

Notes on the spider genus *Incestophantes* Tanasevitch, 1992, with descriptions of four new species from the mountains of Middle Asia (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

Заметки о роде пауков *Incestophantes* Tanasevitch, 1992 с описанием четырех новых видов из гор Средней Азии (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

Andrei V. Tanasevitch
А.В. Танасевич

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

Институт проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова РАН, Ленинский проспект 33, Москва 119071 Россия.

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

KEY WORDS: Araneae, taxonomy, dwarf spiders, mountain fauna.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, таксономия, пауки-пигмеи, горная фауна.

ABSTRACT. Four species of *Incestophantes* Tanasevitch, 1992 are described from the mountains of Middle Asia: *I. barskaun* **sp.n.** (♂) and *I. susamyrtau* **sp.n.** (♂) from Kyrgyzstan; *I. ramit* **sp.n.** (♂, ♀) from Tajikistan; and *I. kaltakul* **sp.n.** (♂) from Uzbekistan. The unknown male of *I. hissaricus* (Tanasevitch, 1989) **comb.n.** ex *Lepthyphantes* Menge, 1866 is described for the first time. A diagnosis of the genus *Incestophantes* is refined, and its species list is updated. Taking into account the new data, the Holarctic genus *Incestophantes* is known to contain 28 species. The mountains of South Siberia and Middle Asia are the most species-rich regions for *Incestophantes*, with eleven and five congeners, respectively.

РЕЗЮМЕ. Из гор Средней Азии описаны четыре вида рода *Incestophantes*: *I. barskaun* **sp.n.** (♂) и *I. susamyrtau* **sp.n.** (♂) из Кыргызстана, *I. ramit* **sp.n.** (♂, ♀) из Таджикистана, и *I. kaltakul* **sp.n.** (♂) из Узбекистана. Описан неизвестный ранее самец *I. hissaricus* (Tanasevitch, 1989) **comb.n.**, перенесён из *Lepthyphantes* Menge, 1866. Уточнён диагноз рода *Incestophantes* Tanasevitch, 1992. С учётом новых данных голарктический род *Incestophantes* включает 28 видов. Наиболее богаты видами рода горы Южной Сибири и Средней Азии: здесь обитают соответственно 11 и 5 его представителей.

Introduction

The term “Middle Asia” is still used to designate a historical and geographical subregion of Central Asia. It comprises the territories of the republics of Uzbekistan,

Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and southern Kazakhstan [Cowan, 2007].

The genus *Incestophantes* Tanasevitch, 1992 was established to accommodate nine species formerly assigned to *Lepthyphantes* Menge, 1866, which occur in various parts of the Holarctic Region [Tanasevitch, 1992]. Most representatives of *Incestophantes* are known from the mountains of South Siberia [Tanasevitch, Eskov, 1987; Tanasevitch, 1996, 2000], but the genus remains unrecorded in the neighbouring mountains of Middle Asia [Tanasevitch, 1989].

Numerous linyphiid spiders collected during the 1980s and 1990s from various parts of Middle Asia are preserved in the unsorted spider collections of the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University. This paper describes four *Incestophantes* species from the Pamir-Alay and Tian Shan mountains, specifically from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan republics of Middle Asia.

Material and methods

This paper is based on the spider material kept at the collection of the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia (ZMMU), and will be shared between ZMMU and the collection of the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia (ZISP).

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., $Til: 2-1-1-2(1)$, which means that tibia I has two dorsal spines, one prolateral, one retrolateral and two or one

ventral 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. Scale bars in the figures correspond to 0.1 mm unless indicated otherwise. The terminology of the structure of the copulatory organs mainly follows that of Saaristo, Tanasevitch [1996].

Abbreviations used in the text and figures: a.s.l. — above sea level; bc — bursa copulatrix; dp — dorsal process of embolus; dps — distal part of scape; dsa — distal supratetral apophysis; e — embolus; ep — embolus proper; Fe — femur; fg — Fickert's gland; lc — lamella characteristica; ll — lateral lobes of dps; lw — lateral walls; Mt — metatarsus; N.R. — Nature Reserve; ph — pit hook; pmp — posterior median plate; pp — posterior pocket; r — radix; st — stretcher; ta — terminal apophysis; th — thumb; Ti — tibia; Tml — relative position of trichobothrium on the metatarsus of leg I; ub — upper branch of lc; WSC — Word Spider Catalog; ZMMU — Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University; ZISP — Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Taxonomy

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

Incestophantes Tanasevitch, 1992

TYPE SPECIES: *Incestophantes incestus* (L. Koch, 1879).

DIAGNOSIS. The genus comprises medium- to large-sized linyphiids, which are characterized by the following combination of somatic and genitalic characters:

(1) Carapace unmodified, eyes not enlarged, sulci absent. Abdomen with a distinct pattern in both sexes.

(2) Legs relatively long and slender, typically with dark rings. Chaetotaxy: tibiae usually with ventral spines, metatarsi often armed. Metatarsi I–III with a trichobothrium each.

(3) Palp. Cymbium with a posterodorsal outgrowth (or outgrowths). Paracymbium relatively large and typically bears a tooth (or teeth). Distal supratetral apophysis moderately developed and often terminating in a bifid pit-hook. Median membrane relatively small, poorly visible. Lamella characteristica well-developed, usually broad and long, often ends in a marginal spike (or spikes). Terminal apophysis shows considerable variation in shape, typically divided into several parts. Embolus with a large thumb, embolus proper bifid.

(4) Epigyne usually well-protruded. Scape diverse in structure, some parts often modified and/or reduced to varying. Posterior median plate large, with long lateral branches, protruding forward.

SPECIES INCLUDED. Presently, the genus comprises 23 species [WSC, 2026]. Additionally, four new species are described below, and one representative is transferred from *Lepthyphantes* Menge, 1866.

DISTRIBUTION. The genus *Incestophantes* is widely distributed across the Holarctic Region. The highest species diversity is observed in South Siberia and the mountains of Middle Asia.

CHOROLOGY. Holarctic.

Incestophantes barskaun sp.n.

Figs 1, 9, 10.

HOLOTYPE 1 ♂ (ZMMU), KYRGYZSTAN, North Tian Shan Mts, Issyk-Kul Area, Terskey Alatau Mt. Ridge,

Barskaun Valley, *Picea* forest, 2500 m a.s.l., 16.VIII.1988, S. Ovtchinnikov leg.

NAME. The specific epithet is a noun in apposition taken from the “terra typica”, the Barskaun Valley in North Tian Shan.

DESCRIPTION. Male. Total length 2.50, habitus as in Fig. 1. Carapace unmodified, 1.15 long, 0.95 wide, yellow to pale brown, with a grey median stripe bifurcated anteriorly, and a dark, narrow margin. Eyes not enlarged. Chelicerae 0.55 long. Legs yellow. Leg I, 6.15 long (1.50 + 0.40 + 1.75 + 1.55 + 0.95), IV, 5.00 long (1.40 + 0.30 + 1.20 + 1.35 + 0.75). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 0-1-0-0; II–IV: 0-0-0-0. TiI: 2-1-1-0, II: 2-0-1-0, III: 2-?-?-?, IV: 2-0-1-0. Length of tibial spines 1.5–2 diameters of corresponding leg segment. Metatarsi I–III with a trichobothrium each. Tml 0.13. Palp as in Figs 9, 10. Patella with a long spine dorsally. Tibia unmodified. Cymbium with a posterodorsal keel-shaped outgrowth. Paracymbium U-shaped, with a small, blunt tooth at its proximal part, and a small, sharp tooth at apical part. Distal supratetral apophysis bifid apically. Lamella characteristica deeply divided into two narrow branches. Terminal apophysis flat, complex shape. Embolus with a large thumb. Abdomen 1.35 long, 0.90 wide, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 1.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The new species is characterized by the shapes of the palp structures, particularly, a deeply divided into two parts of the lamella characteristica, and the rounded posterior pocked of the paracymbium.

DISTRIBUTION. The species is only known from the type locality, in the North Tian Shan Mts, the Barskaun Valley, Kyrgyzstan.

Incestophantes susamyrtau sp.n.

Figs 2, 11–13.

HOLOTYPE 1 ♂ (ZMMU), KYRGYZSTAN, Inner Tian Shan Mts, Susamyrtau (= Suusamyrtoo) Mt. Ridge, 5 km S of Kozhomkul (= Kojomkul), 22.VIII.1986, S. Ovtchinnikov leg.

NAME. The specific epithet is a noun in apposition taken from the “terra typica”, the Susamyrtau Mt. Ridge, Inner Tian Shan Mts.

DESCRIPTION. Male. Total length 2.83, habitus as in Fig. 2. Carapace unmodified, 1.15 long, 0.90 wide, yellow to pale brown, with a dark median stripe. Eyes not enlarged. Chelicerae 0.55 long. Legs yellow to pale brown, middle and distal parts of segment darkened. Leg I, 5.65 long (1.45 + 0.35 + 1.50 + 1.45 + 0.90), IV, 5.05 long (1.40 + 0.30 + 1.20 + 1.35 + 0.80). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 0-1-0-0; II–IV: 0-0-0-0; TiI: 2-1-1-2, TiII: 2-0-1-2, TiIII–IV: 2-0-0(1)-1; MtI–IV: 1-0-0-0. Length of tibial spines 1.5–2 diameters of corresponding leg segment. Metatarsi I–III with a trichobothrium each. Tml 0.31. Palp as in Figs 11–13. Patella with a long spine dorsally. Cymbium with a small, rounded posterodorsal outgrowth. Tegulum with a conical extension directed ventrally. Tibia short, unmodified. Middle part of paracymbium large, darkened, its distal part slender, almost transparent; proximal and middle parts of paracymbium with a small tooth each. Lamella characteristica a broad, straight stripe, ending with a spike. Terminal apophysis flat and long. Embolus relatively large, with a long thumb. Abdomen 1.70 long, 1.10 wide, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 2.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The new species differs well by the peculiar shape of the tegulum, and the relatively narrow lamella characteristica.

DISTRIBUTION. The species is only known from the type locality, in the Inner Tian Shan Mts, Susamyrtau Mt. Ridge, Kyrgyzstan.

Incestophantes kaltakul sp.n.

Figs 3, 14–17.

HOLOTYPE ♂ (ZMMU), UZBEKISTAN, Hisar-Alay Mts, Hisar (= Gissar, Gissarsky) Mt. Ridge, near Kaltakul, ca. 38.8424°N, 67.1293°E, 3.X.1987, S. Ovtchinnikov leg.

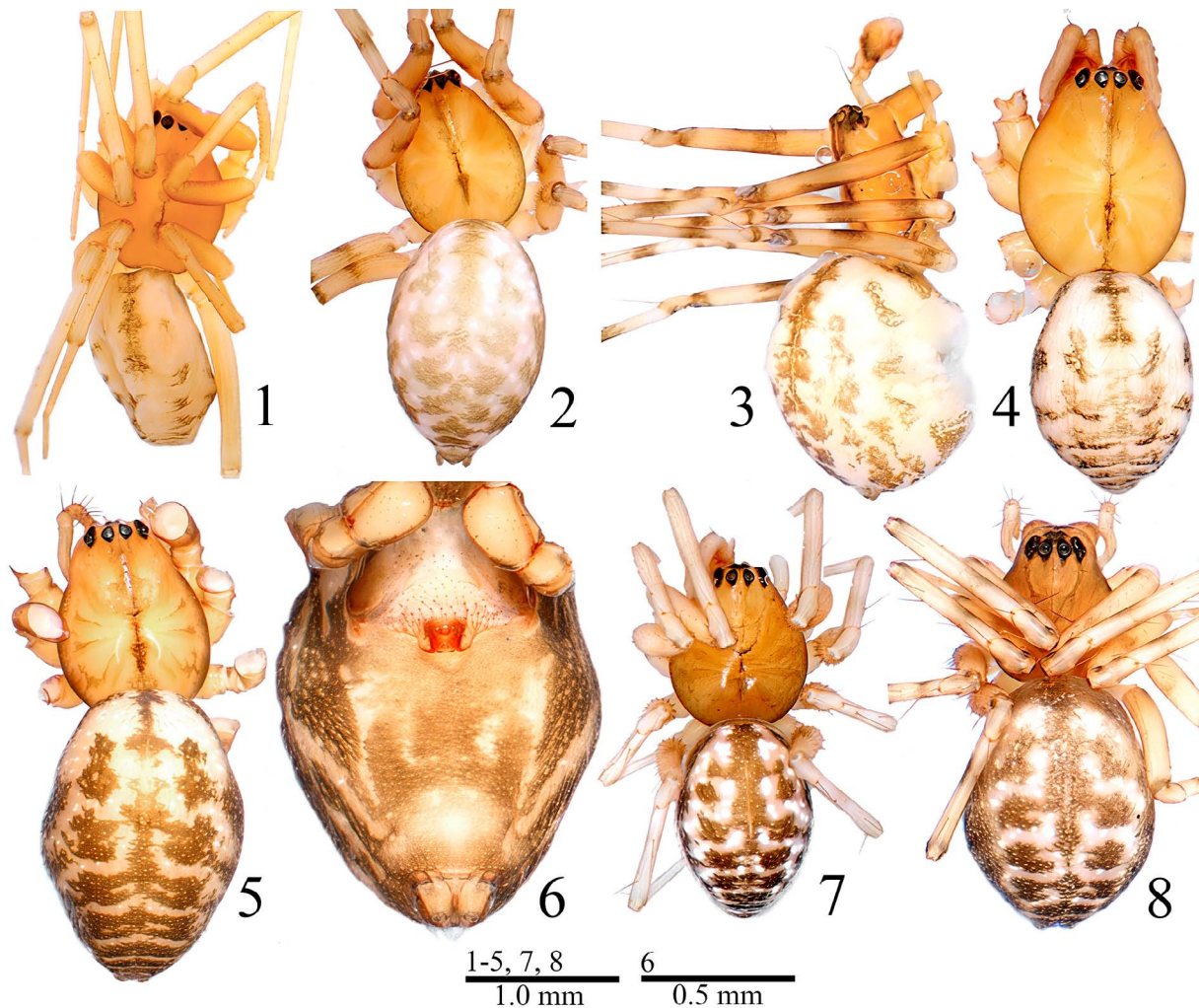
NAME. The specific epithet is a noun in apposition, referring to Kaltakul, the provenance area of the new species.

DESCRIPTION. Male. Total length 3.00, habitus as in Fig. 3. Carapace unmodified, 1.10 long, 0.90 wide; yellow to pale brown, with a dark median stripe, bifurcated anteriorly. Eyes not enlarged. Chelicerae 0.63 long. Legs yellow to pale brown, middle and distal parts of segment darkened. Leg I, 7.25 long (2.00 + 0.40 + 2.00 + 1.85 + 1.00), IV, 6.15 long (1.75 + 0.30 + 1.50 + 1.70 + 0.90). Chaetotaxy. Fel: 0-1-0-0; II-IV: 0-0-0-0; TII: 2-1-1-0, TIII: 2-0-1-0, TIII-IV: 2-0-0-0; MII-IV: 1-0-0-0. Length of tibial spines 2–4 diameters of corresponding leg segment. Metatarsi I–III with a trichoboth-

rium each. TmI 0.18. Palp as in Figs 14–17. Patella with a long spine dorsally. Tibia unmodified. Cymbium with a relatively long, wavy posterodorsal outgrowth. Paracymbium toothless. Lamella characteristic wide and relatively short, with an upper branch proximally; distal part of lamella characteristic with two long, marginal spears apically. Terminal apophysis divided into two parts: flat, rounded, and long, curved. Embolus with a long, slender, pointed process above embolus proper (dp in Fig. 17). Abdomen pressed, 1.85 long, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 3.

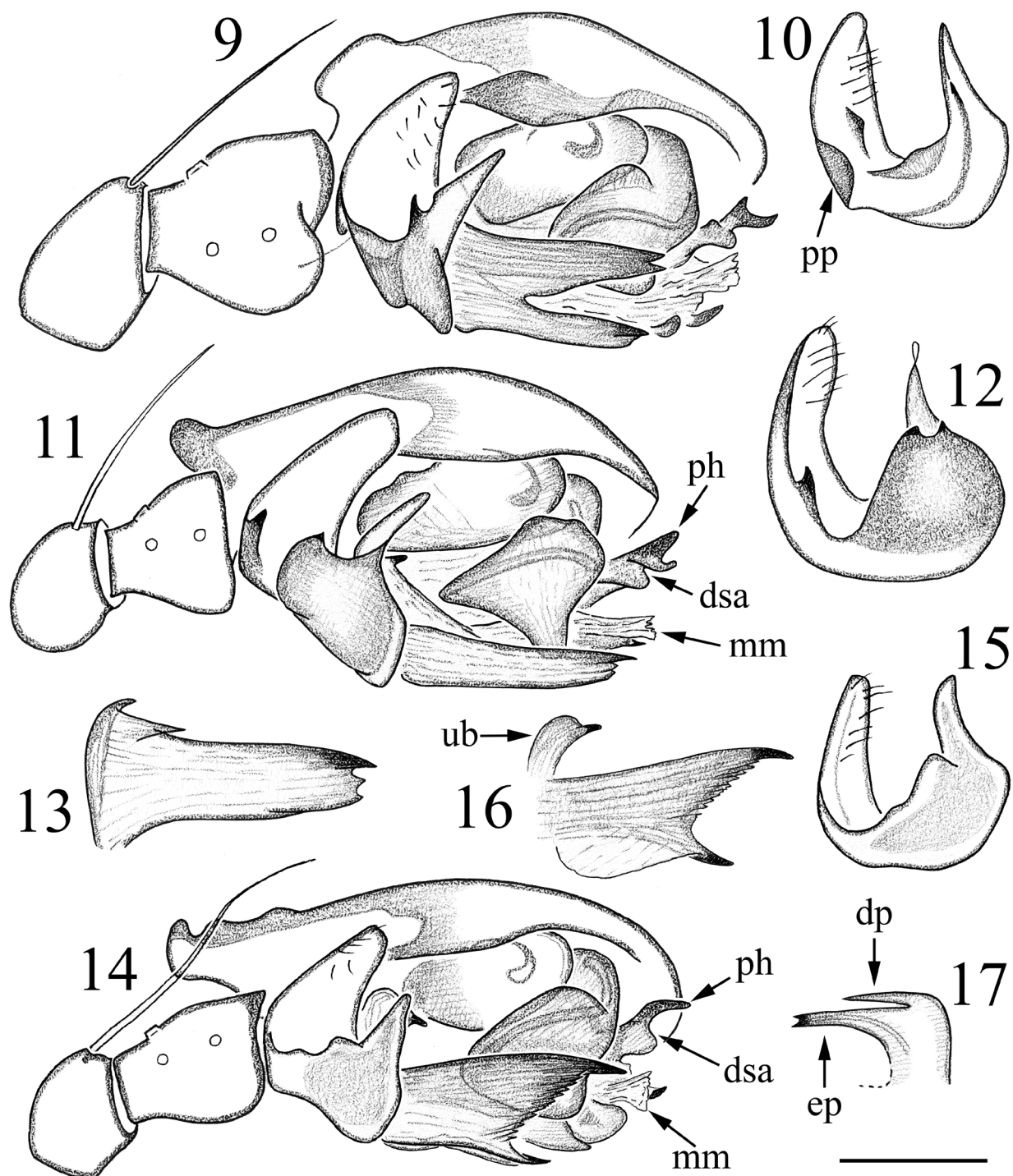
TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The new species differs well by a wavy posterodorsal cymbial outgrowth, a peculiar structure of the lamella characteristic, and the presence of a slender, pointed, spike-like process situated dorsally to the embolus proper.

DISTRIBUTION. The species is only known from the type locality: the Hisar-Alay Mts, Kaltakul, Tajikistan.



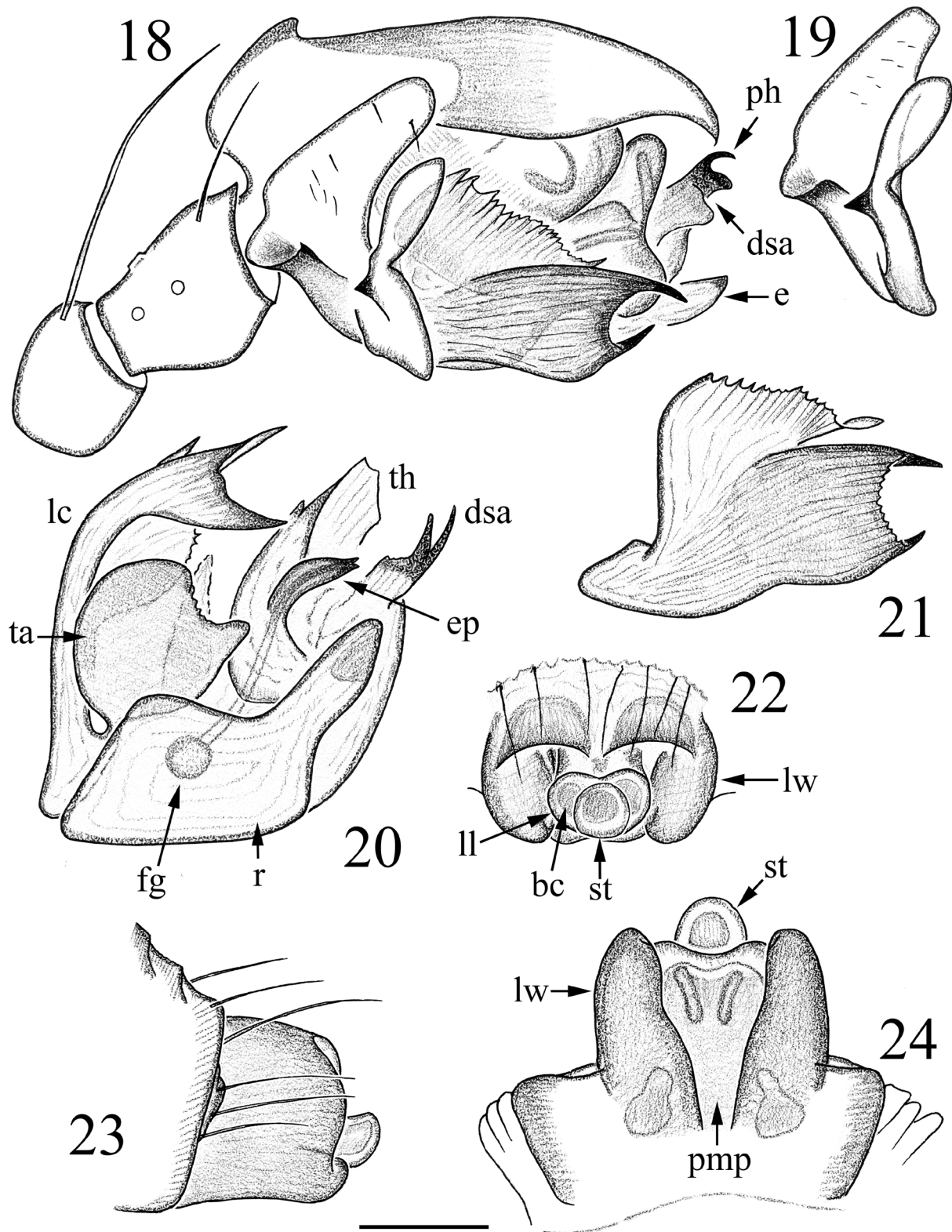
Figs 1–8. Photographs of *Incestophantes barskaun* sp.n., ♂ holotype (1); *I. susamyrtau* sp.n., ♂ holotype (2); *I. kaltakul* sp.n., ♂ holotype (3); *I. ramit* sp.n., ♂ (4) and ♀ (5, 6) paratypes from Sorwo, *I. hissaricus* comb.n., ♂ (7) and ♀ (8) specimens from Anzob Pass. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 — habitus, dorsal view; 3 — habitus, lateral view; 6 — abdomen, ventral view.

Рис. 1–8. Фотографии *Incestophantes barskaun* sp.n., ♂ голотип (1); *I. susamyrtau* sp.n., ♂ голотип (2); *I. kaltakul* sp.n., ♂ голотип (3); *I. ramit* sp.n., ♂ (4) и ♀ (5, 6) паратипы из Сорво, *I. hissaricus* comb.n., ♂ (7) и ♀ (8) экз. с пер. Анзоб. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 — внешний вид, сверху; 3 — внешний вид, сбоку; 6 — брюшко, вид снизу.



Figs 9–17. Male palpal structure of holotypes of *Incestophantes barskaun* sp.n., (9, 10), *I. susamyrtau* sp.n., (11–13), and *I. kaltakul* sp.n., (14–17). 9, 11, 14 — right palp, retrolateral view; 10, 12, 15 — paracymbium, lateral view; 13, 16 — lamella characteristica, lateral view; 17 — distal part of embolus. Figure 17 not to scale.

Рис. 9–17. Структура пальпы голотипов самцов *Incestophantes barskaun* sp.n. (9, 10), *I. susamyrtau* sp.n. (11–13), and *I. kaltakul* sp.n. (14–17). 9, 11, 14 — правая пальпа, ретролатерально; 10, 12, 15 — парацимбиум, вид сбоку; 13, 16 — ламелла, вид сбоку; 17 — дистальная часть эмболюса. Рисунок 17 не в масштабе.



Figs 18–24. Male palpal and epigynal structure of *Incestophantes ramit* sp.n., ♂ and ♀ paratypes from Sorwo. 18 — right palp, retrolateral view; 19 — paracymbium, frontal view; 20 — embolic division, ventral view; 21 — lamella characteristica, ventro-retrolateral view; 22–24 — epigyne, postero-ventral, lateral and dorsal views, respectively.

Рис. 18–24. Структура пальпы самца и эпигины *Incestophantes ramit* sp.n., ♂ и ♀ паратипы из Сорво. 18 — правая пальпа, ретролатерально; 19 — парацимбium, вид спереди; 20 — эмболюсный отдел, вид снизу; 21 — ламелла, вид снизу и ретролатерально; 22–24 — эпигина, соответственно сзади и снизу, сбоку и сверху.

Incestophantes ramit sp.n.

Figs 4–6, 18–24.

HOLOTYPE ♂ (ZMMU), TAJIKISTAN, Hisar-Alay Mts, Hisar (= Gissar, Gissarsky) Mt. Ridge, Romit (formerly Ramit) N.R., Sardai-Miyona River Valley, near Sorwo, *Juglans regia* forest, litter, 1900–2000 m a.s.l., 5–6.X.1986, S. Zonstein leg.

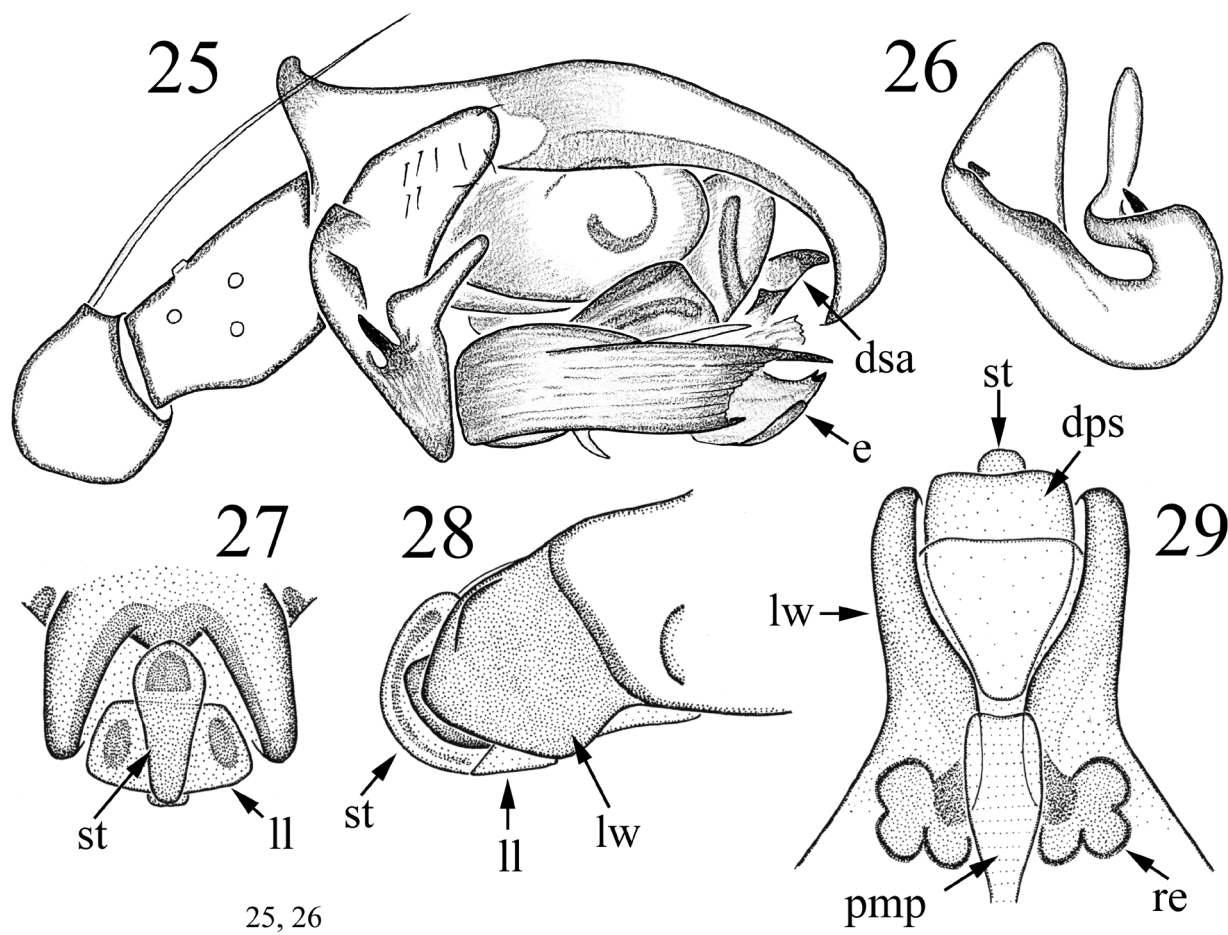
PARATYPES: 21 ♂♂, 43 ♀♀ (ZMMU), 22 ♂♂, 20 ♀♀ (ZISP), together with the holotype; 1 ♂ (ZMMU), TAJIKISTAN, Pamir-Alay Mts, West Pamir Mts, Darvoz (= Darvaz) Mt. Ridge, Khazratisho Mt. Ridge, near Sangdara, 1500 m a.s.l., 15.X.1987, S. Zonstein leg.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), near Sangdara, 1800 m a.s.l., 16.X.1987, S. Ovtchinnikov leg.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), North Pamir Mts, Peter I Mt. Ridge, S slope of Childara Valley, near Childara, 2100 m a.s.l., 12.VII.1988, S. Zonstein leg.

NAME. The specific epithet is a noun in apposition referring to the original name of the Ramit Nature Reserve (now Romit), the provenance area of the new species.

DESCRIPTION. Male. Total length 3.10, habitus as in Fig. 4. Carapace unmodified, 1.60 long, 1.20 wide, pale brown, with a grey margin and a median stripe. Eyes not enlarged. Chelicerae

0.85 long. Legs pale brown, middle and distal parts of segment darkened. Leg I, 8.20 long ($2.15 + 0.45 + 2.25 + 2.10 + 1.25$), IV, 7.35 long ($2.00 + 0.45 + 1.90 + 2.00 + 1.00$). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 0-1-0-0; II–IV: 0-0-0-0; TiI: 2-1-1-1, TiII: 2-0-1-1, TiIII–IV: 2-0-0-1; MtiI: 2-0-0-0, II–IV: 1-0-0-0. Length of tibial spines 1–4 diameters of corresponding leg segment. Metatarsi I–III with a trichobothrium each. TmI 0.21. Palp as in Figs 18–21. Patella with a long spine dorsally. Tibia unmodified. Paracymbium U-shaped, with a peculiar posterior pocket, and a small, sharp tooth at its apical part. Lamella characteristic very wide, its dorsal branch semitransparent, darkened distally, serrated terminally. Terminal apophysis large, flat, rounded. Embolus large, embolus proper relatively long, thick, and curved sideways. Abdomen 1.80 long, 1.20 wide, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 4.

Female. Total length 3.70, habitus as in Fig. 5. Carapace unmodified, 1.55 long, 1.10 wide. Eyes not enlarged. Chelicerae 0.70 long. Body and leg coloration, chaetotaxy as in male. Leg I, 7.50 long ($1.85 + 0.50 + 1.85 + 1.70 + 1.60$), IV, 6.60 long ($1.80 + 0.45 + 1.75 + 1.65 + 0.95$). Metatarsi I–III with a trichobothrium each. TmI 0.23. Abdomen 2.25 long, 1.60 wide, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 5. Epigyne as in Figs 6, 22–24,



Figs 25–29. Male palpal and epigynal structure of *Incestophantes hissaricus* (Tanasevitch, 1989) comb.n., ♂, ♀ specimens from Anzob Pass. 25 — right palp, retrolateral view; 26 — paracymbium, lateral view; 27–29 — epigyne, after Tanasevitch [1989], postero-ventral, lateral and dorsal views, respectively. Figs 27–29 not to scale.

Рис. 25–29. Структура пальпы самца и эпигины *Incestophantes hissaricus* (Tanasevitch, 1989) comb.n. ♂, ♀ экз. с пер. Анзоб. 25 — правая пальпа, ретролатерально; 26 — парацимбиум, вид сбоку; 27–29 — эпигина, по Tanasevitch [1989], соответственно сзади и снизу, сбоку и сверху. Рис. 27–29 не в масштабе.

protruded well, proscape and middle part of scape reduced; distal part of scape short, lateral lobes with a large bursa copulatrix; stretcher very short, swollen. Posterior median plate long, broadening distad, lateral branches absent.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The male of *Incestophantes ramit* **sp.n.** is characterized by distinctive palpal structures: viz., a very broad and complexly shaped lamella characteristic, a rounded terminal apophysis, a thick and curved embolus proper. The female differs by a relatively short epigyne, a strongly reduced both the proscape and the middle part of the scape, a swollen stretcher, and, particularly, by absence of the lateral branches of the posterior median plate.

DISTRIBUTION. The species is widely distributed in the mountains of Tajikistan: the Hisar-Alay, West and North Pamir.

Incestophantes hissaricus (Tanasevitch, 1989) **comb.n.**
Figs 7, 8, 25–29.

Lepthyphantes hissaricus Tanasevitch, 1989: 99, figs 35–37, ♀, examined.

REMARKS. The species was described based on a single female specimen from the Hisar-Alay Mts, Hisar (= Hissarsky) Mt. Ridge, Varzob Distr., Tajikistan. A vial containing material collected near the type locality of *Lepthyphantes hissaricus* includes two females of this species together with one male presumed to be conspecific. Morphological analysis of the genital structures in both sexes (detailed below) provides evidence for the taxonomic assignment of this species to the genus *Incestophantes*. The first description of the male of *Incestophantes hissaricus* (Tanasevitch, 1989) **comb.n.** is presented below.

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), TAJIKISTAN, Pamir-Alay Mts, Hisar (= Gissar, Gissarsky, Hissarsky) Mt. Ridge, Varzob Distr., Anzob Pass, 8–9.VII.1988, S. Ovtchinnikov leg.

DESCRIPTION. Male. Total length 2.51, habitus as in Fig. 7. Carapace unmodified, 1.10 long, 0.90 wide, greyish-yellow to pale brown. Eyes not enlarged. Chelicerae 0.55 long. Legs yellow, middle part of segments slightly darkened. Leg I, 4.85 long (1.30 + 0.35 + 1.25 + 1.20 + 0.75), IV, 4.55 long (1.25 + 0.30 + 1.10 + 1.15 + 0.75). Chaetotaxy. FeI: 0-1-0-0; II–IV: 0-0-0-0. TiI: 2-1-1-0, II: 2-0-1-0, III: 2-?-?-?, IV: 2-0-1-0. Length of tibial spines 2–4 diameters of corresponding leg segment. Metatarsi I–III each with a trichobothrium. Tml 0.27. Palp as in Figs 25, 26. Patella with a long spine dorsally. Tibia slightly elongated. Cymbium with a posterodorsal outgrowth of peculiar shape. Paracymbium U-shaped, its distal part sigmoid, with a long, slender tooth, and a small tooth at its proximal part. Lamella characteristic long and wide, with two long marginal spears apically. Dorsal branch of lamella characteristic short, slender and almost transparent. Terminal apophysis practically reduced. Embolus relatively large, thumb long and broad. Abdomen 1.35 long, 0.90 wide, dorsal pattern as in Fig. 7.

Female. The female is well described, see Tanasevitch [1989]; habitus as in Fig. 8, epigyne as in Figs 27–29.

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. The lamella characteristic of *I. hissaricus* **comb.n.** resembles that of several other species, e.g.: *I. camtchadalicus* (Tanasevitch, 1988) from Kamchatka, *I. cymbialis* (Tanasevitch, 1988) from the Russian Far East, the Palearctic *I. kochiellus* (Strand, 1900), and particularly *I. tuvensis* Tanasevitch, 1996 from Tuva. *Incestophantes hissaricus*

comb.n. is distinguished from these species by the elongated palpal tibia, a peculiar shape of the posterodorsal cymbial outgrowth, as well as a sigmoid distal part of the paracymbium in the male. The female is characterized by the relatively short epigyne, with a very long stretcher directed upward and tightly pressed against the distal part of the epigyne.

DISTRIBUTION. The species is only known from the Hisar-Alay Mts, Hisar Mt. Ridge, Tajikistan.

Conclusion

Taking into account the new data, the Holarctic genus *Incestophantes* presently comprises 28 species. The regions with the highest species richness are the mountains of South Siberia and Middle Asia, which include by eleven and five species, respectively. To date, no representatives of *Incestophantes* have been recorded from the neighbouring mountain systems of Central Asia, including the Hindu Kush, Karakoram, and Himalayas.

Compliance with ethical standards

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: 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 Kirill Mikhailov (ZMMU) for offering the opportunity to work on the arachnological collections under his care. Thanks also go to Alexander Gromov (SMF, Germany) for his advices on geographical localities.

References

- Cowan P.J. 2007. Geographic usage of the terms Middle Asia and Central Asia // Journal of Arid Environments. Vol.69. No.2. P.359–363. doi 10.1016/j.jaridenv.2006.09.013
- Saaristo M.I., Tanasevitch A.V. 1996. Redelimitation of the subfamily Micronetinae Hull, 1920 and the genus *Lepthyphantes* Menge, 1866 with descriptions of some new genera // Berichte des Naturwissenschaftlich-Medizinischen Vereins in Innsbruck. Bd.83. P.163–186.
- Tanasevitch A.V. 1989. The linyphiid spiders of Middle Asia (Arachnida: Araneae: Linyphiidae) // Senckenbergiana Biologica. Bd.69. H.1/3. P.83–176.
- Tanasevitch A.V. 1992. New genera and species of the tribe Lepthyphantini (Aranei Linyphiidae Micronetinae) from Asia (with some nomenclatorial notes on linyphiids) // Arthropoda Selecta. Vol.1. No.1. No.39–50.
- Tanasevitch A.V. 1996. New species of genus *Incestophantes* Tanasevitch, 1992 from southern Siberia and the Far East, with notes on systematics of this genus (Arachnida: Araneae: Linyphiidae: Micronetinae) // Reichenbachia. Bd.31. Nr.22. P.113–122.
- Tanasevitch A.V. 2000. New species of the family Linyphiidae from south Siberia, Russia (Arachnida: Araneae) // Reichenbachia. Bd.33. Nr.31. P.243–253.
- Tanasevitch A.V., Eskov K.Yu. 1987. [Spiders of the genus *Lepthyphantes* (Aranei, Linyphiidae) in the fauna of Siberia and Soviet Far East] // Zoologicheskyy Zhurnal. Vol.66. No.2. P.185–197 [in Russian, with English summary].
- World Spider Catalog 2026. World Spider Catalog, version 27. Natural History Museum Bern. Online at <http://wsc.nmbe.ch> (accessed in May, 2026).