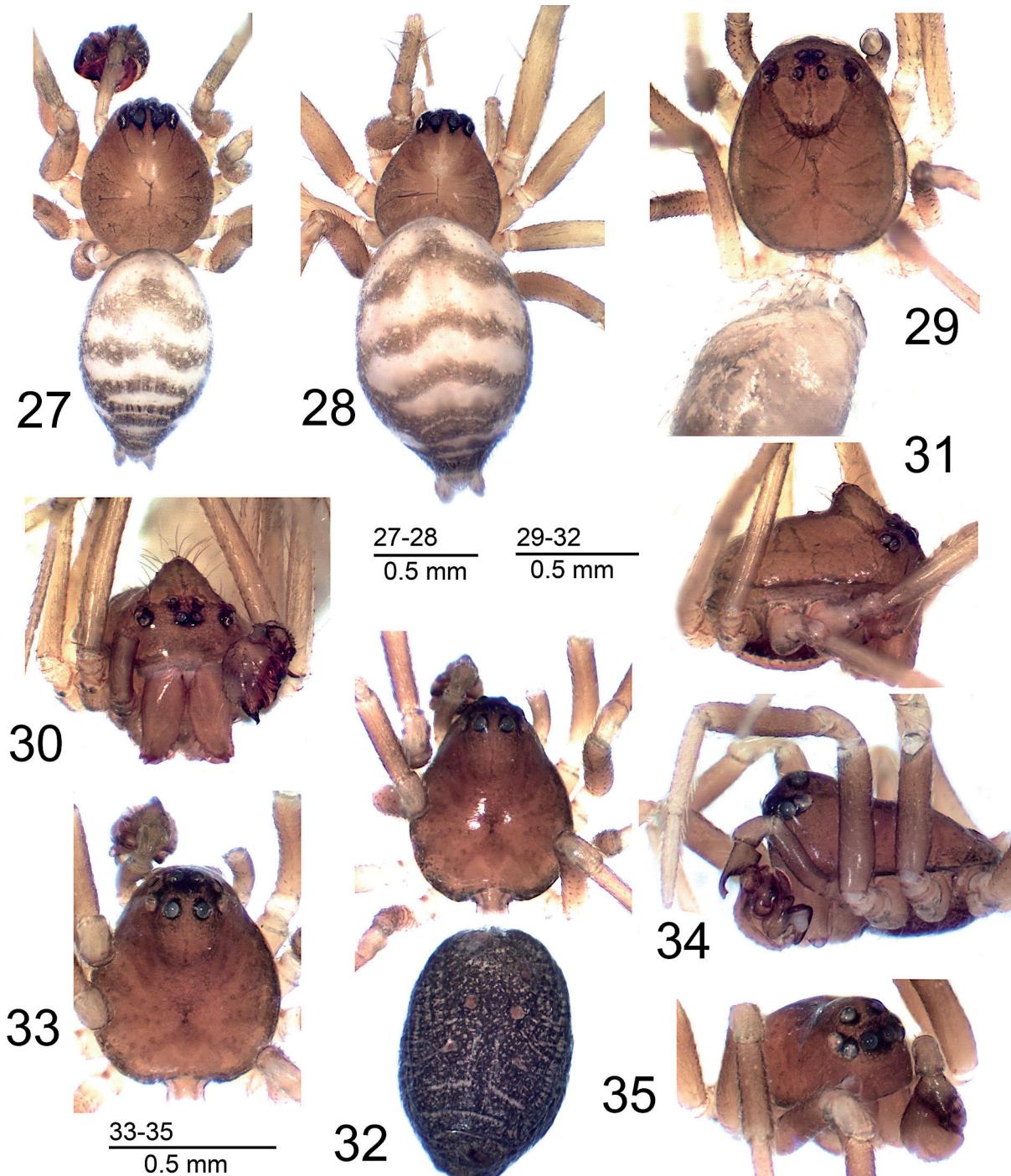


Figs 16-26. Details of male palp structure of *Agyneta spinifera* sp. nov., male holotype (16-25) and male paratype from Mukutan (26). (16) Right palp, retrolateral view. (17) Cymbium, prolateral view. (18) Palpal tibia and paracymbium, prolateral view. (19-21) Palpal tibia, dorsal view, different aspects (19-20), lateral view (21). (22) Pit-hook, lateral view. (23) Embolic division, ventro-prolateral view. (24-26) Lamella characteristic, lateral view, different aspects.

$+ 0.23 + 0.95 + 0.95 + 0.50$ ). Chaetotaxy: FeI: 0-1-0-0, II-IV: 0-0-0-0; TiI: 2-1-1-0, TiII: 2-0-1-0. MtI-III: 1-0-0-0. TmI 0.11. Palp (Figs 36-40): cymbium with two projections basally; paracymbium relatively large, toothless; embolus large, slightly bent, carina reduced; terminal apophysis consisting of two parts of different shapes; lamella characteristic well-sclerotized,

complex. Abdomen 1.13 long, 0.75 wide, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 27.

*Female.* Total length 2.25 (Fig. 28). Carapace 0.93 long, 0.75 wide. Chelicerae 0.45 long. Leg I 4.34 long (1.10 + 0.28 + 1.08 + 1.00 + 0.88), IV 3.98 (1.10 + 0.25 + 1.00 + 1.05 + 0.58). TmI 0.13. Abdomen 1.50 long, 1.13 wide, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 28. Epigyne as illustrated



Figs 27-35. Photographs of *Lepthyphantes* (s. str.) *buensis* Bosmans & Jocqué, 1983 (27-28), *Machadocara gongylioides* Miller, 1970 (29-31) and *Pelecopsis subflava* Russell-Smith & Jocqué, 1986 (32-35). (27-29, 32) Habitus, dorsal view. (30-31, 33-35) Prosoma, frontal (30), lateral (31, 34), dorsal (33) and fronto-lateral view (35).

by Bosmans & Jocqué (1983), Bosmans (1986). Body and leg coloration, and chaetotaxy as in male.

**Distribution:** This species was hitherto known from Cameroon only: Mt Cameroon, 1200-1800 m a.s.l. (Bosmans & Jocqué, 1983) and Mbam Massif, 1200 m a.s.l. (Bosmans, 1986). It is here recorded for the fauna of Kenya for the first time.

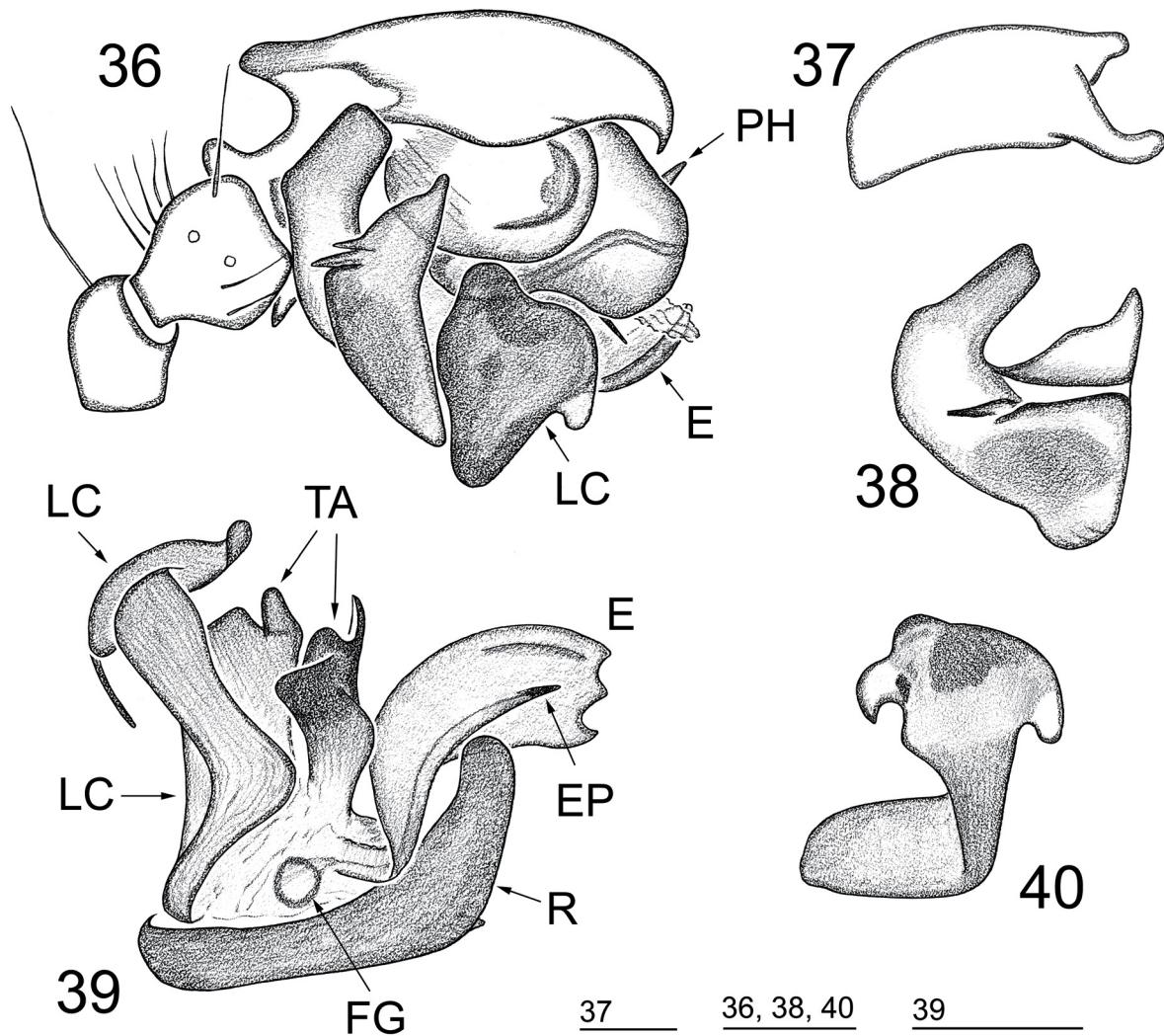
**Taxonomic remarks:** Judging from male genital morphology, namely the structure the embolus (see Saaristo & Tanasevitch, 1996b), the species belongs to *Lepthyphantes* sensu stricto, together with *L. cruentatus* Tanasevitch, 1987, *L. iranicus* Saaristo & Tanasevitch, 1996a, *L. leprosus* (Ohlert, 1867), *L. minutus* (Blackwall, 1833), *L. rossitsae* Dimitrov, 2018 and *L. simiensis* Bosmans, 1978.

***Machadocara gongylioides* Miller, 1970**

Figs 29-31, 41-44

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/07]; KENYA, Lake Naivasha, 5 km from Fisherman's Camp, under stones; 5.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Short re-description:** *Male.* Total length 2.05. Carapace modified as shown in Figs 29-31, 0.88 long, 0.70 wide, pale brown, with a narrow grey margin. Chelicerae 0.35 long. Legs relatively long and slender, pale brown. Leg I 3.86 long ( $1.05 + 0.25 + 0.95 + 0.98 + 0.63$ ), IV 3.68 long ( $1.05 + 0.20 + 0.90 + 0.93 + 0.60$ ). Chaetotaxy 1.1.1.1, spines 1-1.5 times diameters of corresponding leg segment. Metatarsus IV without trichobothrium. TmI 0.32. Palp (Figs 41-44): tibia



Figs 36-40. Details of male palp structure of *Leptyphantes* (s. str.) *buensis* Bosmans & Jocqué, 1983. (36) Right palp, retro-lateral view. (37) Cymbium, prolateral view. (38) Paracymbium, lateral view. (39) Embolic division, ventro-prolateral view. (40) Lamella characteristica, lateral view.

with a *Trichoncus*-like prolateral process, slightly widening distally; paracymbium extremely narrow; tegulum narrowing in its distal part; distal supraregular apophysis with a claw-shaped process; radix slender, its proximal part elongated, tailpiece-shaped; anterior radical process present, narrow, slightly curved distally; embolus thick, gradually tapering, forming a loop. Abdomen 1.20 long, 0.80 wide, grey.

**Distribution:** This species was hitherto known from Leopards Hill Cave, 1100 m a.s.l., Republic of Zambia (Miller, 1970). It is here recorded for the fauna of Kenya for the first time.

#### *Mecynidis muthaiga* Russell-Smith & Jocqué, 1986

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male, 1 female [sample KENYA-74/07]; KENYA, Lake Naivasha, 10 km from Fisherman's Camp, under stones; 5.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Distribution:** This species was hitherto known from Nairobi (Russell-Smith & Jocqué, 1986) and from Kinja, Lake Naivasha, 1950 m a.s.l., Kenya (Scharff, 1989).

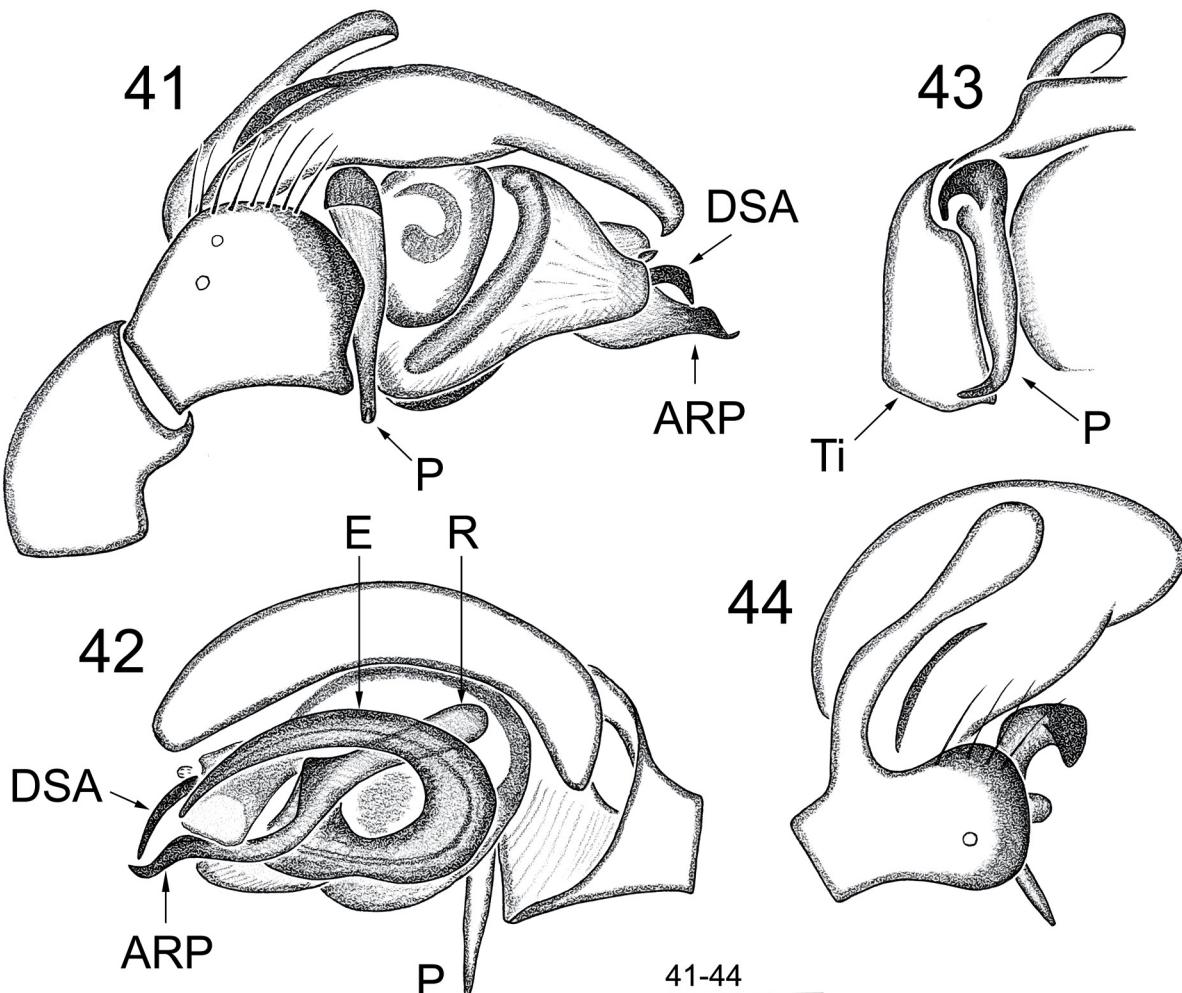
#### *Metalephyphantes vicinus* Locket, 1968

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/44]; KENYA, environs of Nanyuki, 2000 m a.s.l., sifting in bushes; 24.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Distribution:** This species was hitherto known from Luimbale, 2300 m a.s.l., Angola (Locket, 1968). It is here recorded for the fauna of Kenya for the first time.

#### *Microctenonyx subitaneus* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1875)

**Material examined:** MHNG; 2 females [sample KENYA-74/01]; KENYA, Nairobi, sifting dead leaves



Figs 41-44. Details of male palp structure of *Machadocara gongylioides* Miller, 1970. (41-42) Right palp, retrolateral and prolateral view, respectively. (43) Proximal part of palpal organ, antero-retrolateral view. (44) Tibia, cymbium and paracymbium, dorsal view.

in garden; 2.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG; 1 male, 2 females [sample KENYA-74/08]; Lake Nakuru National Park, sifting dead leaves (*Acacia*); 6.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Distribution:** This species is here recorded for the fauna of Kenya for the first time. Previous records of natural occurrence are from Europe, Macaronesia, North Africa to Kyrgyzstan. It has been introduced to the USA, Argentina, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand (World Spider Catalog, 2020).

***Pelecopsis alticola* (Berland in Fage & Simon, 1936)**

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/14]; KENYA, hill north of Kisumu, 1400 m a.s.l., sifting; 9.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG; 1 female [sample KENYA-74/42c], Mt Kenya, 2750 m a.s.l., Naromoruk Road, soil sample in bamboo (Berlese extraction); 23.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Distribution:** This species was hitherto known from Aberdare, Mt Kinangop, 3100-3400 m a.s.l., Kenya (Fage & Simon, 1936, Holm, 1962).

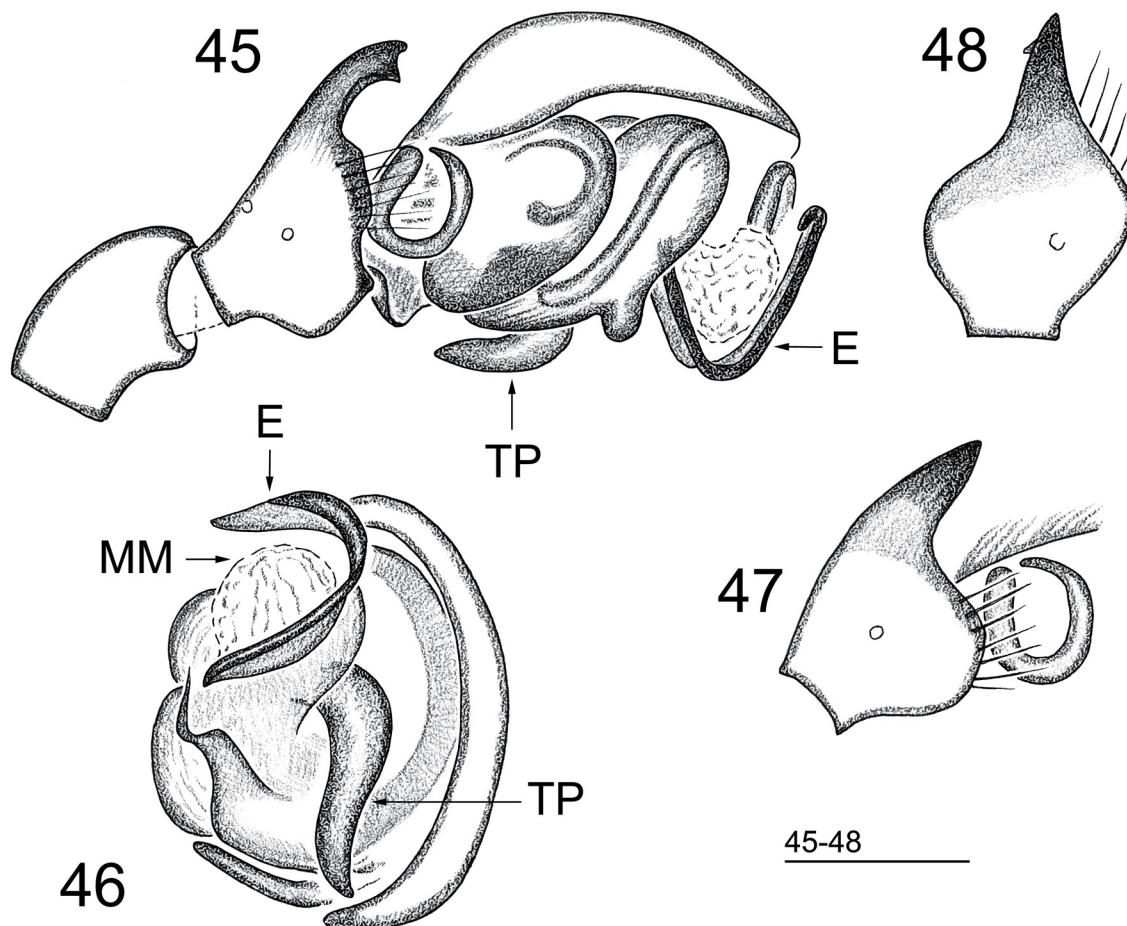
***Pelecopsis alticola kenyensis* (Holm, 1962)**

**Material examined:** MHNG; 6 males, 12 females [sample KENYA-74/08]; KENYA, Lake Nakuru National Park, sifting dead leaves (*Acacia*); 6.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Distribution:** This species was hitherto known from Mt Kenya, 3920 m a.s.l., Kenya (Holm, 1962).

***Pelecopsis pastouri* (Berland in Fage & Simon, 1936)**

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/62]; KENYA, Taita Hills, Mwarungu (N Wundanyi), 1700 m a.s.l., in dead leaves; 3.XII.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.



Figs 45-48. Details of male palp structure of *Pelecopsis subflava* Russell-Smith & Jocqué, 1986. (45-46) Right palp, retrolateral and ventro-prolateral view, respectively. (47) Tibia and paracymbium, retrolateral and slightly proximal view. (48) Tibia, dorsal view.

**Distribution:** This species was hitherto known from Mt Kilimanjaro, 2700-3800 m a.s.l., Tanzania (Fage & Simon, 1936; Holm, 1962). It is here recorded for the fauna of Kenya for the first time.

***Pelecopsis subflava* Russell-Smith & Jocqué, 1986**  
Figs 32-35, 45-48

**Material examined:** MHNG; male [sample KENYA-74/06]; KENYA, Lake Naivasha, 10 km from Fisherman's Camp, under bark and stones; 5.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/09]; Lake Nakuru, near lake, under bark and under stones; 6.XI.1974, leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/38]; Laikipia, near Mukutan source, sifting in bushes; 22.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Re-description: Male.** Total length 1.28 (Fig. 32). Carapace 0.75 long, 0.60 wide, brown, with a grey margin. Cephalic part of carapace slightly elevated (Figs 33-35). Chelicerae 0.28 long, unmodified. Legs pale brown to brown. Leg I 1.66 long ( $0.45 + 0.18 + 0.38 + 0.35 + 0.30$ ), IV 1.91 long ( $0.53 + 0.20 + 0.48 + 0.40 + 0.30$ ). Chaetotaxy unclear: 0.0.0.0, or spines lost. Metatarsus IV without trichobothrium. TmI 0.54. Palp (Figs 45-48): tibia with a dorsal, elephant-trunk-shaped process; paracymbium narrow, long, forming a loop; tegulum with a knob ventrally; median membrane developed as a swollen, shapeless mass; embolic division large; radix fusiform, its tailpiece relatively long, slightly expanded in the middle; embolus flat, long, helical. Abdomen (Fig. 32) 1.00 long, 0.65 wide, dark grey, sparsely covered with long hairs.

**Taxonomic remarks:** This specimen slightly differs from the types described by Russell-Smith & Jocqué (1986) by its smaller size (1.28 *versus* 1.64), as well as by the curved tailpiece and its tapering proximal end.

**Distribution:** Known only from Nairobi and Lake Naivasha, Kenya (Russell-Smith & Jocqué, 1986 and present paper).

***Pelecopsis reclinata* (Holm, 1962)**

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/27]; KENYA, Mt Elgon Forest Reserve, Mt Elgon, 2800 m a.s.l., sifting in primary forest near stream; 14.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Distribution:** This species was hitherto known from mountains of Kenya and Uganda, 2600-3760 m a.s.l. (Holm, 1962).

***Tybaertiella convexa* (Holm, 1962)**

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/04], KENYA, Nairobi, soil sample in garden (Berlese extraction); 4.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert. – 1 male [sample KENYA-74/16]; Mission Kaimosi (NE de Kisumu), 1650 m a.s.l., sifting under *Juniperus*; 11.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Distribution:** The species is widespread in the Afrotropical Region (World Spider Catalog, 2020).

***Tybaertiella krugeri* (Simon, 1894)**

**Material examined:** MHNG; 2 males [sample KENYA-74/06]; KENYA, 10 km from Fisherman's Camp, under bark and stones; 5.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/09]; Lake Nakuru, near lake, under bark and under stones; 6.XI.1974, leg. V. Mahnert. – MHNG; 1 male [sample KENYA-74/38]; Laikipia, near Mukutan source, sifting in bushes; 22.XI.1974; leg. V. Mahnert.

**Distribution:** The species is widespread in the Afrotropical Region (World Spider Catalog, 2020).

## CONCLUSION

Taking into account the new data, the spider fauna of Kenya currently counts no less than 114 linyphiid species, and at present it seems to be the best-known linyphiid fauna among the countries of the Afrotropical Region. Most of the species described or recorded from Kenya were collected in mountain territories, and they mainly belong to the subfamilies Erigoninae and Micronetinae (75 and 21 species, respectively). The representation of other subfamilies in this fauna is quite insignificant, i.e., Linyphiinae (8), Mynogleninae (6) and Ipinae (4 species).

The linyphiid fauna of Kenya is strongly regional. Only three of the currently known 114 species occur outside the Afrotropics: the European-Ancient Mediterranean *Microctenonyx subitaneus* is perhaps introduced, *Microlinyphia sterilis* (Pavesi, 1883) was reported (probably erroneously) also from China (Zhu & Shi, 1985), and *Erigone prominens* Bösenberg & Strand, 1906 is considered to be a cosmopolitan. The distributional ranges of the remaining species are currently limited to Kenya or the Afrotropical Region.

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