

On some linyphiid spiders from Pekka Lehtinen's personal collection from Asia and Polynesia, with the first description of the male of *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019 (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

Andrei V. Tanasevitch

A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky prospekt 33, Moscow 119071 Russia.

Andrei Tanasevitch: tanasevitch@gmail.com or atanasevitch@mail.ru ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9116-606X>

ABSTRACT. A small personal collection of Asian and Polynesian linyphiids of Pekka Lehtinen (Turku, Finland) contains seven species, two of which are identified only to the genus level. A previously unknown male of *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019 is described from Sumatra. In addition, a new combination is proposed: *Wuliphantes tateyamaensis* (Oi, 1960), comb.n. ex *Microbathyphantes* van Helsdingen, 1985. A checklist is provided with remarks and data on distributions. Several species are illustrated for the first time.

How to cite this paper: Tanasevitch A.V. 2026. On some linyphiid spiders from Pekka Lehtinen's personal collection from Asia and Polynesia, with the first description of the male of *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019 (Aranei: Linyphiidae) // Invert. Zool. Vol.23. No.2. P.338–343. doi: 10.15298/invertzool.23.2.09

KEY WORDS: Araneae, new records, taxonomy, Oriental Region, Oceania.

О некоторых пауках-линифиидах из персональной коллекции Пекки Лехтинена из Азии и Полинезии с первоописанием самца *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019 (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

А.В. Танасевич

Институт проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова РАН, Ленинский проспект 33, Москва 119071 Россия. E-mails: tanasevitch@gmail.com или atanasevitch@mail.ru

РЕЗЮМЕ. Небольшая коллекция пауков-линифиид, собранная Пеккой Лехтиненом в различных регионах Азии и Полинезии, содержит 7 видов, 2 из которых определены лишь до рода. Описан неизвестный ранее самец *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019 из Суматры. Кроме того, предложена новая комбинация: *Wuliphantes tateyamaensis* (Oi, 1960), comb.n., из *Microbathyphantes* van Helsdingen, 1985. Приведён список таксонов с заметками о распространении, отмечены новые находки, часть видов проиллюстрирована.

Как цитировать эту статью: Tanasevitch A.V. 2026. On some linyphiid spiders from Pekka Lehtinen's personal collection from Asia and Polynesia, with the first description of the male of *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019 (Aranei: Linyphiidae) // Invert. Zool. Vol.23. No.2. P.338–343. doi: 10.15298/invertzool.23.2.09

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, новые находки, таксономия, Ориентальное Царство, Океания.

Introduction

In 2025, I received a small jar containing a few linyphiid specimens from Pekka Lehtinen's personal material collected from Asia: Nepal, Malaysia (Sumatra), the Philippines, as well as from Polynesia: Samoa, French Polynesia, and New Zealand. The material does not contain any new species, but it comprises a few interesting records. Notably, there is a previously unknown male of *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019, a species originally described from Sumatra (Tanasevitch, 2019).

A checklist of the identified taxa is provided below, accompanied by data on distributions and, in some cases, illustrations. Unfortunately, not all taxa could be determined to the species level due to the limited amount of material available.

Material and methods

This communication is based on Pekka Lehtinen's material collected from Asia and Polynesia, which will be shared between the Zoological Museum of the University of Turku, Finland (ZMTU), and the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia (ZMMU). Specimens preserved in 70% ethanol were studied using an MBC-9 stereo microscope. Drawings were executed with a drawing tube; a Levenhuk C-800 PLUS digital camera was used for taking photographs. The sequence of leg segment measurements is as follows: femur + patella + tibia + metatarsus + tarsus. All measurements are given in mm. Scale bars in the figures correspond to 0.1 mm unless indicated otherwise.

The following abbreviations are used in the text and figures: a.s.l. — above sea level; c — convector *sensu* Tanasevitch (1998), = radical part of embolus *sensu* Millidge (1995), = conductor, *auct.*; em — embolus; Fe — femur; mm — median membrane *sensu* van Helsdingen (1965); N.P. — Nature Park; r — radix; ta — tegular apophysis *sensu* Millidge (1995); Tml — relative position of trichobothrium on the metatarsus of leg I; WSC — Word Spider Catalog.

Results

Faunistics

Batueta similis Wunderlich et Song, 1995

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMTU), NEPAL, Bagmati, Gokarnaban, litter of big-leaved jungle, 13.V.1979, Lehtinen P.T. leg.

REMARKS. *Batueta similis* has hitherto been known only from the Yunnan Province of China (Wunderlich, Song, 1995; Zhao, Li, 2014), thus being new to the faunas of both Nepal and the Himalayas (its southern lowlands).

Johorea decorata Locket, 1982

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (ZMTU), MALAYSIA, Borneo, Sabah, Sandakan, Till Hill, "tanap" forest, 5.XI.1979, Lehtinen P.T. leg.; 1 ♀ (ZMTU), PHILIPPINES, Luzon, Rizal, Antipolo, in litter of jungle, 8.XI.1979, Lehtinen P.T. leg.; 1 ♀ (ZMTU), Benguet, Baguio, in green grass, 11.XI.1979, Lehtinen P.T. leg.; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♂ subad. (ZMMU), Rizal, Binangonan, San Carlos Heights, hill base with savanna and jungle, 15.XI.1979, Lehtinen P.T. leg.

REMARKS. The species has been known so far only from Singapore (Locket, 1982). *Johorea decorata* is being reported here from Borneo, East Malaysia and the Philippines for the first time.

Laetesia sp.

Fig. 1.

MATERIAL. 3 ♂♂ (ZMTU), 2 ♂♂ (ZMMU), NEW ZEALAND, South Island, Westland Arthur's Pass, Taramakan River, Aickens, rain forest, 1.VIII.1992, Lehtinen P.T. leg.

REMARKS. Fifteen species of the genus *Laetesia* are currently known from New Zealand, three of which have been described based solely on female specimens (WSC, 2026). The structure of the male palp from Lehtinen's collection seems to fail to match with any of the known species. Thus, it is quite possible that the males represent either a new species or the still unknown male of one of those that have been described only from females.

Microbathyphantes palmarius

(Marples, 1955)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 ♀ subad. (ZMTU), INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA (= West Samoa), Savai'i Is., Fa'asaleleaga, Tuasivi, on *Ipomoea pes-caprae* beach, 11.V.1991, Lehtinen P.T. leg.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Upolu Is., W. Vaimaungo, litter of rotten coconuts, 9.V.1991, Lehtinen P.T. leg.; 1 ♂ (ZMTU), FRENCH POLYNESIA, Society Islands, Tahiti, Papara, *Ipomoea* stand on beach, 12.IV.1995, Lehtinen P.T. leg.

REMARKS. The species is widespread in the Oriental Region: Sri Lanka, India, Seychelles, Myanmar, Thailand, and Polynesia (WSC, 2026). *Microbathyphantes palmarius* is being reported here from the Society Islands, French Polynesia for the first time.

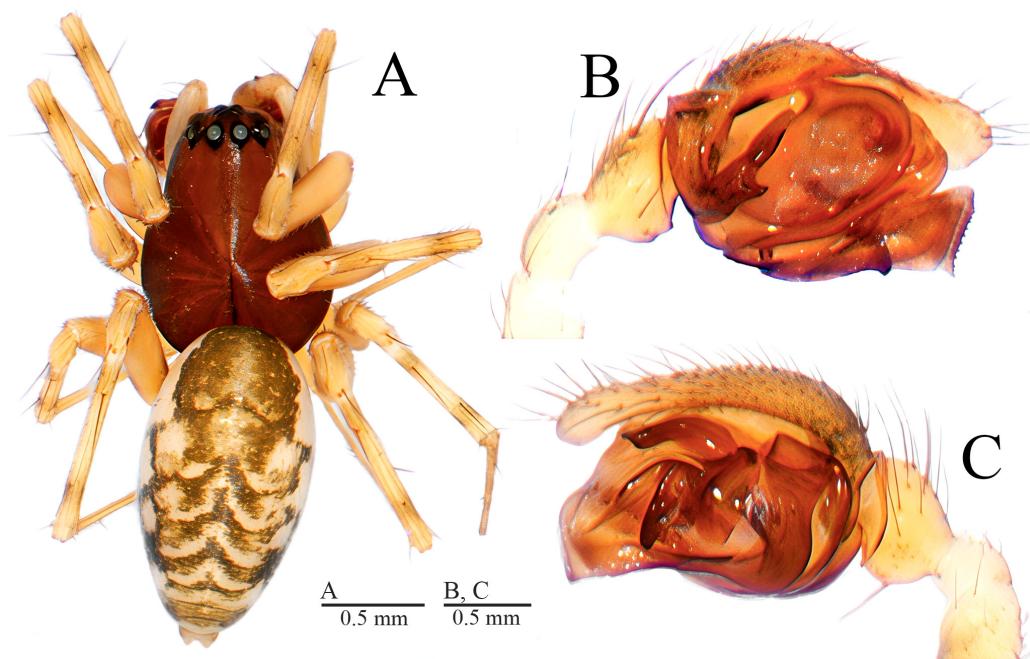


Fig. 1. Male of *Laetesia* sp. A — habitus, dorsal view; B, C — right palp, retrolateral and prolateral views, respectively.

Neonesiotes remiformis Millidge, 1991

MATERIAL. 4 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ (ZMTU), INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA (= West Samoa), Savai'i Is., Falealupo N.P., lowland forest, 12.V.1991, Lehtinen P.T. leg.; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ subad. (ZMMU), Upolu Is., W. Anoamaa Falevao, mountain slope, 17.V.1991, Lehtinen P.T. leg.; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), AMERICAN SAMOA, Tutuila Is., Mt. Alava, Fatifati, 600 m a.s.l., rock slope, in litter, 19.V.1991, Lehtinen P.T. leg.

REMARKS. The species has already been known from West Samoa (Beatty *et al.*, 1991), also recorded from the Marshall Is., Caroline Is., Cook Is., Fiji, Samoa, French Polynesia; introduced to the Seychelles (WSC, 2026). *Neonesiotes remiformis* is being reported here from American Samoa for the first time.

Nesioneta sp.

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (ZMTU), INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA (= West Samoa), Upolu Is., W. Anoamaa Falevao, mountain slope, 17.V.1991, Lehtinen P.T. leg.

REMARKS. This specimen could not be identified to the species level due to the absence of female material and the insufficiently detailed descriptions of its Pacific representatives.

Taxonomy

Racata laxa Tanasevitch, 2019

Figs 2, 3.

Racata laxa Tanasevitch, 2019: 58, figs 9–13, 26, ♀.

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMTU), INDONESIA, Sumatra, Sumatera Barat, 4 km SE Padang Panjang, jungle slope, in litter, 26.IX.1978, Lehtinen P.T. leg.

DESCRIPTION. Male. Habitus as in Fig. 2A, prosoma slightly damaged, some segments of legs lost. Total length 1.38. Carapace 0.68 long, 0.63 wide, rounded, pale greyish yellow. Eyes enlarged. Chelicerae 0.33 long, a mastidion absent, as in Fig. 2B. Legs pale yellow, semi-transparent, their segments slightly infusate distally. Leg I, 2.82 long (0.78 + 0.13 + 0.78 + 0.70 + 0.43), FeIV, 0.68 long. Chaetotaxy unknown, tibial spines mostly lost. Tml unknown. Metatarsi IV lost. Palp (2A, D, E; 3) pale, relatively large. Tibia short, unmodified. Distal half of cymbium narrowed. Proximal part of paracymbium wide, distal part slender, hook-shaped apically. Tegulum weakly sclerotized, light in colour. Tegular apophysis relatively small, wide at base, bent at middle, tapering distad. Median membrane long, panicle-shaped. Convectore covering the base of embolus. Embolus massive, wide and long, its distal part narrow, whip-shaped. Abdomen (Fig. 2A) 0.70 long, 0.45 wide, pale grey.

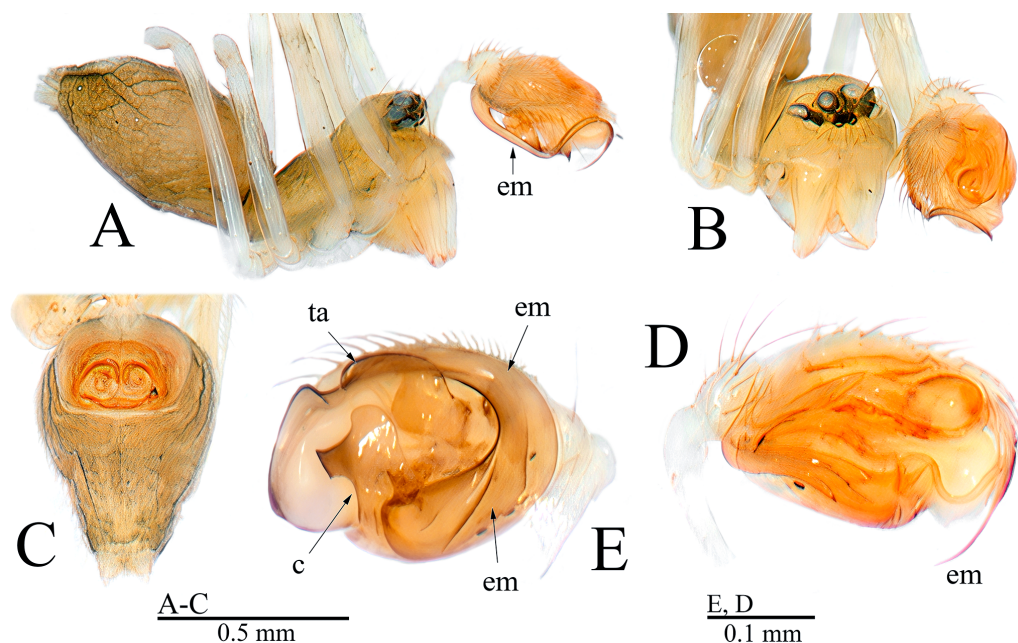


Fig. 2. Male of *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019. A — habitus, lateral view; B — prosoma, frontal view; C — abdomen, ventral view; D, E — right palp, retrolateral and ventro-prolateral views, respectively. Median membrane invisible.

The female is well described, see Tanasevitch (2019); epigyne as in Fig. 2C.

REMARKS. The species was described based on female specimens from several habitats on Sumatra. Lehtinen's material from West Sumatra contains two females of *Racata laxa* accompanied by a male. As these specimens were found near the type locality of *R. laxa*, this male seems to represent the previously unknown male sex of *R. laxa*. Its illustrated description is provided below.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. Based on the structure of both male palp and female epigyne, *Racata laxa* is very similar to *R. grata* Millidge, 1995, the type species, known from the Indonesian islands of Krakatoa (type locality), Java and Belitung (Tanasevitch, 2019).

Addition

Wuliphantes tateyamaensis (Oi, 1960),
comb.n.
Fig. 4C, D.

Porrhomma tateyamaensis Oi, 1960: 191, figs 214–216, ♂, ♀.

Bathyphantes tateyamaensis. — Yaginuma, 1986: 74.

Microbathyphantes tateyamaensis. — Ono, Matsuda, Saito, 2009: 334, figs 1138–1141, ♂, ♀.

M. tateyamaensis. — Suzuki, Hisasue, 2024: 73, figs 5G–H, 6G–I, ♂, ♀.

For a complete list of taxonomic references, see WSC (2026).

REMARKS. Based on the male palpal and female epigynal conformation, *M. tateyamaensis* clearly belongs to the genus *Wuliphantes* Irfan, Wang et Zhang, 2023, being especially similar to the type species, *Wuliphantes trigyrus* Irfan, Wang et Zhang, 2023, from Chongqing, China (Fig. 4A, B cf. Fig. 4C, D). *Wuliphantes tateyamaensis*, comb.n. is the sixth representative of *Wuliphantes*, and the sole congener known from Japan (WSC, 2026). All other congeners have been described from the southeastern, Palearctic part of China.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interests: The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval: No ethical issues were raised during my research.

Acknowledgements. I am deeply grateful to Yuri Marusik (Magadan, Russia), who provided the material for this communication. Thanks also go to Sergei Golovatch (Moscow, Russia) for kindly checking the English of an advanced draft.

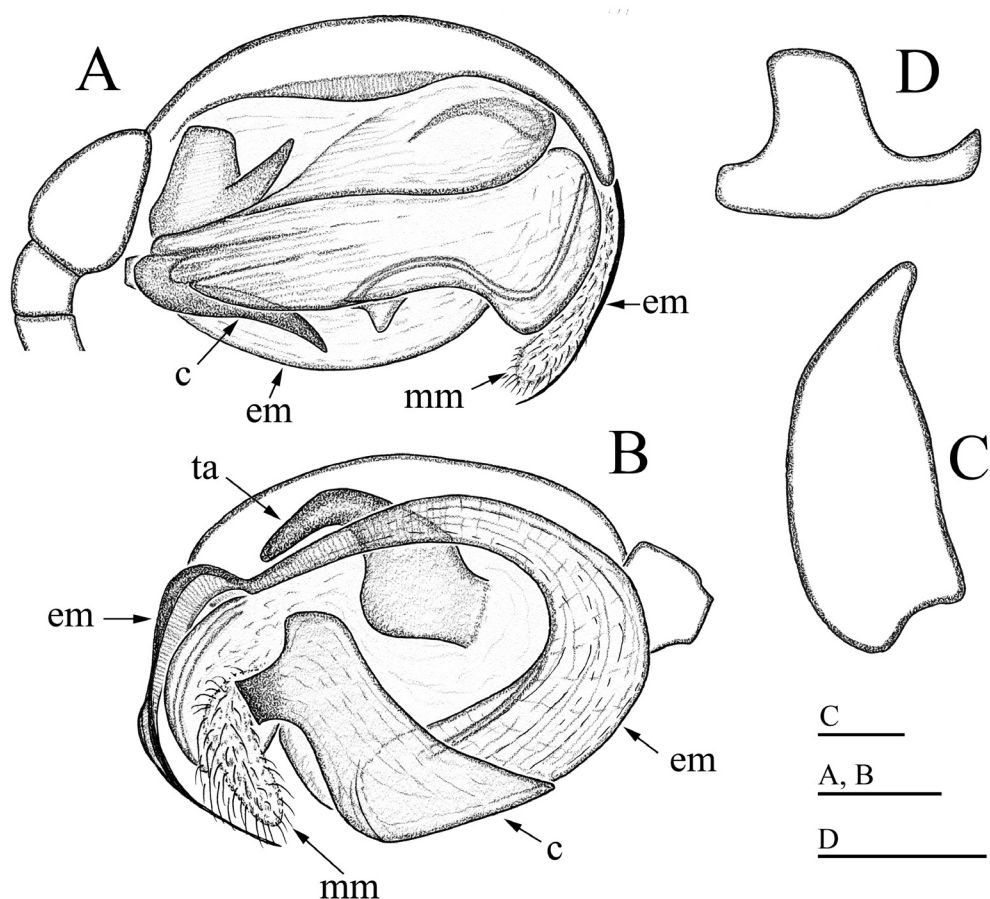


Fig. 3. Right male palp of *Racata laxa* Tanasevitch, 2019. A, B — palp, retrolateral and ventro-prolateral views, respectively; C — cymbium, dorsal view; D — paracymbium, lateral view.

References

- Beatty J.A., Berry J.W., Millidge A.F. 1991. The linyphiid spiders of Micronesia and Polynesia, with notes on distributions and habitats // *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society*. Vol.8. Pt.9. P.265–274.
- Helsdingen P.J. van 1965. Sexual behaviour of *Lepthyphantes leprosus* (Ohlert) (Araneida, Linyphiidae), with notes on the function of the genital organs // *Zoologische Mededelingen*. Vol.41. P.15–42.
- Irfan M., Wang L.Y., Zhang Z.S. 2023. Survey of Linyphiidae spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) from Wulipo National Nature Reserve, Chongqing, China // *European Journal of Taxonomy*. Vol.871. P.1–85. doi: 10.5852/ejt.2023.871.2129
- Locket G.H. 1982. Some linyphiid spiders from western Malaysia // *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society*. Vol.5. Pt.8. P.361–384.
- Millidge A.F. 1995. Some linyphiid spiders from south-east Asia // *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society*. Vol.10. Pt.2. P.41–56.
- Oi R. 1960. Linyphiid spiders of Japan // *Journal of the Institute of Polytechnics Osaka City University. Series D*. Vol.11. P.137–244.
- Ono H., Matsuda M., Saito H. 2009. Linyphiidae, Pimoidae // H. Ono (ed.). *The spiders of Japan with keys to the families and genera and illustrations of the species*. Kanagawa: Tokai University Press. P.253–344.
- Suzuki Y., Hisasue Y. 2024. Spiders collected from Chichijima Island, the Ogasawara Islands, Japan between 2022 and 2024 // *Kishidaia*. Vol.125. P.61–91.
- Tanasevitch A.V. 1998. *Gorbothorax* n. gen., a new linyphiid spider genus from the Nepal Himalayas (Arachnida, Araneae, Linyphiidae) // *Bonner Zoologische Beiträge*. Vol.47. P.421–428.
- Tanasevitch A.V. 2019. On the spider genus *Racata* Millidge, 1995, with the description of three new species (Araneae, Linyphiidae) // *Revue suisse de Zoologie*. T.126. Fasc.1. P.53–59. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.2619518
- World Spider Catalog 2026. World Spider Catalog, version 27.0. Natural History Museum Bern. Online at <http://wsc.nmbe.ch> (accessed in February, 2026). doi: 10.24436/2

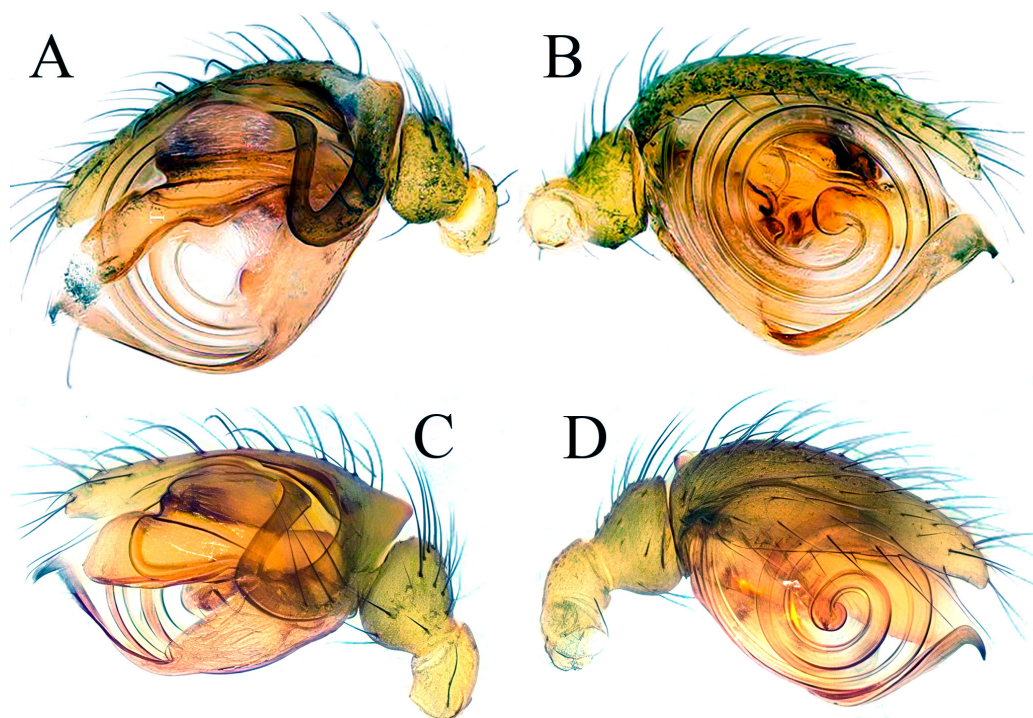


Fig. 4. Left male palp of *Wuliphantes trigyrus* Irfan, Wang et Zhang, 2023 (A, B), after Irfan, Wang, Zhang (2023), and *W. tateyamaensis* (Oi, 1960), comb.n. (C, D), after Suzuki, Hisasue (2024). A, C — palp, retro-lateral view; B, D — palp, pro-lateral view. Figures not to scale.

Wunderlich J., Song D.X. 1995. Four new spider species of the families Anapidae, Linyphiidae and Nesticidae from a tropical rain forest area of SW-China // Beiträge zur Araneologie. Vol.4 (1994). P.343–351.

Yaginuma T. 1986. Spiders of Japan in color (new ed.). Osaka: Hoikusha Publishing Co. 305 pp.

Zhao Q.Y., Li S.Q. 2014. A survey of linyphiid spiders from Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, China (Araneae, Linyphiidae) // ZooKeys. Vol.460. P.1–181. doi: 10.3897/zookeys.460.7799

Responsible editor K.G. Mikhailov