A new species of *Menemerus* from Pakistan
(Araneae: Salticidae)

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ABSTRACT. Description of *Menemerus nigli* (♂), a new species from western Pakistan is given. *M. raji* DYAL, 1935 is recognized as *nomen dubium*.

Key words: arachnology, taxonomy, new species, jumping spiders, Pakistan

The genus *Menemerus* SIMON, 1868 includes at present 70 nominal species (PLATNICK 2012). The majority of them are distributed in warm regions, especially in the Afrotropics. African species were lately revised by WESOŁOWSKA (1999, 2007); 29 valid species are known to occur south of Sahara. Fourteen *Menemerus* species occur in the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula (PRÓSZYNSKI 2003, WESOŁOWSKA & VAN HARTEN 2007, 2010, 2011, LOGUNOV 2010), but only five species are known from the Orient (JASTRZĘBSKI 1997, PLATNICK 2012). This paper presents description of a new species from western Pakistan, a part of the Palaearctic region bordering with the Orient.

*Menemerus nigli*, n. sp.
Figs 1-6

**MATERIAL**

Holotype: male, PAKISTAN, prov. Balochistan, Turbat, 26°00’N:63°03’E, 140 m a.s.l., under stones, April 2010, leg. I. N. MOHAMED (Natural History Museum, Vienna).
3-6. Menemerus nigli, holotype, palpal organ: 3- ventral view, 4 – ventrolateral view, 5 – lateral view, 6 – dorsal view
**Diagnosis**

This species is distinguishable from congeners by the long curved embolus and the elongated ovoid bulb, except two African species, *M. zimbabwensis* Wesołowska, 1999 and *M. pilosus* Wesołowska, 1999 from which it differs by abdominal pattern (light with wide median streak in these two species).

**Affinities**

The relationships of the species are uncertain and difficult to recognize. The male palp slightly resembles that in two species mentioned above, but ranges of the latter species are restricted to the south part of Africa and they probably are not related to *M. nigli*. On the other hand the form of tibial apophysis is very similar to that in pantropical *M. bivittatus* (DuFour, 1831). Knowledge of only single sex precludes further considerations, so the relationships of newly described species remain unresolved.

**Etymology**

The species is dedicated to Johannes Nigl, friend of the junior author and his mentor when he began to study Araneae.

**Description**

Measurements (mm). Cephalothorax: length 3.1, width 2.3. Height 0.8. Abdomen: length 2.6, width 1.6. Eye field: length 1.3, anterior width 1.7, posterior width 1.6.

Male. Medium sized spider, body slightly flattened dorsoventrally, general appearance as in Figs 1, 2. Carapace oval and plane with short eye field. Colouration of carapace dark brown, ocular area darker, almost black. Dorsal surface clothed in dense whitish hairs with admixture of fawn ones, long brown bristles on eye field anteriorly, eyes of first row encircled by fawn scales below. Dense white hairs form streak along margins of carapace and spread to clypeus. Clypeus very low, chelicerae large, unidentate, dark brown. Sternum, labium and endites light brown. Abdomen small, narrower than carapace, ovoid, brownish grey with three pairs of large lighter patches placed laterally (Fig. 1). Dorsum of abdomen covered with dense hairs, longer and denser at anterior edge, where they form whitish “brush”. Venter of abdomen and spinnerets grey. Legs yellow with slightly darker proximal parts of segments. First pair slightly stouter than others, brown with dark prolateral surface of femora. Legs clothed in dense brown and white hairs, spines brown. Pedipalp big, yellow clothed in dense long white hairs on femur and patella dorsally. Structure of palpal organ as in Figs 3-6. Tegulum oval, elongated, narrower than in the majority of congeners, with – typical for members of the genus – longitudinal furrow separating distal haematodocha (Figs 3, 4). Embolus relatively long, thin, accompanied with large membranous conductor (Figs 3, 4). Palpal tibia short with prolateral enlargement (Fig. 6) and single, straight retrolateral apophysis (Fig. 5), small process below this apophysis. Cymbium elongated with prolateral “wing” (Fig. 6). Palpal femur swollen.

Female unknown.
A NEW SPECIES OF *MENEMERUS* FROM PAKISTAN

**Distribution**

Known only from the type locality in western Pakistan.

**Remarks**

Hitherto only a single species of *Menemerus* was known from Pakistan, namely *M. raji* Dyal, 1935 from the eastern part of the country. However description of this species, based on the female, is insufficient to identify it, and the type specimen is lost. Therefore, it is recognized here as nomen dubium.

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**References**