

Contribution to the Harvest Spider (*Arachnida, Opiliones*) Fauna of the Caucasus

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Abstract: The harvest spider fauna of Caucasus is reviewed. A new collection of 10 species (Fam. *Phalangiidae*, *Trogulidae*) from different parts of the Caucasus are dealt with. Some identifications are not clear. For clarification some more revisions are necessary in the future.

Key Words: Harvest spider, forest, fauna.

Kafkazy Opilionid Faunasına (*Arachnida, Opiliones*) Katkıları

Özet: Bu çalışmamızda, Kafkazy'nın Opilionid faunası incelenmiştir. Kafkazy'nın değişik bölgelerinde yaşayan *Phalangiidae* ve *Trogulidae* familyalarına mensup 10 türe ait yeni koleksiyon hakkında bilgiler incelenmiştir. Bazı türlerin tayinine aydınlık getirilmesi amacıyla temelli revizyon yapılması öngörülmüştür.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Opilionid, orman, fauna.

Introduction

Despite its outstanding zoogeographical interest, very little is known about the opilionid fauna of the Caucasus. Disregarding several obscure records, only 42 opilionid species have hitherto been registered in the Caucasus (1–25).

Material and Methods

This paper is intended to fill in some gaps, being based on the collection of the Institute of Zoology of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku (IZB+NO). 6 species are new for the Azerbaijan fauna.

The species of a number of samples have not been determined, chiefly in the absence of modern revisions, so only reliable determinations are recorded here. No catalogue is presented, because one covering the entire territory available in the literature (24).

Most of the materials treated below have been collected by Drs. H. Aliev, E. Guseinov, S. Dashdamirov and myself, all from Baku. I am deeply grateful to all these friends whose material has served as the basis for the present paper. In addition, Prof. Dr. J. Martens (Mainz) and Dr. S.I. Golovatch (Moscow) have provided constructive criticism of an earlier draft.

Results

Fam. *Trogulidae*

Platybessobius caucasicus Silhavy, 1966

(Figs 1–4)

Material: 1 male (IZB 24), Azerbaijan, Lenkoran distr., Khamisham, forest, litter, 26.08.95, leg. H. Aliev, E. Guseinov; 1 male, 1 female, 1 juv. (IZB 45), Azerbaijan, Astara, Isti Su, forest, litter, 4.06.96., leg. H. Aliev, N. Snegovaya; 2 males (IZB 59), Azerbaijan, Girkan, APO, forest, litter, 8.06.96., leg. S. Dashdamirov.

Remarks: This species has already been recorded in Azerbaijan (Lenkoran), (21, 18), Georgia (23), Northern Caucasus (22, 23), as well as in Turkey (8).

Trogulus rossicus Silhavy, 1968

(Figs 5–8)

Material: 1 male, 2 juv. (IZB 12) Russia, Stavropol Prov., near Kislovodsk, Belye Ugli, forest, litter, 24.06.91., leg. S. Dashdamirov.

Remarks: This South European species has already been recorded in the North Caucasus (22, 26, 23, 24, 21, 28, 18).

Fam. *Phalangiidae*

Odiellus bieniaszi (Kulczynski, 1909)

(Figs 14–18)

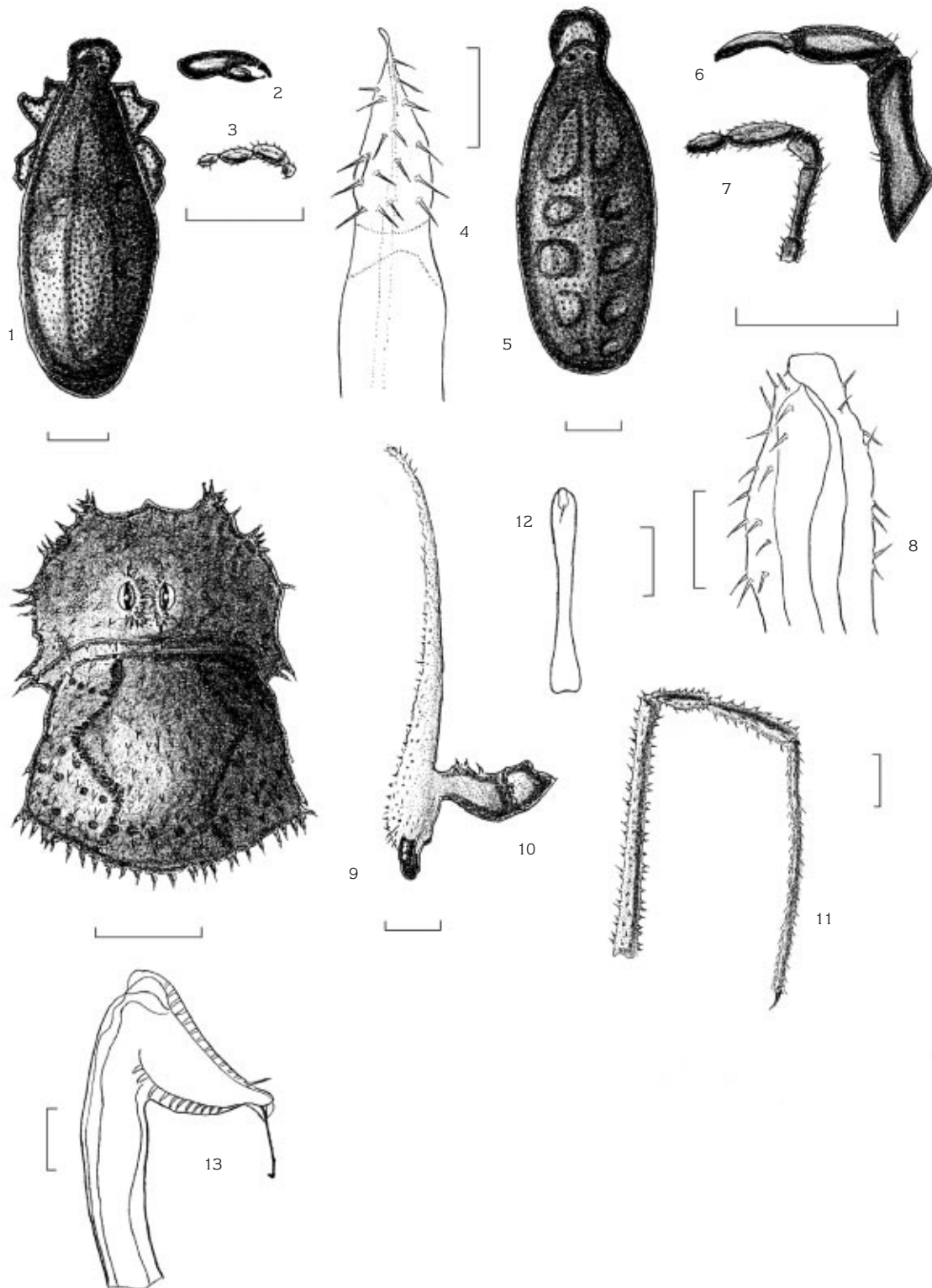


Figure 1. *Platybessobius caucasicus* (Figs 1–4) 1. Body, dorsal view; 2. Joint 2 of chelicera, lateral view; 3. Pedipalp, lateral view; 4. Glans of penis, dorsal view; *Troglulus rossicus* (Figs 5–8) 5. Body, dorsal view; 6. Chelicera, lateral view; 7. Pedipalp, lateral view; 8. Glans of penis, dorsal view; *Phalangium savignyi* (Figs 9–13) 9. Body, dorsal view; 10. Chelicera, lateral view; 11. Pedipalp, lateral view; 12, 13. Penis, ventral and lateral view;

Material: 1 male, 1 female (IZB 16), Azerbaijan, Agdash Distr., Turianchay State Reserve, 400 m, under stones on dry slopes, 2–4.10.94, leg. H. Aliev and S. Dashdamirov; 1 juv. (IZB 61), Russia, Kabardino–Balkaria, Djantugan S of Tyrnyauz, 2500–3000 m, under stones, bank of lake, 28.06.91., leg. S. Dashdamirov.

Remarks: This species is widespread in the East Balkans, Crimea, Carpathians with some adjacent parts of Romania and Poland, as well as over much of the Russian Plain up to the Zhiguli State Reserve in the east. It has also been recorded in the Caucasus: North Ossetia and Georgia (23, 29), yet is new to the fauna of Azerbaijan.

Opilio parietinus (De Geer, 1778)

Material: 1 juv (IZB 26), Azerbaijan, Lerik Distrk., near Gili–Darya, under stones, 21.08.95., leg. E. Guseinov; 1 male (IZB 27), almost same locality, under stones, 22.08.95., leg. E. Guseinov; 1 male, 1 female (IZB 28), almost same locality, Lyulya–Keran, 1600 m, under stones, 23.08.95., leg. H. Aliev; 1 female (IZB 29), Azerbaijan, Yardimli Distr., Talysh Mt. Ridge, 200 m, 18.08.95.; leg. H. Aliev; 3 juv., 1 male, 1 female (IZB 30), almost same locality, near Kyurekchi, 1500 m, 15.08.95., leg. E. Guseinov; 2 juv., 2 females (IZB 31), almost same locality, 2000 m, 15.08.95., under stones, leg. E. Guseinov; 1 juv., 1 female (IZB 32), almost same locality, 1900 m, near spring, under stones, 16.08.95, leg. E. Guseinov; 1 juv, 1 male (IZB 33), Azerbaijan, Lerik Distr., near Mistan, under stones, 24.08.95., leg. E. Guseinov; 3 juv, 3 males, 6 females (IZB 34), almost same locality, near Gili–Darya, 21.08.95., leg. H. Aliev; 3 juv, 4 males, 2 females (IZB 35), almost same locality, near Mistan, under stones, 24.08.95., leg. H. Aliev; 3 juv, 1 male, 2 females (IZB 36), Azerbaijan, Yardimly Distr., Talysh Mt. Ridge, 2000 m, under stones, 16.08.95., leg. E. Guseinov; 2 juv., 1 female (IZB 37), Azerbaijan, Lerik Distr., near Lyulya–Keran, near river, under stones, 1600 m, 25.08.95., leg. E. Guseinov; 2 males, 1 female (IZB 38), almost same locality, near Gili–Darya, under stones, 22.08.95, leg. H. Aliev; 1 male, 1 female (IZB 41), almost same locality; Zuvand, Gosmalyan, 11.06.96, under stones, leg. N. Snegovaya; 1 male, 4 juv. (IZB 46), almost same locality, under stones, 11–12.06.96., leg. S. Dashdamirov.

Remarks: Formally, this Holoarctic synanthropic species is new to the fauna of Azerbaijan. In the Caucasus, it has already been recorded in the Stavropol Province (24).

Opilio redikorzevi Roewer, 1956

(Figs 19–23)

Material: 8 males, 4 females, 2 juv. (IZB 17), Azerbaijan, Aspheron Peninsula, Balakhani–Zabrat, under stones, 26.04.95; leg. N. Snegovaya; 1 male, 7 females, 3 juv. (IZB 19), almost same locality, Ganly–Gol, under stones, 15.05.95, leg. H. Aliev, S. Dashdamirov, N. Snegovaya; 4 males, 3 females, (IZB 5), Russia, Daghestan, Shalbuz–Dagh. Mts. region, near Kurush, 2400 m, under stones, 3.07.91., leg. S. Dashdamirov; 19 males, 15 females, 4 juv. (IZB 40), Azerbaijan, Apsheron Peninsula, Bailov, under stones, 29.04.96., leg. S. Dashdamirov; 1 female (IZB 56), Azerbaijan, Yardimli Distr., near Avash, under stones, 15–18.06.96., leg. S. Dashdamirov.

Remarks: This Caucasian species has hitherto been reported from Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan (18, 24).

Phalangium savignyi Audouin, 1825

(Figs 9–13)

Material: 1 male (IZB 54), Azerbaijan, Lerik Distr., Zuvand, Gosmalian, 14.06.96., under stones, leg. S. Dashdamirov; 1 male, 2 female (IZB 53), same locality; 1 male (IZB 62), same locality, 11.06.96., leg. N. Snegovaya.

Remarks: This species is new to the fauna of the Caucasus and Azerbaijan.

Phalangium punctipes C. L. Koch, 1878

(Figs 24–28)

Material: 1 male, 1 female (IZB 15), Azerbaijan, Aspheron Peninsula, Shagan, under stones, 16.03.94., leg. E. Guseinov; 3 juv. (IZB 18), almost same locality, Gara–Chukhur, under stones, 11–12.03.95., leg. N. Snegovaya.

Remarks: This species has already been recorded from the Russian Plain (Ukraine, Russia) as well as from the Caucasus: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan (24).

Rilaena pusilla Roewer, 1952

(Figs 29–33)

Material: 1 male (IZB 21), Azerbaijan, Lenkoran Distr., under stones, 9.06.96., leg. N. Snegovaya; 3 males, 1 female (IZB 57), almost same locality, 500 m, under stones, 8.06.96., leg. S. Dashdamirov.

Remarks: This species has already been recorded in Lenkoran (24), as well as in Iran (27).

Zacheus birulai Redikorzev, 1936

(Figs 34–39)

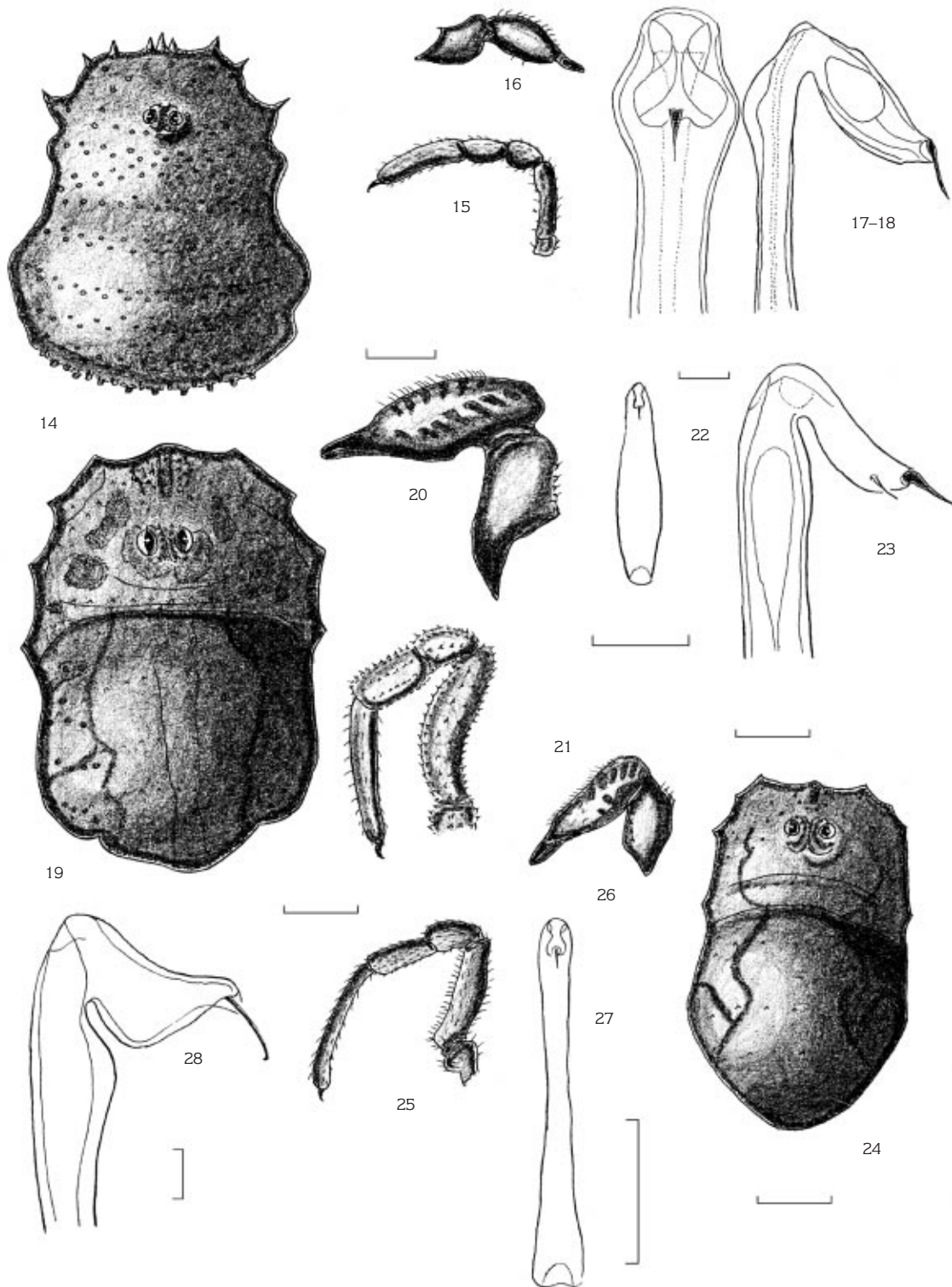


Figure 2. *Odiellus bieniaszi* (Figs 14–18) 14. Body, dorsal view; 15. Pedipalp, lateral view; 16. Chelicera, lateral view; 17, 18. Penis, ventral and lateral view; *Opilio redikorzevi* (Figs 19–23) 19. Body, dorsal view; 20. Chelicera, lateral view; 21. Pedipalp, lateral view; 22, 23. Penis, ventral and lateral view; *Phalangium punctipes* (Figs 24–33) 24. Body, dorsal view; 25. Pedipalp, lateral view; 26. Chelicera, lateral view; 27, 28. Penis, ventral and lateral view;

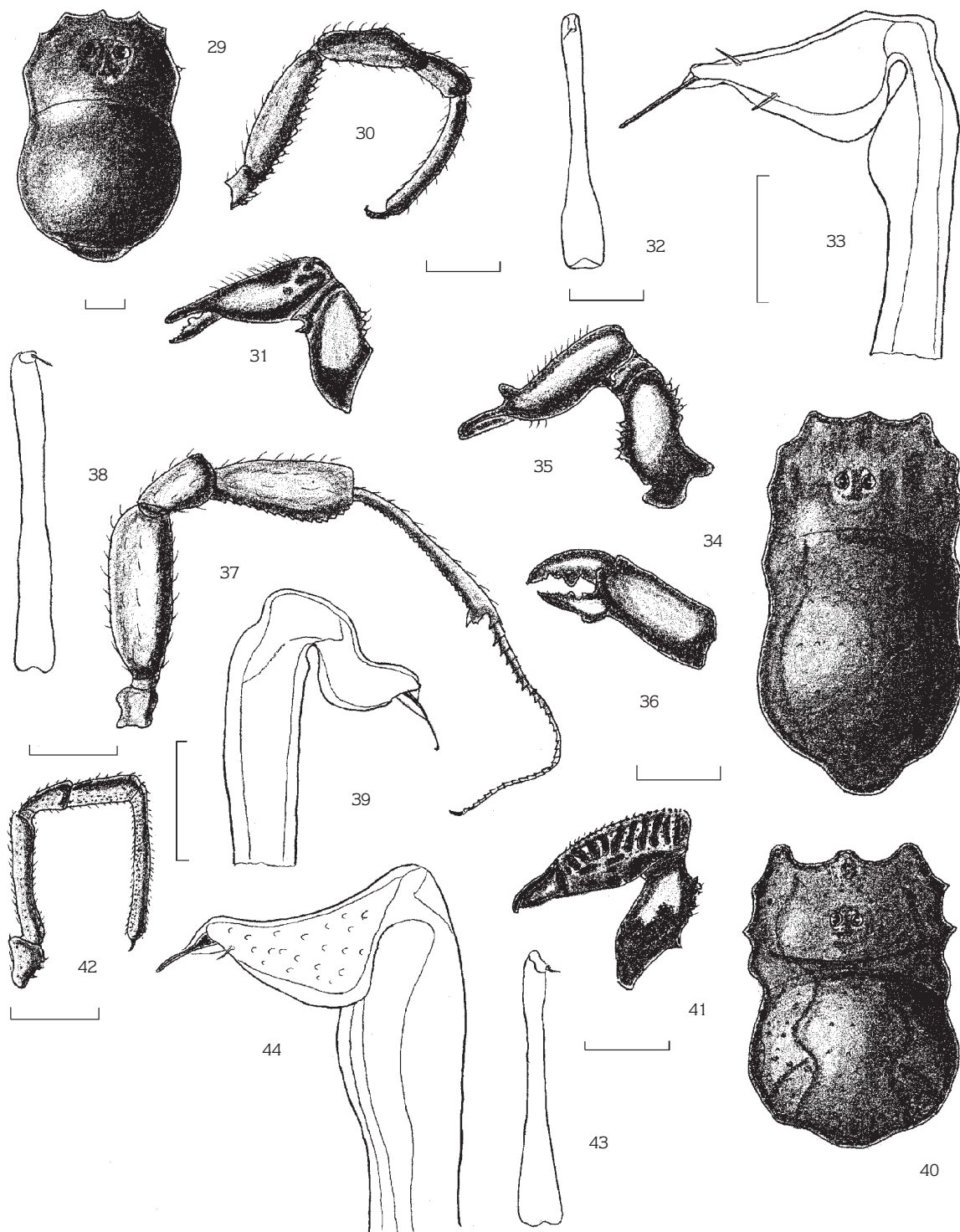


Figure 3. *Rilaena pusilla* (Figs 29–33) 29. Body, dorsal view; 30. Pedipalp, lateral view; 31. Chelicera, lateral view; 32, 33. Penis, ventral and lateral view; *Zacheus birulai* (Figs 34–39) 34. Body, dorsal view; 35. Chelicera, lateral view; 36. Joint 2 of chelicera, ventral view; 37. Pedipalp, lateral view; 38, 39. Penis, ventral and lateral view; *Zacheus crista* (Figs 40–44) 40. Body, dorsal view; 41. Chelicera, lateral view; 42. Pedipalp, lateral view; 43, 44. Penis, ventral and dorsal view. Scale line: 1 mm (1–3; 5–7; 9–12; 14–17; 19–22; 24–27; 29–32; 34–38; 40–43), 0.5 mm (4, 8, 13, 18, 23, 28, 33, 39, 44).

Material: 4 females (IZB 42), Azerbaijan, Lerik Distr., Zuvand, Gosmalian, under stones, 13.06.96., leg. N. Snegovaya; 2 males, 4 females (IZB 44), almost same locality, under stones, 13.06.96., leg. N. Snegovaya; 1 male (IZB 60), Azerbaijan, Astara Distr., Isti-Su, under stones, 4.06.96., leg. N. Snegovaya.

Remarks: This species has already been recorded in Georgia, Armenia (18, 14, 16, 24), yet is new to the fauna of Azerbaijan.

Zacheus crista (Brulle, 1832)

(Figs 40–44)

Material: 5 males (IZB 63), Azerbaijan, Apsheron Peninsula, Bailov, under stones, 29.04.96., leg. N. Snegovaya; 4 males, 1 female, 1 juv. (IZB 47), Azerbaijan, Lenkoran Distr., under stones, 1.06.96., leg. N. Snegovaya.

Remarks: This Mediterranean species is new to the fauna of Caucasus, yet is new to the fauna of Azerbaijan.

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