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## A redescription of *Mogrus mathisi* (BERLAND ET MILLOT, 1941) and its synonyms (Araneae: Salticidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Phileus mathisi* BERLAND & MILLOT 1941 is transferred to the genus *Mogrus*; a new combination is proposed. Redescription of this species is given. Two specific names, *Phileus senilis* DENIS, 1955 and *Mogrus dillae* PRÓSZYŃSKI, 1989 are synonymised with *Mogrus mathisi*. New distributional data are presented.

Key words: arachnology, Araneae, Salticidae, *Mogrus*, redescription, new synonyms, new combination.

*Phileus mathisi* was described from Senegal on the basis of a single male by BERLAND & MILLOT (1941). PRÓSZYŃSKI (2002) suggested that *Phileus senilis* described by DENIS (1955) from Monts Baguezane in Niger constituted its synonym (however, without formal synonymisation). Reexamination of the type specimens of both species confirms this supposition. Body proportions, coloration, shape of chelicerae and structure of copulatory organs of *Ph. mathisi* show similarities to *Mogrus fulvovittatus* SIMON, 1882, the type species of the genus *Mogrus* SIMON, 1882, big enough to justify placement of this species in this genus. Additionally, the structure of female genitalia of *Ph. senilis* and of *Mogrus dillae*, described by PRÓSZYŃSKI (1989) from Saudi Arabia on the basis of a female, show that these two are conspecific, thus, it is possible to recognise *M. dillae* as a synonym of *Ph. mathisi*, too.

*Ph. mathisi* (as *M. dillae*) has been recently recorded in Yemen (WESOŁOWSKA & VAN HARTEN 1994) and Tanzania (WESOŁOWSKA & RUSSELL-SMITH 2000). Therefore, this species is probably widely distributed in Africa and the Arabian Penin-

sula. The genus *Mogrus* is known from south Palaearctic, from the Mediterranean region to western China (LOGUNOV 1995). Hitherto only one species - *M. ignarus* - has the Afrotropical distribution (WESOŁOWSKA 1999). *M. semicanus* SIMON, 1910, described from South Africa, has been undoubtedly missclassified (see PRÓCHNIEWICZ 1989). The generic status of two other species reported from southern Africa - *M. albogularis* SIMON, 1901 and *M. macrocephalus* LAWRENCE, 1928 - demands verification.

***Mogrus mathisi* (BERLAND ET MILLOT, 1941) n. comb.**

Figs 1-10

*Phileus mathisi* BERLAND & MILLOT, 1941: 341.

*Phileus senilis* DENIS, 1955: 126, n. syn.

*Mogrus dillae* PRÓSZYŃSKI, 1989: 40, n. syn.

*Mogrus dillae*: WESOŁOWSKA & VAN HARTEN 1994: 56; WESOŁOWSKA & RUSSELL-SMITH 2000: 70.

**MATERIAL**

Senegal, Dakar, 1 male (holotype of *Phileus mathisi*), IX.1937, leg. L. BERLAND (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris); Niger, Air, Mt. Baguezane, 1500-1600 m a.l.s., 1 male, 1 female ("type and cotype" of *Phileus senilis*), 1 male and 1 female (paratypes of *Ph. senilis*), 1-4.IX.1947, leg. L. CHOPARD & A. VILLIERS (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris); Yemen: between Taiz and At Turba, 1 female, 14.III.1993, leg. M. KNAPP (Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren), Wadi Warazan, 1 female, 17.XII.1998, leg. A. VAN HARTEN (Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren); Suq Bani Mansour, 1 female, 28.VIII.2001, leg. A. VAN HARTEN (Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren); 12 km NW of Manakhah, 1 male, 27.III-5.V.2002, leg. A. VAN HARTEN (Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren).

**DIAGNOSIS**

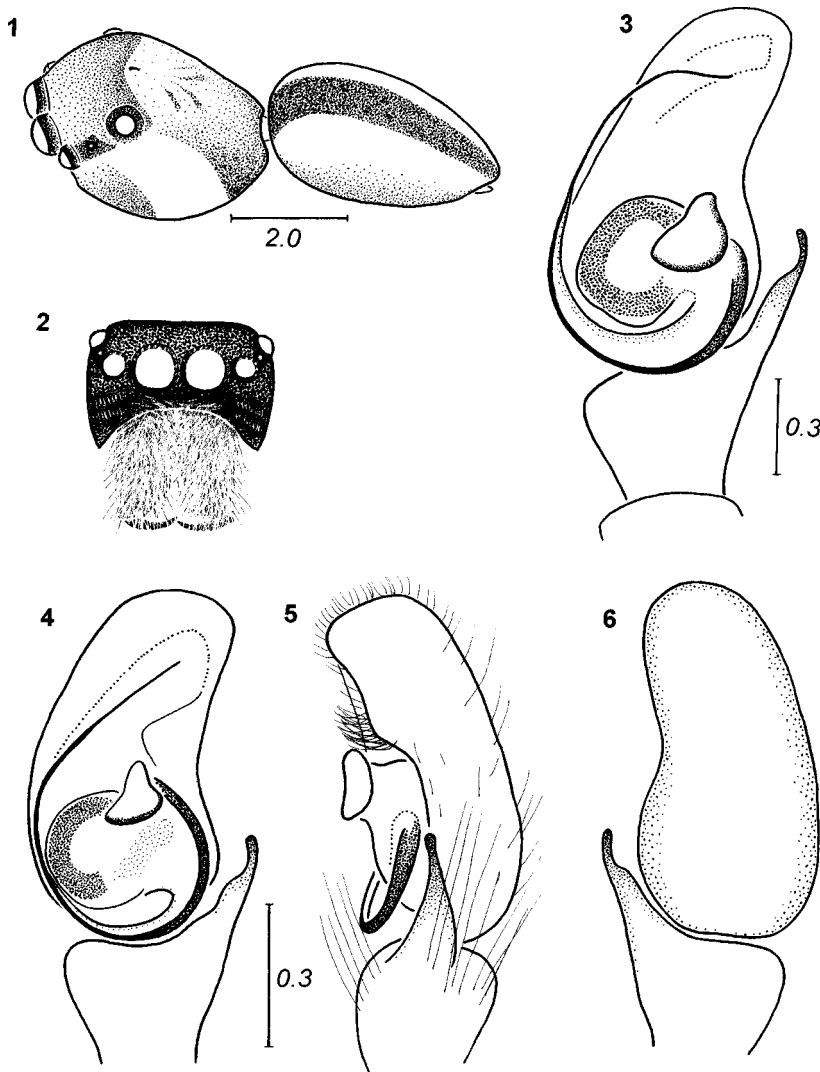
This species is closely related to *Mogrus ignarus* WESOŁOWSKA, 1999 from Zimbabwe. The male can be distinguished by details of the pedipalp structure; a wider bulbus and a shape of the tegular process (cf. Figs 39-40 in WESOŁOWSKA 1999 with Figs 3-5). The female resembles other *Mogrus* species, but may be separated by the structure of the epigyne; smaller semicircular depression, and unique shape of the spermathecae (Fig. 10).

**DESCRIPTION**

Measurements (male/female) [in mm]. Carapace length 2.9-4.6/3.0-4.6, width 2.3-3.8/2.3-3.5, height 1.1-2.0/1.3-2.0. Abdomen length 2.7-4.4/3.3-5.1, width 1.7-3.1/2.2-3.6. Eye field length 1.3-1.5/1.2-1.8, anterior width 2.1-3.0/2.0-3.0, posterior width 2.2-3.4/2.2-3.4.

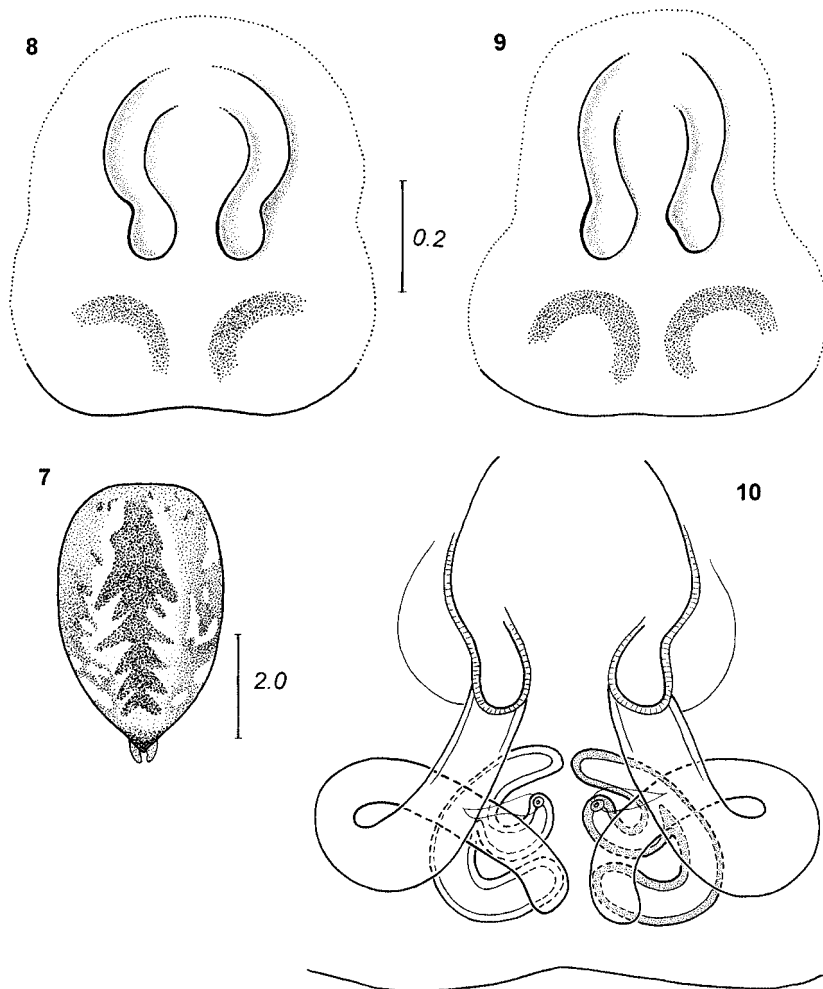
Male. Medium sized to big spider, with strongly pilose body. Carapace rather

high, with steep posterior slope (Fig. 1), eye field short and wide. Coloration of carapace brown, eye field slightly darker, vicinity of eyes black. Dense yellowish hairs on anterior part of ocular area, anterior eyes surrounded by fawn scales. In fresh specimen from Yemen thin lines formed by white hairs along lateral margins of eye field. Numerous long dark bristles near eyes. Lateral slopes of carapace posteriorly covered with dense short white hairs. Fovea clearly visible, traces of



1-6. *Mogrus mathisi* (BERL. et MILL.), male (1-3 - "type" of *Ph. senilis*, 4-6 - holotype of *Ph. mathisi*): 1 - general appearance, dorsolateral view, 2 - frontal view, 3 - palpal organ, ventral view, 4-6 - palpal organ ventral, lateral and dorsal view

lines radiating from fovea. Clypeus low, brownish, with sparse white hairs. Chelicerae long, two teeth on promarginal edge and single tooth on retromargin. Long white hairs form dense "beard" on anterior surface of chelicerae (Fig. 2). Sternum brownish with darker edge. Labium brown, maxillae brown with pale tips. Abdomen oval, widest midway, with very broad brown median stripe (Fig. 1), sides clothed in short white prostrate hairs. Lateral surfaces of abdomen orange brownish, venter yellow with longitudinal wide brown streak. Spinnerets yellowish. Legs orange to reddish brown, tips of femora darker. Spines brown; leg hairs dense, brown, only some white hairs on femora. Pedipalps brown, covered with long brown hairs. Cymbium narrow and apically curved. Tibial apophysis long, wide at



7-10. *Mogrus mathisi* (BERL. et MILL.), female ("cotype" and paratype of *Ph. senilis*): 7 - abdominal pattern, 8-9 - epigyne, 10 - internal structure of epigyne

its base and abruptly pointed (Fig. 5). Bulbus rounded, smaller than in other *Mogrus* species, encircled by slender long embolus. Membranous pars pendula accompanies basal part of embolus. Large triangle protuberance on bulbus anteriorly, at base of embolus (Fig. 3-4).

Female. Coloration of carapace fawn to dark brown. Brownish hairs on dorsal surface, yellow on posterior part of ocular area, among them sparse long bristles, denser in vicinity of eyes. Lateral slopes of carapace covered with dense short white hairs. White hairs form small patches between median and lateral anterior eyes, in fresh Yemeni specimens white narrow stripes from anterior lateral eyes to posterior ones. Chelicerae dark brown with sparse white hairs. Labium dark brown, maxillae light brown with pale internal margins, sternum light brown. Clypeus brownish, whitish hairs form two poorly contrasting parallel stripes below anterior lateral eyes. Abdomen fawn with irregular dark brown stripe along centre, whitish patches on sides (Fig. 7). Dense hairs of background colour cover whole abdomen. Venter yellow with large dark area in centre, lateral surfaces brownish. Spinnerets brown. Legs orange brownish, basal halves of femora yellow. Spines numerous, leg hairs dense, brown. Pedipalps light. Epigyne narrower in anterior part, with horseshoe-shaped depression (Figs 8-9), smaller than in other *Mogrus* species. Internal structure as in Fig. 10. Membranous copulatory canals form a loop, spermathecae rather narrow, accessory glands not visible.

#### REMARK

Type specimens of *Ph. senilis* are slightly larger and darker than specimens from other places.

#### DISTRIBUTION

Widely distributed species, recorded from Senegal, Niger, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

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