

Survey of the Ethiopian linyphiid spider fauna. III. Subfamilies Linyphiinae and Mynogleninae (Arachnida: Aranei: Linyphiidae)

Обзор фауны пауков-линифиид Эфиопии. III. Подсемейства Linyphiinae и Mynogleninae (Arachnida: Aranei: Linyphiidae)

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, таксономия, фаунистика, новые виды, Афротропическая Область, горная фауна.

ABSTRACT. One species of the subfamily Linyphiinae and five species of Mynogleninae are revealed from the Oromia Region, Ethiopia. Three mynoglenine species are described as new: *Afroneta arsi* sp.n. (♀), *A. minipalpa* sp.n. (♂, ♀), and *A. montana* sp.n. (♂, ♀). All species recorded are illustrated. *Neriene kibonotensis* (Tullgren, 1910) is recorded from Ethiopia for the first time, being the only representative of Linyphiinae presently known from the country. Taking into account the new data, the spider fauna of Ethiopia is known to include eight mynoglenine species, all of which can be tentatively considered as Ethiopian endemics.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Один вид подсемейства Linyphiinae и пять видов Mynogleninae выявлены в провинции Оромия, Эфиопия. Три вида, *Afroneta arsi* sp.n. (♀), *A. minipalpa* sp.n. (♂, ♀) и *A. montana* sp.n. (♂, ♀), описаны как новые. Все зарегистрированные виды детально проиллюстрированы. *Neriene kibonotensis* (Tullgren, 1910) отмечен в фауне Эфиопии впервые, и является пока единственным представителем Linyphiinae в стране. Учитывая новые данные, фауна пауков подсемейства Mynogleninae Эфиопии насчитывает 8 видов, все из которых на сегодняшний день являются эндемиками страны.

Introduction

This communication continues my research series on the linyphiid spider fauna of Ethiopia, based on the results of the Joint Russian-Ethiopian Biological Expedition to Ethiopia, organized by the A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia. Short field research trips in October–No-

vember 2022 were carried out to the Chilimo State Forest, Arsi Mountains National Park and the Suba Menagesha National Park, all in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia. In addition to the National Parks, the park territory of the Russian Embassy in Addis-Ababa was also surveyed. The previous parts concerning the results of the expedition to Ethiopia were devoted to the linyphiid subfamily Erigoninae [Tanasevitch, 2023], and Micronetinae (in the traditional sense) [Tanasevitch, 2025].

This is the third paper of a series on the Ethiopian linyphiids, this time dedicated to the subfamilies Linyphiinae and Mynogleninae.

Spiders of the subfamily Linyphiinae show a near-global distribution, being recorded in all biogeographic regions with the sole exception of Antarctica. The worldwide fauna of this subfamily comprises 536 species. In contrast, the subfamily Mynogleninae occurs in three biogeographic regions. It encompasses 130 species, all of which are endemic to their respective regions: Australian Realm — 91 species, Afrotropical — 37 species, and Oriental — 2 species [Tanasevitch, 2026].

Material and methods

This paper is based on the spider material collected in several regions of Ethiopia from October 7th to November 15th, 2022, in the framework of a Joint Russian-Ethiopian Biological Expedition. The material is shared between the collections of the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Russia (ZMMU), and the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia (ZISP). Spiders were collected by sifting the litter, mosses and humus, as well as by soil sampling in three national parks (see Introduction) and in the territory of the Russian Embassy in Addis-Ababa. Sample numbers and locality data are given in square brackets. 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. Leg chaetotaxy is presented in a formula, e.g., TiI: 2-1-1-4(3), which means that tibia I has two dorsal spines, one prolateral, one retrolateral and four or three ventral



Fig. 1. Male palp of *Neriene kibonotensis* (Tullgren, 1910), specimen from [Eth001]. A–C — retrolateral, prolateral and ventral view, respectively.

Рис. 1. Пальпа самца *Neriene kibonotensis* (Tullgren, 1910), экземпляр из [Eth001]. А–С — соответственно ретролатерально, пролатерально и вид снизу.

spines, the apical spines being discarded. The sequence of leg segment measurements is as follows: femur + patella + tibia + metatarsus + tarsus. All measurements are given in mm. The terminology of the structure of the copulatory organs mainly follows that of Merrett [1963], with subsequent amendments in the abbreviations section as given below.

The following abbreviations were used in the text and figures: a.s.l. — above sea level; cd — copulatory ducts; bu — a bulge on dp, possibly a modified socket; dp — dorsal plate *sensu* van Helsdingen [1969], Merrett, Russell-Smith [1996], = posterior plate *sensu* Holm [1968], = ventral plate *sensu* Millidge [1984], = median plate, posterior median plate, etc., *auct.*; dsa — distal suprategular apophysis *sensu* Hormiga [2000], = median apophysis *sensu* Holm [1968], = suprategulum *sensu* Blest [1979], = tegular apophysis *sensu* Merrett, Russell-Smith [1996]; e — embolus; em — embolic membrane *sensu* Merrett, Russell-Smith [1996], = conductor *sensu* Holm [1968], Blest [1979], Merrett [2004]; Fe — femur; la — lamina *sensu* Millidge [1993], a sacciform container for cd; Mt — metatarsus; N.P. — National Park; pa — parmaula *sensu* Holm, 1968, a posterior elongation of dp, often carries a pit/socket/bulge, = scape *sensu* Blest [1979], = ventral scape *sensu* Millidge [1984]; r — radix; sem — sclerotized distal part of em; su — sulci; WSC — World Spider Catalog; Ti — tibia; Tml — relative position of trichobothrium on the metatarsus of leg I; ZISP — Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Science, St Petersburg, Russia; ZMMU — Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

Results

Class Arachnida Cuvier, 1812
Order Aranei Clerck, 1758
Family Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859

Subfamily Linyphiinae Blackwall, 1859

REMARKS. The spider fauna of the subfamily Linyphiinae in the Afrotropical Region currently comprises 15 genera and 36 species [WSC, 2026]. In Ethiopia, only one species of this subfamily, *Linyphia lineola* Pavesi, 1883, has previously been recorded. However, this species was described from a juvenile specimen and is currently regarded either as a *nomen dubium* [Scharff, 1990] or of *incertae sedis* [WSC, 2026].

Genus *Neriene* Blackwall, 1833

Type species *Neriene clathrata* (Sundevall, 1830), by subsequent designation.

REMARKS. Among the 15 genera of Linyphiinae so far recorded in the Afrotropical Region, the most species-rich is *Neriene* which comprises nine species. The second largest genus is *Microlinyphia* Gerhardt, 1928, with six species involved.

Only one species of this subfamily, *N. kibonotensis* (Tullgren, 1910), has been recorded during my field work. This scarcity is likely to result from two factors: first, the primary sampling technique involved sifting the litter, mosses and humus; second, sweepings was largely impractical because the herbaceous cover in natural habitats, including national parks, had been either mown or grazed by cattle.

Neriene kibonotensis (Tullgren, 1910)

Figs 1; 7A, B.

Linyphia kibonotensis Tullgren, 1910: 146, pl. 3, f. 66, ♂, ♀.

Neriene kibonotensis. — van Helsdingen, 1969: 156, f. 205–213.

For the complete list of taxonomic references, see WSC [2026].

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (ZMMU), ETHIOPIA, Addis-Ababa, Russian Embassy Campus, 9.037774°N 38.785607°E, 2488 m a.s.l., sifted lit-

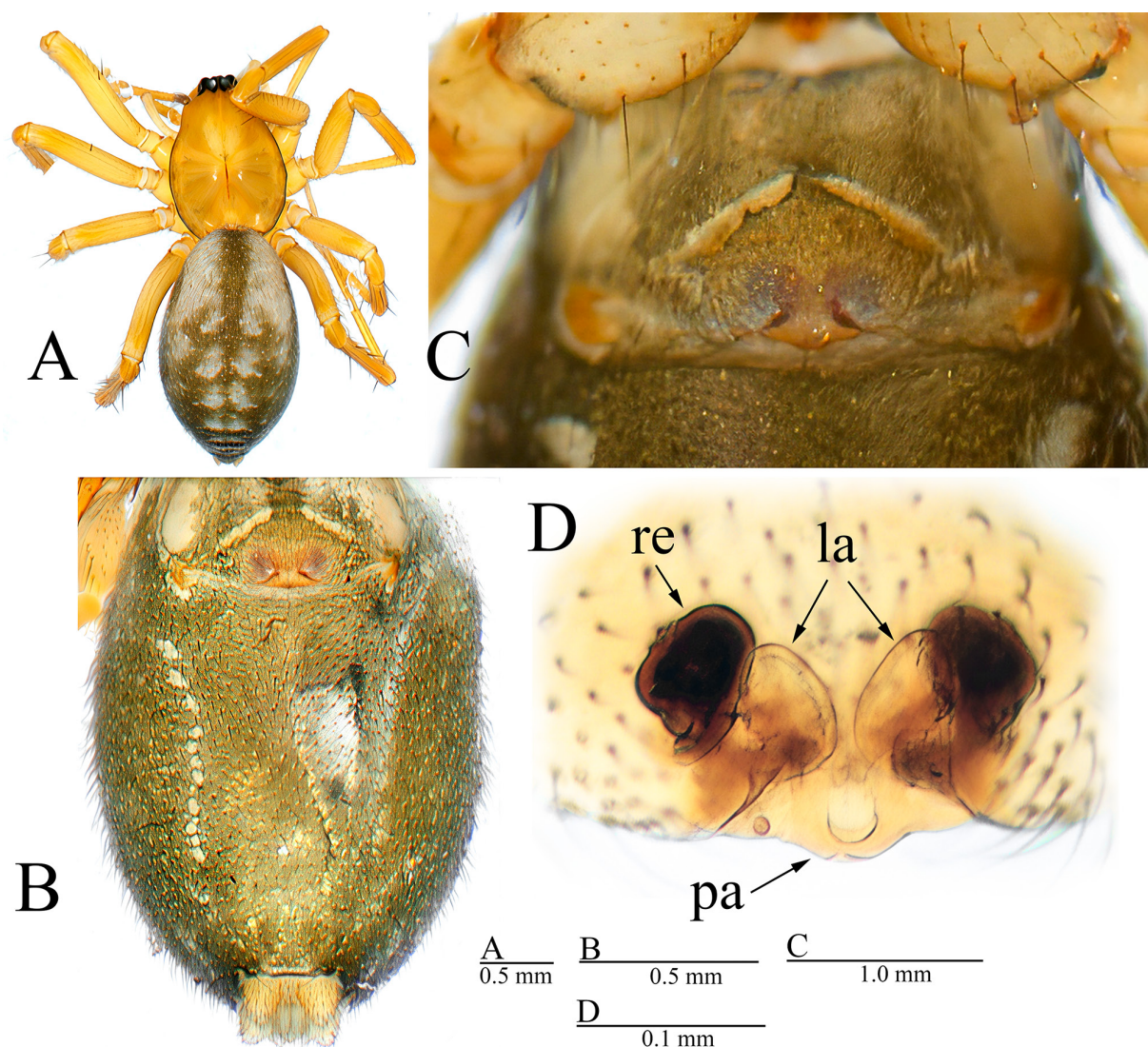


Fig. 2. Female of *Afroneta arsi* sp.n., specimens from [Eth010]. A — habitus, dorsal view; B — abdomen, ventral view; C — anterior part of abdomen, ventral view; D — cleared epigyne, ventral view.

Рис. 2. Самка *Afroneta arsi* sp.n., экземпляры из [Eth010]. A — внешний вид, сверху; B — брюшко, вид снизу; C — передняя часть брюшка, вид снизу; D — просветлённая эпигина, вид снизу.

ter and humus under a single-standing broad-leaved tree, 7.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth001].

DISTRIBUTION. *Neriene kibonotensis* is known from Angola, Gabon, D. R. Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania [van Helsdingen, 1969]. The species is being recorded here from Ethiopia for the first time.

CHOROTYPE. Afrotropical.

Subfamily Mynogleninae Lehtinen, 1967

REMARKS. The subfamily Mynogleninae is currently represented in the Afrotropical Realm by six genera and 37 species [Holm, 1968; Scharff, 1990; Merrett, 2004; Frick, Scharff, 2014, 2018, *et al.*]. The most species-rich genus is *Afroneta* Holm, 1968, with 29 species, followed by *Laminafroneta* Merrett, 2004 with 3 species, *Trachyneta* Holm, 1968 with 2 species, and the monospecific genera *Afromynoglenes* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996; *Camafroneta* Frick et Scharff, 2018, and *Gibbafroneta* Merrett, 2004.

The Ethiopian fauna presently includes five species of Mynogleninae from three genera: *Afromynoglenes parkeri* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996, recorded from the Arusi, Oromia, Shewa, and Sidamo provinces; *Afroneta blesti* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996 and *A. snazelli* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996, both from the Bale Province; *A. millidgei* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996 from the Sidamo Province, and *Laminafroneta locketi* (Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996), from the Bale, Oromia, Shewa, and Sidamo provinces [Merrett, Russell-Smith, 1996].

Afroneta Holm, 1968

Type species *Afroneta immaculata* Holm, 1968, by original designation.

REMARKS. *Afroneta* is the most species-rich genus of Mynogleninae in the Afrotropical Realm. The genus presently contains 29 species, with the highest diversity recorded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 22 species [WSC, 2026].

Afroneta arsi sp.n.

Figs 2; 7C, D.

HOLOTYPE ♀ (ZMMU), ETHIOPIA, Oromia Region, Asela Zone, ca. 32 air-km SE of Asela (= Assela), Arsi Mountains N.P., road from Digelu to Ticho, top of mountains, 3780–3866 m a.s.l., 7.82472°N 39.41659°E, *Erica arborea* bushes, sedge, *Alchemilla* sp., green mosses, sifted mosses and litter, 18.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth010].

PARATYPES. 5 ♀♀ (ZMMU), collected together with the holotype; 7 ♀♀ (ZISP), same locality, 3755–3770 m a.s.l., 7.82377°N 39.41713°E, *Erica arborea* bushes, *Alchemilla* sp., green mosses mostly *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*, sifted mosses from beds of *Erica*, 21 & 31.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth019]; 6 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Oromia Region, Asela Zone, ca. 7–8 air-km EES of Asela (= Assela), Mount Chilalo, canyon, steep northern slope, 3080 m a.s.l., 7.93524°N 39.19368°E, *Hypericum revolutum* bushes with sporadic *Schefflera abyssinica*, grass, green mosses, sifted litter and mosses, 24.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth016]; 5 ♀♀ (ZISP), Mount Chilalo, canyon, steep northern slope, 3070–3075 m a.s.l., 7.935124°N 39.19392°E, *Hypericum revolutum* bushes with sporadic *Schefflera abyssinica*, grass, green mosses, sifted litter and mosses, 29.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth016].

NAME. The specific epithet is a noun in apposition referring to the Arsi Mountains N.P., the provenance area of the new species.

DESCRIPTION. Female paratype from [Eth010]. Total length 3.50. Habitus as in Fig. 2A. Carapace 1.50 long, 1.05 wide, yellow to pale brown, unmodified, sulci absent. Chelicerae 0.75 long, anterior margin with six teeth. Legs yellow. Leg I, 4.90 long (1.35 + 0.45 + 1.25 + 1.10 + 0.75), IV, 5.40 long (1.60 + 0.30 + 1.40 + 1.30 + 0.80). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 1-1-0-0, II–IV 1(0)-0-0-0; TiI: 2-0-0-1; II: 2-0-0-0, III: 2-1-0-0, IV: 2-1-0-1(2); MtI–III: 0-0-0-0, IV: 1-1-0(1)-1. TmI 0.87. All metatarsi with a trichobothrium each. Abdomen 2.15 long, 1.20 wide, grey to dark grey, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 2A. Epigyne as in Fig. 2B–D. Lateral walls slightly sclerotized; parmula very short, with a large socket. Lamina large, elongated; receptacles subspherical.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The epigynal structure of *Afroneta arsi* sp.n. resembles to that of *A. millidgei* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996, known from the Sidamo Province, 1700 m a.s.l., Ethiopia [Merrett, Russell-Smith, 1996]. The new species differs by the shorter and thicker lamina, as well as a distinct socket at the parmula.

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from the highlands of the Arsi Mountains National Park, and Mount Chilalo (Asela Zone), Oromia Region, Ethiopia, at 3070–3866 m a.s.l.

CHOROTYPE. Afrotropical, presumably endemic to Ethiopia.

Afroneta minipalpa sp.n.

Figs 3; 7E, F.

HOLOTYPE ♂ (ZMMU), ETHIOPIA, Oromia Region, Asela Zone, ca. 7–8 air-km EES of Asela (= Assela), Mount Chilalo, canyon branch, SE slope, 3125–3130 m a.s.l., 7.93414°N 39.19479°E, *Hypericum revolutum* bushes with sporadic *Schefflera abyssinica* and *Hagenia abyssinica*, grass, green mosses, sifted litter and mosses, 29.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth017].

PARATYPES. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), collected together with the holotype.

NAME. The specific epithet is a Latin adjective referring to the relatively small size of the male palps.

DESCRIPTION. Male paratype. Total length 3.15. Habitus as in Fig. 3A. Carapace 1.50 long, 1.05 wide, yellow to pale brown. Sulci poorly visible, narrow, elongated, located under anterior lateral eyes (Fig. 3B). Chelicerae 0.75 long, obvious stridulation fields absent; anterior margin with three teeth. Legs yellow to pale brown. Leg I, 5.25 long (1.50 + 0.40 + 1.35 +

1.25 + 0.75), IV, 5.55 long (1.50 + 0.30 + 1.45 + 1.45 + 0.85). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 1-1-0-0, II: 1(2)-0-0-0, III: 1-0-0-0, IV: 0-0-0-0; TiI: 2-1(0)-0-0; II: 2-0-0-0, III: 2-1-0-1, IV: 2-1-0-1; MtI–III: 0-0-0-0, IV: 1-1-0-1. TmI 0.87. All metatarsi with a trichobothrium each. Palp as in Fig. 3C, D. Tibia long and relatively narrow, nearly equal in length to cymbium. Paracymbium small and simple, with a shallow hollow. Distal suprategular apophysis aculeiform, similar in shape and length to embolus. Embolic membrane narrow, a straight stripe. Abdomen 1.70 long, 1.10 wide, grey to dark grey, dorsal pattern indistinct, as in Fig. 3A.

Female paratype. Total length 4.25. Habitus as in Fig. 3E. Carapace 1.80 long, 1.30 wide, yellow to pale brown, sulci absent. Chelicerae 0.85 long, anterior margin with six teeth. Legs yellow. Leg 6.40 long (1.80 + 0.50 + 1.65 + 1.55 + 0.90), IV, 6.75 long (1.80 + 0.50 + 1.80 + 1.80 + 0.85). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 1-2-0-0, II: 1-0-0-0-0, III–IV: 0-0-0-0; TiI–II: 2-0-0-0, III–IV: 2-1-0-1; MtI–III: 0-0-0-0, IV: 1-0-0-1. TmI 0.92. All metatarsi with a trichobothrium each. Abdomen 2.55 long, 1.50 wide, grey to dark grey, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 3E. Epigyne as in Fig. 3G, H. Parmula very short, with a large socket. Lamina long and thick, slightly curved. Receptacles subspherical.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. Based on the palpal structure, *Afroneta minipalpa* sp.n. seems to be especially similar to *A. flavescens* Frick et Scharff, 2018, known from Mount Elgon, Kenya, at 3200–3480 m a.s.l. [Frick, Scharff, 2018]. The new species is clearly distinguished by both distal suprategular apophysis and embolus in the male being more slender. The female differs by the shorter parmula and a giant lamina.

DISTRIBUTION. This species is only known from the type locality in the highlands of Mount Chilalo (Asela Zone), Oromia Region, Ethiopia, at 3125–3130 m a.s.l.

CHOROTYPE. Afrotropical, presumably endemic to Ethiopia.

Afroneta montana sp.n.

Figs 4; 8A, B.

HOLOTYPE 1 ♂ (ZMMU), ETHIOPIA, Oromia Region, ca. 32 air-km SE of Asela (= Assela), Arsi Mountains N.P., road from Digelu to Ticho, top of mountains, 3894–3900 m a.s.l., 7.82355°N 39.39244°E, hummock swamp with *Juncus* sp. in *Erica arborea* wasteland, sifted litter and humus between hummocks, 21.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth012].

PARATYPES. 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), 1 ♀ (ZISP), collected together with the holotype.

NAME. The species name refers to the high-mountainous region where the specimens were collected at 3894–3900 m a.s.l.

DESCRIPTION. Male paratype. Total length 2.75. Habitus robust, as in Fig. 4A. Carapace 1.50 long, 1.05 wide, pale brown to brown. Sulci well-visible, pale (Fig. 4B, C). Chelicerae 0.60 long, obvious stridulation fields absent; anterior margin with four/five teeth. Legs yellow to pale brown. Leg I, 3.85 long (1.05 + 0.35 + 0.95 + 0.85 + 0.65), IV, 4.20 long (1.10 + 0.35 + 1.05 + 1.00 + 0.70). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 1-1-0-0, II–III: 1-0-0-0, IV: 0-0-0-0; TiI–II: 2-1-1-2; III: 2-1-0-1, IV: 2-1-1(0)-1; MtI–II: 0-0-0-0, III–IV: 1-0-0-1. TmI 0.69. All metatarsi with a trichobothrium each. Palp as in Fig. 4E, D. Tibia short, unmodified. Paracymbium simple, with a shallow hollow. Distal suprategular apophysis short, wide and flat. Embolic membrane long, its distal part sclerotized and hiding apical part of embolus. Embolus relatively long, whip-shaped. Abdomen 1.50 long, 0.90 wide, grey to dark grey, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 4A.

Female paratype. Total 3.10 length. Habitus robust, as in Fig. 4F. Carapace 1.50 long, 1.05 wide, pale brown to brown, sulci absent. Chelicerae 0.65 long, anterior margin with five teeth. Legs yellow to pale brown. Leg I, 3.80 long (1.00 + 0.45 + 0.85 + 0.80 + 0.70), IV, 4.25 long (1.10 + 0.45 + 1.00 + 0.90 +

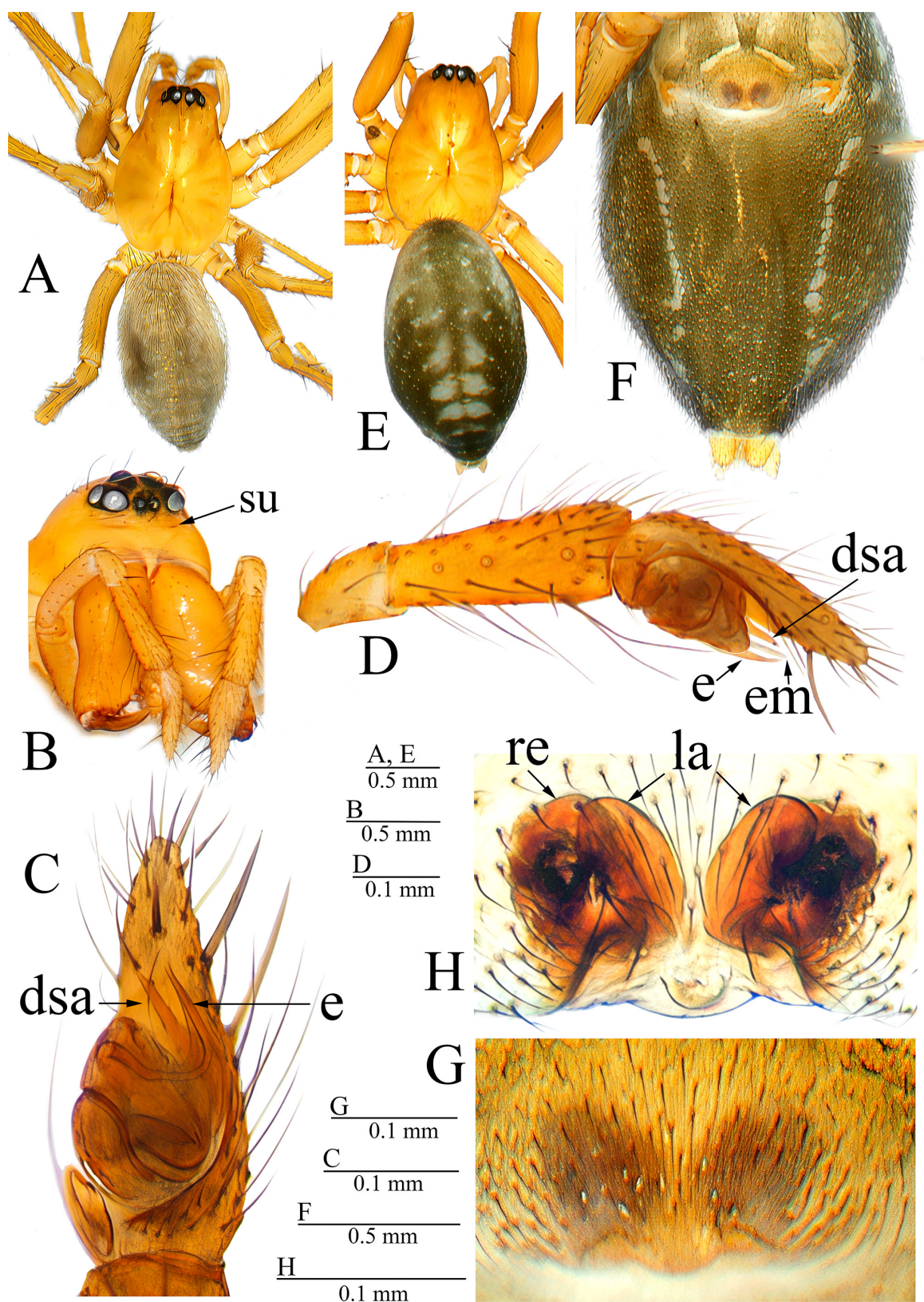


Fig. 3. Male (A–D) and female (E–H) of *Afroneta minipalpa* sp.n. A, E — habitus, dorsal view; B — prosoma, frontolateral view; C, D — right palp, ventral and retrolateral views, respectively; F — abdomen, ventral view; G — epigyne, ventral view; H — cleared epigyne, ventral view.

Рис. 3. Самец (А–Д) и самка (Е–Н) *Afroneta minipalpa* sp.n. А, Е — внешний вид, сверху; В — просома, вид спереди и сбоку; С, Д — правая пальпа, соответственно вид снизу и ретролатерально; F — брюшко, вид снизу; G — эпигина, вид снизу; H — просветлённая эпигина, вид снизу.

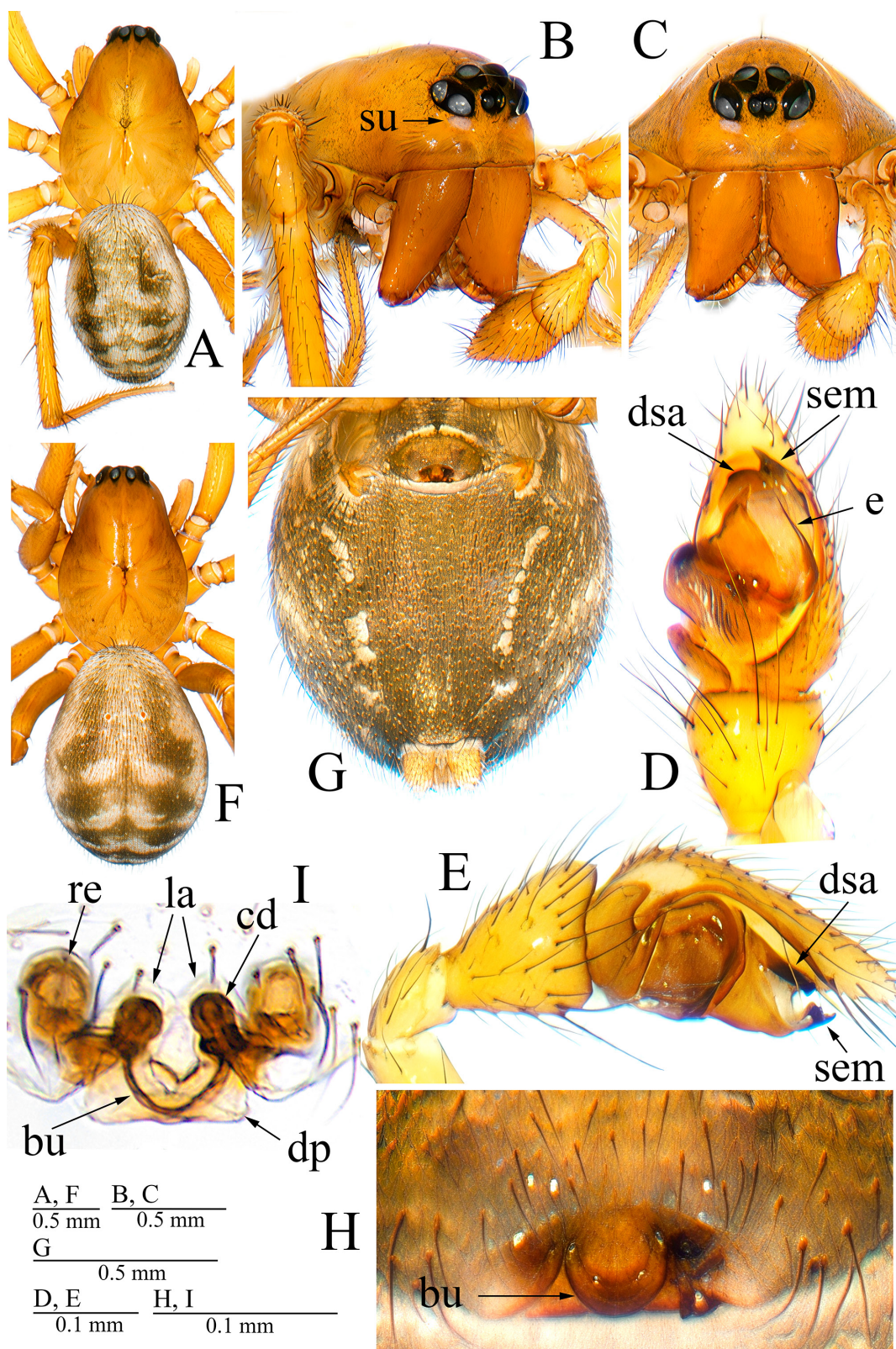


Fig. 4. Male (A–E) and female (F–I) of *Afrometa montana* sp.n. A, F — habitus, dorsal view; B, C — prosoma, frontolateral and frontal views, respectively; D, E — right palp, ventral and retrolateral views, respectively; G — abdomen, ventral view; H — epigyne, ventral view; I — cleared epigyne, ventral view.

Рис. 4. Самец (А–Е) и самка (F–I) *Afrometa montana* sp.n. А, F — внешний вид, сверху; В, С — просома, соответственно вид спереди и сбоку, спереди; D, E — правая пальпа, соответственно вид снизу и ретролатерально; G — брюшко, вид снизу; H — эпигина, вид снизу; I — просветлённая эпигина, вид снизу.

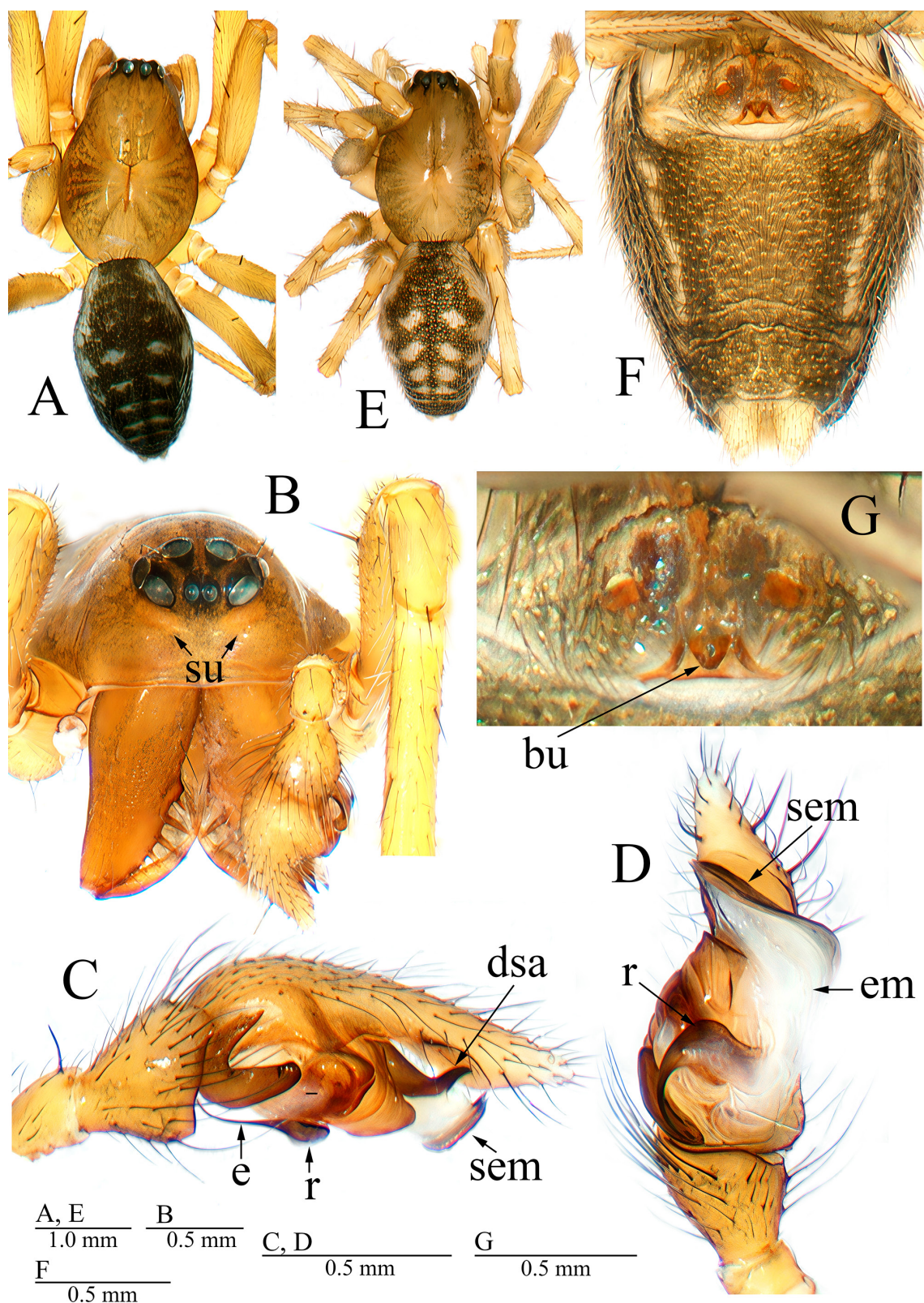


Fig. 5. Male (A–D) and female (E–G) of *Afromynoglenes parkeri* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996, specimens from [Eth008]. A, E — habitus, dorsal view; B — prosoma, frontal view; C, D — right palp, retrolateral and ventral views, respectively; F — abdomen, ventral view; G — epigyne, ventral view.

Рис.5. Самец (А–D) и самка (Е–G) *Afromynoglenes parkeri* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996, экземпляры из [Eth008]. А, Е — внешний вид, сверху; В — просома, вид спереди; С, D — правая пальпа, соответственно ретролатерально и вид снизу; F — брюшко, вид снизу; G — эпигина, вид снизу.

0.80). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 1-1-0-0, II-III: 1-0-0-0, IV: 0-0-0-0; TiI-III: 2-1-(0)1-1, IV: 2-1-1-1; MtI-II: 0-0-0-0, III: 1-0-0-0(1), IV: 1-1-0-0. TmI 0.63. All metatarsi with trichobothrium. Abdomen 1.70 long, 1.15 wide, grey to dark grey, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 4F. Epigyne as in Fig. 4G-I. Dorsal plate forming a highly sclerotized cup-shaped bulge, this possibly representing a modified socket. A parma absent. Lamina thin, copulatory ducts highly sclerotized and relatively short. Receptacles spherical.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. Based on the epigynal structure, mainly the presence of a bulge on the dorsal plate, the new species resembles *A. snazelli* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996, which is only known from the female sex from the Bale Province, Bale Mountains N.P., at 3100 m a.s.l., Ethiopia [Merrett, Russell-Smith, 1996]. *Afroneta montana* sp.n. clearly differs by the small lamina, the short copulatory ducts, as well as the entire receptacles.

DISTRIBUTION. This species is only known from the type locality in the highlands of the Arsi Mountains National Park, Oromia Region, Ethiopia, at 3894–3900 m a.s.l.

CHOROTYPE. Afrotropical, presumably endemic to Ethiopia.

Genus *Afromynoglenes* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996

Type species *Afromynoglenes parkeri* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996, by monotypy.

REMARKS. This monotypic genus was described from Ethiopia [Merrett, Russell-Smith, 1996], still being regarded as endemic to the country.

Afromynoglenes parkeri Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996
Figs 5; 8C, D.

Afromynoglenes parkeri Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996: 223, figs 15–19, ♂, ♀.

MATERIAL. 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZISP), ETHIOPIA, Oromia Region, 67 air-km E of Addis-Ababa, 5 air-km NNE of Ginchi, Chilimo State Forest, near road, spring valley, 9.07061°N 38.15804°E, 2441–2584 m a.s.l., *Podocarpus falcatus* forest with *Juniperus procera*, *Prunus africana*, *Olea europaea*, *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Apodytes dimidiata*, *Ficus* spp., *Erythrina brucei*, etc., grass, sifted litter and humus, 15.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth008]. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Suba Menagesha National Park, 8.96619°N 38.55046°E, 2560 m a.s.l., dried waterfall in deep valley in *Juniperus procera* forest with *Acacia melanoxylon*, etc., bushes, grass, sifted litter, 15.XI.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth026].

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from the mountains in the Arusi, Oromia, Shewa, and Sidamo provinces of Ethiopia, at 1900–2600 m a.s.l. [Merrett, Russell-Smith, 1996; present data].

CHOROTYPE. Afrotropical, presumably endemic to Ethiopia.

Genus *Laminafroneta* Merrett, 2004

Type species *Laminafroneta bidentata* (Holm, 1968), by original designation.

Laminafroneta locketi (Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996)
Figs 6; 8C, E, F.

Afroneta locketi Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996: 219, figs 5–8, ♂, ♀. *Laminafroneta locketi*. — Merrett, 2004: 24.

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Ethiopia, Addis-Ababa, Russian Embassy Campus, 9.0350476°N 38.7836601°E, 2467 m a.s.l., *Eucalyptus* grove with *Juniperus*, *Acacia*, etc., bushes, sifted litter, 10.X.–4.XI.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth004]; 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀ (ZMMU),

same area, 9.03617°N 38.78549°E, 2467 m a.s.l., grove with *Juniperus*, *Eucalyptus*, palm trees, etc., bushes, sifted litter, 11.X.–6.XI.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth005]; 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (ZISP), same area, 9.03617°N 38.78549°E, 2467 m a.s.l., grove with *Juniperus*, *Eucalyptus*, palm trees, etc., bushes, sifted litter, 11.X.–6.XI.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth005]; 1 ♂ (ZMMU), same area, 9.03519°N 38.78506°E, 2453 m a.s.l., grove with *Acacia*, palm trees, *Eucalyptus*, *Juniperus*, bushes, sifted litter, 13.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth007]; 1 ♀ (ZISP), same area, 9.03468°N 38.78379°E, 2454 m a.s.l., *Eucalyptus* grove with sporadic *Juniperus*, *Acacia*, etc., bushes, sifted litter, 9.XI.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth023]; 6 ♀♀ (ZMMU), 5 ♀♀ (ZISP), Oromia Region, 67 air-km E of Addis-Ababa, 5 air-km NNE of Ginchi, Chilimo State Forest, near road, spring valley, 9.07061°N 38.15804°E, 2441–2584 m a.s.l., *Podocarpus falcatus* forest with *Juniperus procera*, *Prunus africana*, *Olea europaea*, *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Apodytes dimidiata*, *Ficus* spp., *Erythrina brucei*, etc., grass, sifted litter, 15.X.2022, A. Tanasevitch leg. [Eth008].

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known from the mountains in the Bale, Oromia, Shewa and Sidamo provinces of Ethiopia, at 2400–3200 m a.s.l. [Merrett, Russell-Smith, 1996; present data].

CHOROTYPE. Afrotropical, presumably endemic to Ethiopia.

Discussion

Only a single specimen of Linyphiinae (*Neriene kibonotensis*) was collected during the fieldwork. This can be accounted for by two reasons: my research focused on litter-, moss- and humus-dwelling spider fauna; and the herbaceous vegetation was completely devastated in natural habitats due to intensive grazing and mowing.

Considering the above species described, the Mynogleninae spider fauna of Ethiopia currently includes eight species belonging into three genera: *Afromynoglenes parkeri*, *Afroneta arsi* sp.n., *A. blesti*, *A. millidgei*, *A. minipalpa* sp.n., *A. montana* sp.n., *A. snazelli*, and *Laminafroneta locketi*. Among the three described species, two show similarities to Ethiopian congeners, while one is similar to a Kenyan species. Of the eight species of Mynogleninae revealed, six belong to the genus *Afroneta*, the most species-rich genus in the Afrotropics: 18 species are known from D. R. Congo, six from Ethiopia, and five from Kenya, etc. The monotypic genus *Afromynoglenes* is still known from Ethiopia alone. The Afrotropical genus *Laminafroneta* contains three species, one of which, *L. locketi*, occurs in Ethiopia.

All Mynogleninae species collected in Ethiopia were found in high-altitude areas, at elevations ranging from 2441 to 3900 m a.s.l., in mountain forests, *Erica* heathlands (heath communities dominated by *Erica* shrubs), as well as in the Russian Embassy Campus park in Addis-Ababa. All these species can presently be considered as likely Ethiopian endemics.

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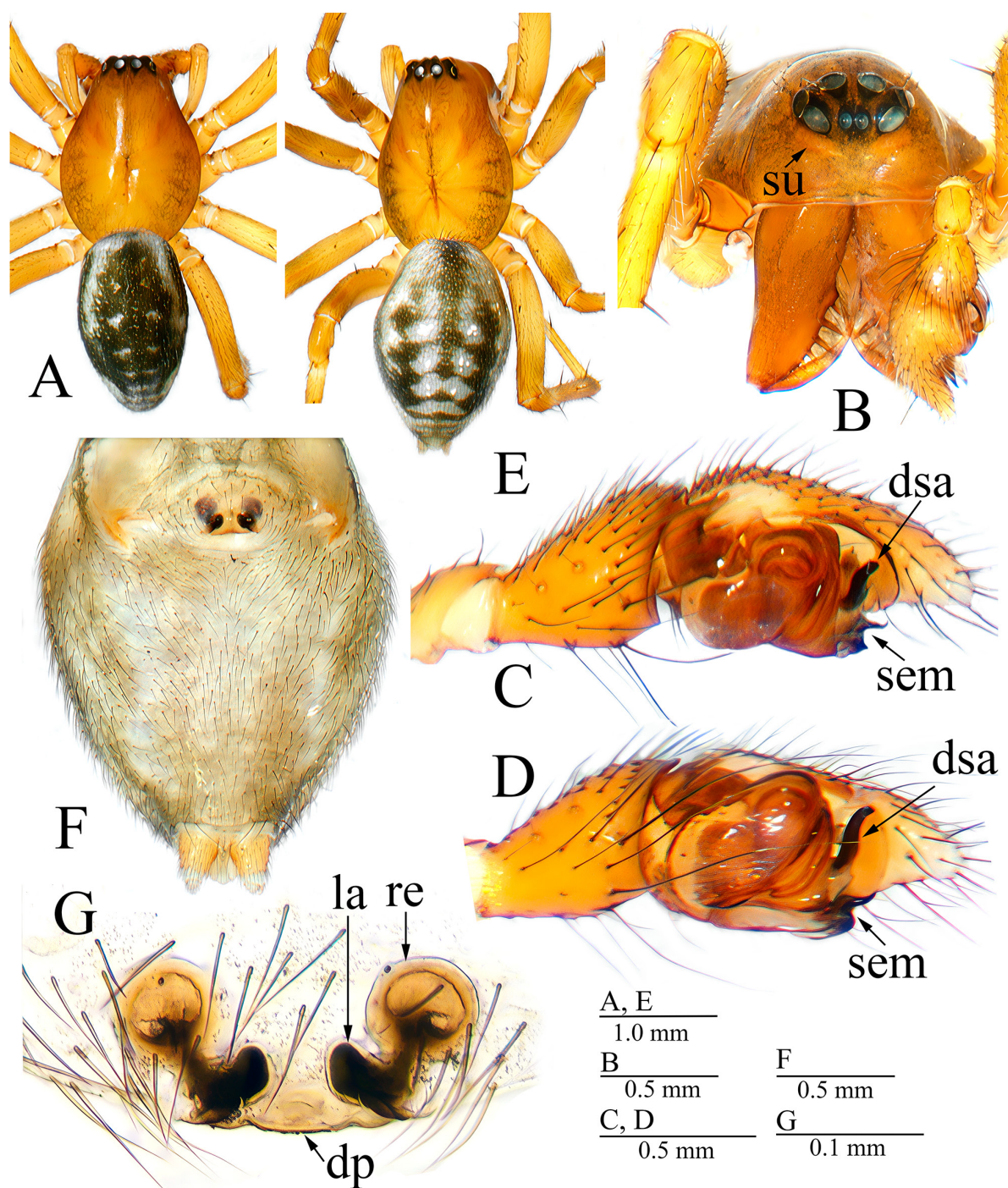


Fig. 6. Male (A–D) and female (E–G) of *Laminafroneta locketi* (Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996), specimens from [Eth005]. A, E — habitus, dorsal view; B — prosoma, frontal view; C, D — right palp, retrolateral and ventral views, respectively; F — abdomen, ventral view; G — cleared epigyne, ventral view.

Рис.6. Самец (А–D) и самка (Е–G) *Laminafroneta locketi* (Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996), экземпляры из [Eth005]. А, Е — внешний вид, сверху; В — просома, вид спереди и сбоку; С, D — правая пальпа, соответственно ретролатерально и вид снизу; F — брюшко, вид снизу; G — просветлённая эпигина, вид снизу.

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Fig. 7. Photographs of collecting localities. A, B — Eth001, *Neriene kibonotensis* (Tullgren, 1910); C, D — Eth010, *Afroneta arsi* sp.n.; E, F — Eth017, *Afroneta minipalpa* sp.n.

Рис. 7. Фотографии мест сборов. А, В — Eth001, *Neriene kibonotensis* (Tullgren, 1910); С, D — Eth010, *Afroneta arsi* sp.n.; Е, F — Eth017, *Afroneta minipalpa* sp.n.

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Fig. 8. Photographs of collecting localities. A, B — Eth012, *Afroneta montana* sp.n.; C — Eth008, *Afromynoglenes parkeri* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996, and *Laminafroneta locketi* (Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996); D — Eth026, *A. parkeri*; E, F — Eth005 and Eth008, respectively, *L. locketi*.

Рис. 8. Фотографии мест сборов. А, В — Eth012, *Afroneta montana* sp.n.; С — Eth008, *Afromynoglenes parkeri* Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996 и *Laminafroneta locketi* (Merrett et Russell-Smith, 1996); D — Eth026, *A. parkeri*; E, F — соответственно Eth005 и Eth008, *L. locketi*.

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