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Mikrus ugandensis, a new genus and species of diminutive
jumping spider from eastern Africa
(*Araneae: Salticidae*)

WANDA WESOŁOWSKA

Zoological Institute, Wrocław University, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław, Poland,
e-mail: tomwes@biol.uni.wroc.pl

ABSTRACT. Description of *Mikrus ugandensis* gen. and sp. n., a very small jumping spider from Uganda and Kenya is given.

Key words: arachnology, taxonomy, *Araneae, Salticidae*, new genus, new species, Afrotropical Region.

Despite intensification of studies in the recent decades, the salticids of tropical Africa are still very poorly known. The rarely collected epigeic species belong to the least known group. Recently WESOŁOWSKA & RUSSELL-SMITH (2000) have described the diminutive genus *Lilliput* from Tanzania, belonging to the subfamily *Euophryinae*. Here I describe another very small genus. Its relationships remain unknown.

Genus *Mikrus* n. gen.

Type species: *Mikrus ugandensis* n. sp. Gender masculine.

ETYMOLOGY

The generic name is the Polish word meaning „midget”.

DIAGNOSIS

Mikrus is a very small spider, length about 3 mm, with unidentate chelicerae. Leg spination very scanty; spines present only on metatarsi of all legs, and tibiae

of pairs I and II. The structure of the male copulatory organ unlike in other genera; positioning of the embolic base slightly above centre of tegulum unique.

DESCRIPTION

See species description.

DISTRIBUTION

The genus includes the type species only, described below from Uganda and Kenya.

***Mikrus ugandensis* n. sp.**

(Figs 1-7)

MATERIAL

Holotype: male, Uganda, Entebbe, botanical gardens, in long grass, 13.V.1991, leg. A. RUSSELL-SMITH, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren.

Paratypes: Kenya, Nairobi, Muthaiga golf course, dry grassland, 1600 m a.s.l., 2 males, 5.I.1978, leg. A. RUSSELL-SMITH, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren.

DIAGNOSIS

This species is distinguished by very small size, the abdominal pattern and the unique palp structure; prolateral half of tegulum is crescentic, very convex. The embolic base positioned at the edge of the crescent, slightly above the centre of tegulum.

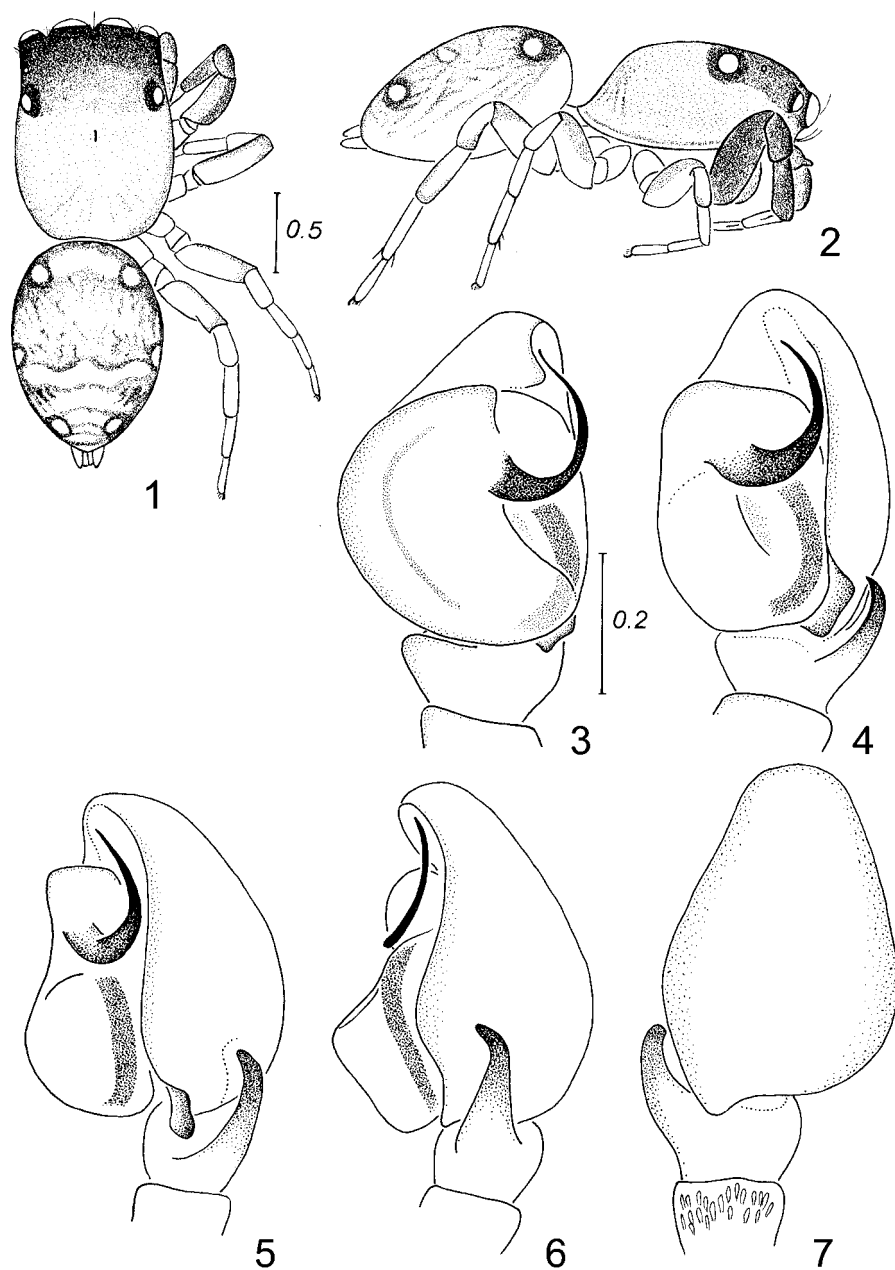
ETYMOLOGY

The species is named after its *terra typica* (Uganda).

DESCRIPTION

Male. Measurements (in mm). Carapace length 1.3-1.4, width 0.9-1.0, height 0.4-0.5. Abdomen length 1.2-1.4, width 0.8-0.9. Eye field length 0.5-0.6, anterior width 0.7-0.9, posterior width 0.8-1.0. Leg spination (system adopted by Ono 1988): I, II Tb v 1-1, Mt v 2-2ap; III, IV Mt pl and pl 1ap, v 2ap.

Very small spider, general appearance as in Figs 1 and 2. Carapace oval, light brown, with distinct fovea. Eye field rather short, dark brown with metallic shine, eyes surrounded by black rings. Narrow dark line along lateral margins of carapace. Delicate, thin, brown hairs cover carapace, denser on ocular area, longer brown bristles near eyes. Clypeus very low, brown. Chelicerae brown, promargin with two teeth, retromargin with single tooth. Labium and maxillae light brown. Sternum rounded, brownish. Abdomen oval, greyish-brown with yellow pattern composed of irregular transverse streaks and three pairs of rounded white patches. Scattered brown hairs on abdomen, patches formed by small white scales. Ventral



1-7. *Mikrus ugandensis* n. sp., paratype: 1-2 - general appearance, dorsal and lateral views, 3-7 palpal organ, ventral, ventrolateral, lateral and dorsal views

surface of abdomen yellowish with dark U-shaped patch. Book-lung covers light brown. Spinnerets yellow. First legs slightly thicker than other, brown, only metatarsi and tarsi yellow. Remaining legs yellow, but apical parts of their femora, patellae and tibiae brownish. Leg hairs brown, spines not numerous (see above). Legs of last pair longest. Pedipalps brown, with white patch formed by scale-like hairs on dorsal surface of patella (Fig. 7). Cymbium with flat, folding back process at its base retrolaterally (Figs 4, 5). Large, single tibial apophysis, bent at its tip (Figs 4-7). Apophysis slightly hidden in shallow depression on cymbium surface (Fig. 5). Bulbus rounded, base of embolus near to centre of bulbus, embolus semicircular (Fig. 3).

Female unknown.

NATURAL HISTORY

Label data indicate occurrence of this species in grass.

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