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A NEW *LEIOBUNUM* SPECIES FROM GREECE (ARACHNIDA, OPILIONES, PHALANGIIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Leiobunum gruberi nov. spec. (Arachnida, Opiliones, Phalangiidae) from northern Greece (Macedonia, Leptokaria) is described and figured. This species is closely related to *Leiobunum seriatum* Simon, 1878, known from the Near East, Cyprus and eastern Anatolia. A short review of known taxa of the genus *Leiobunum* C.L. Koch, 1839, on the Balkan is presented.

INTRODUCTION

In spite of the fact that numerous scientists focussed incidentally on the fauna of Opiliones in the region of Greece, it remained to a great extent unknown. Therefore, the discovery of a new species of Opiliones from Greece in 1976 is not surprising. Collecting Orthoptera in the coastal region of the slopes of Mt. Olympus, Dr. Mladen Karaman also took some samples of Opiliones in a camp near Leptokaria. Among these samples we found one female of *Opilio saxatilis* C.L. Koch, 1839, as well as several specimens of an unknown species of the genus *Leiobunum* C.L. Koch, 1839, which is described here as *L. gruberi* nov. spec.

The genus *Leiobunum* (sensu auctorum) is a numerous and rather heterogeneous group of species dispersed over almost the entire Holarctic (Martens, 1978). From the Balkan Peninsula the following species are known: *L. rotundum* (Latreille, 1798) and *L. rupestre* (Herbst, 1799) from the western parts of the Balkan (Hadzi, 1973), and *L. rumelicum* Silhavy, 1965 from Bulgaria (Starega, 1976). From Greece only one species of this genus was known, viz.: *L. ghigii* Di Caporiacco, 1929, from Rhodos Island.

Rambla (1968) recorded *L. ghigii* for northern Greece, Macedonia - Kozani Gruber (1978) however, expressed

some doubt regarding these data. We suppose that Rambla's record of *L. ghigii* refers to our new species. The record of *L. rotundum* by Di Caporiacco (1925) from the Island Kos was considered very doubtful by Martens (1965) and Gruber (1978). Worth mentioning are the findings of juvenile specimens of an unidentified species of *Leiobunum* from SE Bulgaria, Mt. Strandza, recorded by Starega (1976). Due to the lack of a distinctive description in his paper, we were unable to make comparisons of his material with our new species.

Leiobunum gruberi nov. spec.
(Figs. 1a-h)

Type locality.- Greece, Macedonia, Leptokaria.

Material examined.- Holotype, male 3 mm. Paratypes, 4 males, 6 females, leg. M. Karaman, 15.08.1976. Holotype and paratypes are deposited in the author's collection in Novi Sad, Serbia. Two paratypes (1 male, 1 female) are deposited in the Zoological Museum Amsterdam (ZMA), the Netherlands.

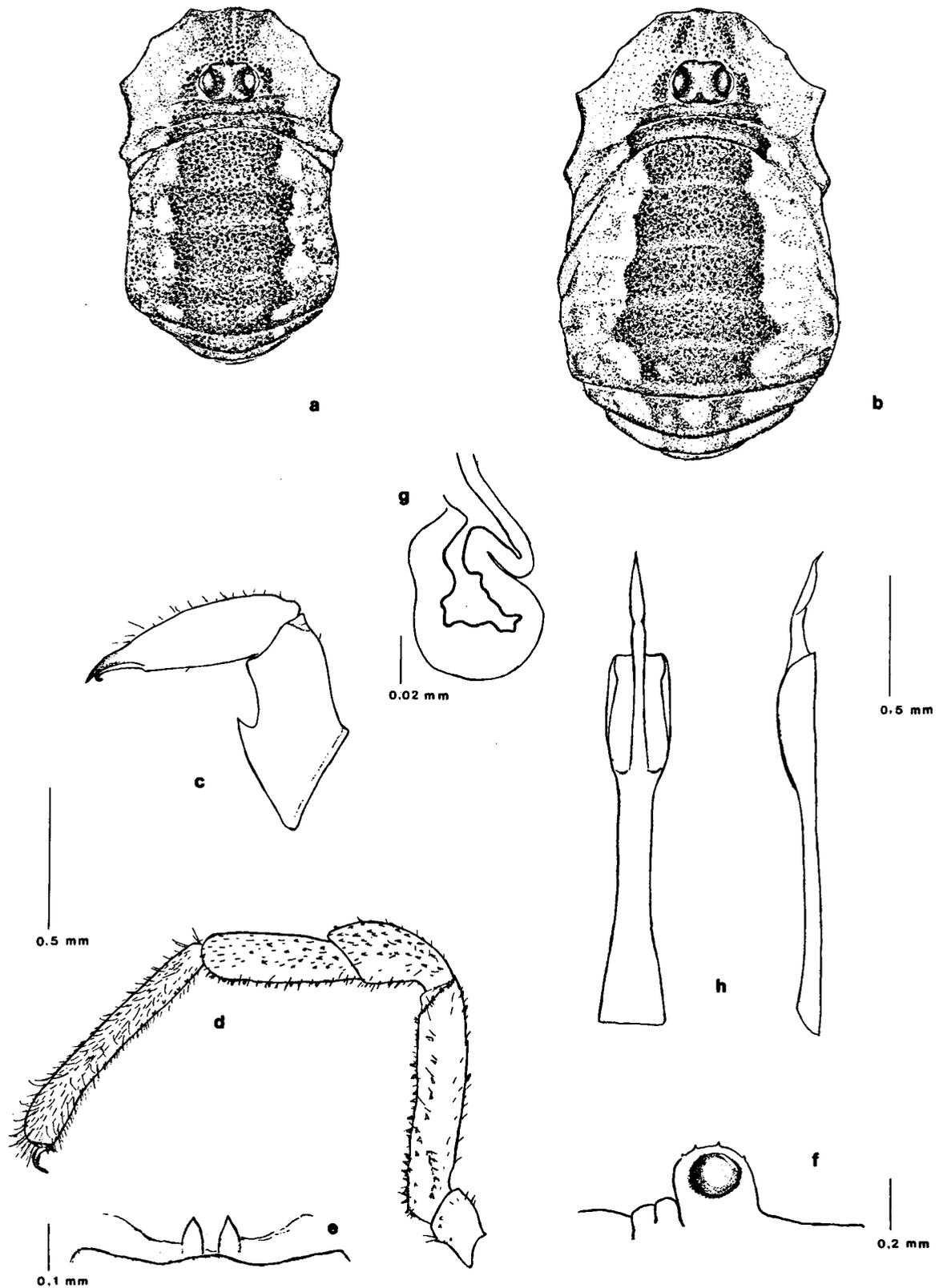


Fig. 1. *Leibunum gruberi* nov. spec. from Leptokaria, Greece. Holotype (c-e and h), paratypes (a, b and g). a) male, body in dorsal view; b) female, body in dorsal view; c) chelicerae, inner face; d) pedipalp, inner face; e) supracheliceral laminae, dorsal projection; g) receptaculum seminis; h) penis, ventral and lateral view.

Diagnosis. Small species, closely related to *Leiobunum seriatum* Simon, 1878, however, clearly differing from the latter in the structure of the copulatory organ in males and in the receptaculum seminis.

Description.- Male 3 mm (Figs. 1c-f,h). The entire surface of the body is finely granulated, light-yellow, with mediodorsal longitudinal brown pattern (Fig.1a). The dorsal pattern extends from the anterior margin of the prosoma, laterally defined by whitish spots. Supracheliceral laminae provided with two strong conical spines (Fig.1e). Ocular tubercles with four small spines. Penis (Fig.1h) length 1.96 mm, its foliate excrescence of distal part of truncus broadly bent to ventral side, laterally entirely overcoming the entire width of the truncus. Chelicerae (Fig.1c) whitish, without spines. Pedipalps (Fig.1d) light-yellow, finely granulated (observed under magnification of 100x); all segments provided with small spines. Spines on ventral, ventrolateral and apical side of femur are slightly stronger. Ventral inner side of femur with one row of strong spines with a broad basis. Dorsal and dorsolateral sides of patella and tibia provided with small spines, ventrobasal side of tarsus with widely spaced small spines.

Legs I Fe 6.7 (7.65); Pt 1.0 (1.1); Ti 5.1 (5.6); Ta 14 (16) mm;

II Fe 11 (12.6); Pt 1.2 (1.3); Ti 9.7 (11.1); Ta 26 (31) mm;

III Fe 6.5 (7.3); Pt 1.1 (1.1); Ti 4.5 (5.3); Ta 14 (16) mm;

IV Fe 9.2 (10.3); Pt 1.2 (1.2); Ti 6.7 (7.7); Ta 19.5 (22) mm; (the dimensions of leg-segments of the female of 4.5 mm are given in brackets).

Legs light-yellowish, its trochanters bearing brown spots anteriorly and posteriorly. Distal parts of tibia and distal segments of tarsus white.

Females larger, but similar to the males, except in their sexual differences. Shape of receptaculum seminis as in Fig.1g.

Variability.- Males body length 2.6-3.2 mm, females 3.5-4.9 mm. Ocular tubercles with 3-5 small, sometimes poorly visible teeth. Spines on supracheliceral laminae are of

broader or narrower base of its conical shape than the holotype (fig.1e). Femur and patella of pedipalps sometimes with distal dorsal brown parts. Dorsal pattern on prosoma and on last segments of opisthosoma sometimes less developed.

Derivatio nominis.- *Leiobunum gruberi* is dedicated to Dr. Jürgen Gruber, known arachnologist from Austria.

General remarks and affinities.- *Leiobunum gruberi* is closely related to *L.seriatum* Simon, 1878, known from the Near East, eastern Anatolia and Cyprus. It differs from the latter species by characters mentioned in the diagnosis. Starega (1973) established the synonymy of the species *L. seriatum* and *L. albigenum* Soerensen, 1911. We accept his conclusions using the descriptions of both species given by Roewer (1923) as well as the description of *L. albigenum* given by Silhavy in 1966. *L. ghigii* Di Capporiacco, 1929, from Rhodos Island and from Makri in SW Anatolia, is also closely related to *L. gruberi*; it differs, however, from the latter species by different size and colour of the body and by numerous other taxonomic characters of the body structure.

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