

On a few spiders from China (Araneae)

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Summary

The following new taxa are described: *Suffucia hingstoni* n. sp. (Zodariidae; ♀, ♂ unknown, Tibet), first species of the family known from China; *Hahnia thortoni* n. sp. (Hahniidae; ♂, ♀ unknown, Hong Kong), close to *H. corticicola* Bösenberg & Strand, 1906 from Japan; *Paracoelotes* n. gen. (Agelenidae; type species: *Coelotes armeniacus* Brignoli, 1978, close to *Coelotes* Blackwall, 1841 and *Coras* Simon, 1898). Nine species are transferred from *Coelotes* to *Paracoelotes*; *P. luctuosus* (L. Koch, 1878) is illustrated; *Coras vulgaris* Paik, 1971 and *Coelotes birulai* Ermolaev, 1927 are newly synonymised with *Paracoelotes csikii* (Kulczynski, 1901) and *P. luctuosus* (L. Koch, 1878) respectively. *Tamgrinia chhanguensis* (Tikader, 1970) comb. nov. (from *Tegenaria*) is illustrated; it is new to China.

Introduction

During a short visit to the British Museum (Natural History) in 1977, I noticed among the undetermined spiders a few specimens from Hong Kong, Tibet and China proper. I thank Mr. F. R. Wanless and Mr. P. Hillyard for the loan of this small, but interesting collection. My wife Micha has helped me in the preparation of the illustrations.

Family Zodariidae

Suffucia hingstoni n. sp. (Figs. 1-8)

Material

China - Tibet - Trop de Tibet, 11,000 ft, 23 June 1924, R. W. G. Hingston leg. (Mt Everest Expedition 1924), 1 ♀ (holotype, BM 1934-2-28-181).

Female holotype (♂ unknown)

Prosoma anteriorly obtuse, its outline from above and from the side regularly oval, smooth, brown, shining; with evident elongated fovea; eyes very similar to each other in form and dimensions; anterior

row straight, shorter than posterior row which is slightly procurved; interdistances: ALE-AME greater than AME-AME, both a little smaller than diameter of ALE, PLE-PME greater than PME-PME, the first equal to 1½ times diameter of PLE, the second equal to diameter of PME. Labium in form of equilateral triangle; sternum shield-like, brown, with many hairs, with a small terminal point, separating 4th coxae by less than their diameter. Chelicerae (Fig. 3) with no teeth, with a conspicuous anterior tuft of setae; pedipalps (Fig. 4) strong, elongated, tarsus longer than tibia, pointed, tibia and tarsus with few strong lateral and ventral spines, tarsal claw long, with many teeth (Fig. 5). Legs elongated, with many paired ventral spines on tibia, metatarsus and tarsus, coxae not contiguous to each other, "reboꝛd" (Simon, 1893: 419) at metatarsal-tarsal articulation well developed (Fig. 8), three tarsal claws, on a small onychium, with no scopulae. Opisthosoma dorsally brown-mauve, ventrally lighter coloured; six spinnerets, "support mémbraneux" (Simon, loc.cit.) shorter than spinnerets, anterior to it a row of small spines (Fig. 7), median spinnerets transformed (Fig. 6); epigyne indistinct (Fig. 2), very simple vulva (Fig. 1). Measurements (mm): prosoma 3.00 long, 2.75 wide; opisthosoma 3.50 long. Total length 6.50.

Leg	Fe	Pa	Ti	Mt	Ta	Total
I	1.85	0.82	1.55	1.75	1.38	7.35
II	1.80	0.82	1.45	1.70	1.20	6.97
III	1.75	0.75	1.42	1.82	1.20	6.94
IV	2.07	0.90	2.00	2.38	1.50	8.85

Derivatio nominis

This species is dedicated to its collector, the well-known traveller and amateur arachnologist Maj. R. W. G. Hingston.

Discussion

As far as I know, until now no zodariid had been described from any part of China; this justifies the description of an isolated species of a family badly in need of a generic revision. In order to try to place this species in a genus it is still necessary to refer to Simon (1893): according to all its characters this species should be attributed to the Zodariinae and, disregarding certain minor characters, either to the

Storeneae or to the Suffucieae. Concerning the first group, it is evident that this specimen does not correspond to any of the species attributed to *Lachesana* Strand, 1932 or *Lutica* Marx, 1891; although a cursory examination of the literature reveals that *Storena* Walckenaer, 1805 is badly in need of revision and is probably heterogeneous (this is due both to uncertainty on the identity of the type species, the Australian *S. cyanea* Walckenaer, 1805, and to the probably unjustified synonymy with *Storena* of *Asceua* Thorell, 1887), it is easy to exclude, by the position of the eyes, a correspondence of the species described here with nearly all Oriental *Storena*.

Scanning through the literature, it appears that in the Far East a considerable number of rather small and brightly coloured Zodariidae have been described, most of which have a "storenoid" disposition of the eyes. A few, on the other hand, which deserve greater attention, have their eyes in two more or less parallel lines. Three of these have been attributed to the Hermippeae; notwithstanding the alleged presence of only two tarsal claws in all species of this group, which would exclude any correspondence with the new species, the considerable fragility of the claws in this group has made me compare the new species also with the descriptions of *Doosia japonica* (Bösenberg & Strand, 1906), *Hermippus cruciatus* Simon, 1905 and *Hermippoides arjuna* Gravely, 1921. There is a certain morphological similarity with these species, but the other characters do not match at all. Incidentally, it could be noted that the validity of *Hermippoides* Gravely, 1921 is very doubtful, as the principal difference between this genus and *Hermippus* Simon, 1893 (the number of spinnerets, 6 instead of 2, according to Gravely, 1921) does not exist (de Lessert, 1938, discovered that the type species of *Hermippus*, *H. loricatus* Simon, 1893, had a normal number of spinnerets and that Simon had been misled by the bad preservation of the specimen he examined). *Hermippoides arjuna* and *Hermippus cruciatus* come not only from roughly the same region (the eastern coast of peninsular India) but have also an abdominal pattern of the same type.

Also similar to the new species is *Langbiana klossi* Hogg, 1922 (from South Vietnam, Dalat, Langbian Mts); Hogg made it the type species of a still monotypic genus (*Langbiana*) which should have been close

to *Diores* Simon, 1893. Unfortunately, there are no common characters between *Langbiana* and *Diores* (at least, no specialised ones) and, by strictly following Simon (1893), *Langbiana* (with two tarsal claws) should have been attributed either to the Hermippeae or, disregarding the claws, to the Suffucieae (and not to the Zodarieae, where Simon placed *Diores*, which is still a purely African genus).

The Suffucieae include the — specialised — genus *Leprolochus* Simon, 1892 and the — very poorly known — genus *Suffucia* Simon, 1893. According to most characters the new species could belong to *Suffucia*, of which *Langbiana* is in my opinion a probable synonym. It is remarkable that the abdominal pattern of *S. septemmaculata* Simon, 1893 (described from Saigon) is very similar to that of *L. klossi*. To the four *Suffucia* species usually listed in the catalogues (known from the Philippines, India and Vietnam) must be added also the "forgotten" *S. bimaculata* Simon, 1904 (from Saigon); apparently Simon forgot to describe this species in detail, but the two lines he wrote on it in the cited paper must be considered a description, especially because this species should be easily identifiable by its striking colouration.

The absence of any abdominal pattern distinguishes *S. hingstoni* n. sp. from all other known species, but also leaves open some doubts on its generic position.

Perhaps close to this species could be the Indian "*Storena*" *gujaratensis* Tikader & Patel, 1975 (most evidently misplaced) which can be distinguished from the new species by the form of its prosoma.

Family Hahniidae

Hahnia thortoni n. sp. (Figs. 13-14)

Material

Hong Kong, 6 April 1965, I. W. B. Thorton leg., 1 ♂ (holotype, with only one palpus), 1 ♂ (paratype, somewhat crushed).

Male holotype (? unknown)

Prosoma pear-shaped, elongated, with no pattern, long, shallow, dark fovea; AME smaller than PME, MOT trapezoidal. Labium short, wider than long; sternum somewhat pointed. Cheliceral teeth 3-5,

gnathocoxae subrectangular, parallel, basal maxillar boss indistinct. Patellar spines absent; tibial spines a little longer than diameter of tibia, one dorsal femoral spine, a few tibial and metatarsal spines, no tarsal spines; two (one long, one short; subapical, central) tarsal trichobothria; annulated legs. Distinct abdominal pattern, with four pairs of fused "accents" in the distal half; no abdominal stridulatory organ; colulus indistinct; spinnerets in a curved row; bPS nearly equal to AS and longer than MS; position of tracheal stigma 0.3. Male pedipalp, see Figs. 13-14.

Measurements (mm): prosoma 1.20 long, 0.95 wide; opisthosoma 1.25 long. Total length 2.45.

Leg	Fe	Pa	Ti	Mt	Ta	Total
I	1.15	0.45	1.00	1.00	0.55	4.15
II	1.05	0.45	0.90	0.88	0.55	3.83
III	0.88	0.38	0.70	0.80	0.50	3.26
IV	1.12	0.40	0.90	absent		

Derivatio nominis

This species is dedicated to its collector.

Discussion

Notwithstanding that Hong Kong, from what we know of its spiders, should have (like a large part of southern China) a mixed fauna, with more tropical (Oriental) than temperate (Palearctic) elements, it is evident that *H. thortoni* n. sp. cannot be attributed to any of the genera *Alistra* Thorell, 1894, *Muizenbergia* Hewitt, 1915 or *Scotospilus* Simon, 1886 to which, according to Lehtinen (1967, whose method of description I adopted) all Oriental Hahniidae should belong. The new species has a very Palearctic appearance and would seem to be especially close to the Japanese *H. corticicola* Bösenberg & Strand, 1906, from which it can be distinguished by some details of the male pedipalp. The absence of the abdominal stridulatory organ excludes any affinities with the Far Eastern *Neoantistea* Gertsch, 1934; incidentally it should be noted that *H. rectispina* Kulczynski, 1926 (from Kamchatka), attributed to *Neoantistea* by Lehtinen (1967) should not belong there, at least judging by its extreme similarity to the Japanese *H. pinicola* Arita, 1978.

Family Agelenidae

Paracoelotes n. gen.

Description

A genus of the Agelenidae (*sensu* Lehtinen, 1967) similar in general appearance to *Coelotes* Blackwall, 1841; male pedipalp with a small patellar apophysis, with no true tibial apophysis (only the antero-lateral margin of this article is somewhat modified), bulbous with embolus beginning freely, but the terminal part is covered by a large and complicated conductor usually shaped like a semicircular lamella; with a small median apophysis, as in *Coelotes*. Epigyne usually shaped as in *P. luctuosus* (L. Koch, 1878) (Fig. 10), superficially similar to that of some *Coelotes*, but vulva structurally different, beginning on each side with a conspicuous membranous bursa which, through a short and relatively sclerotised duct, communicates with a large elongated spermatheca.

Type species

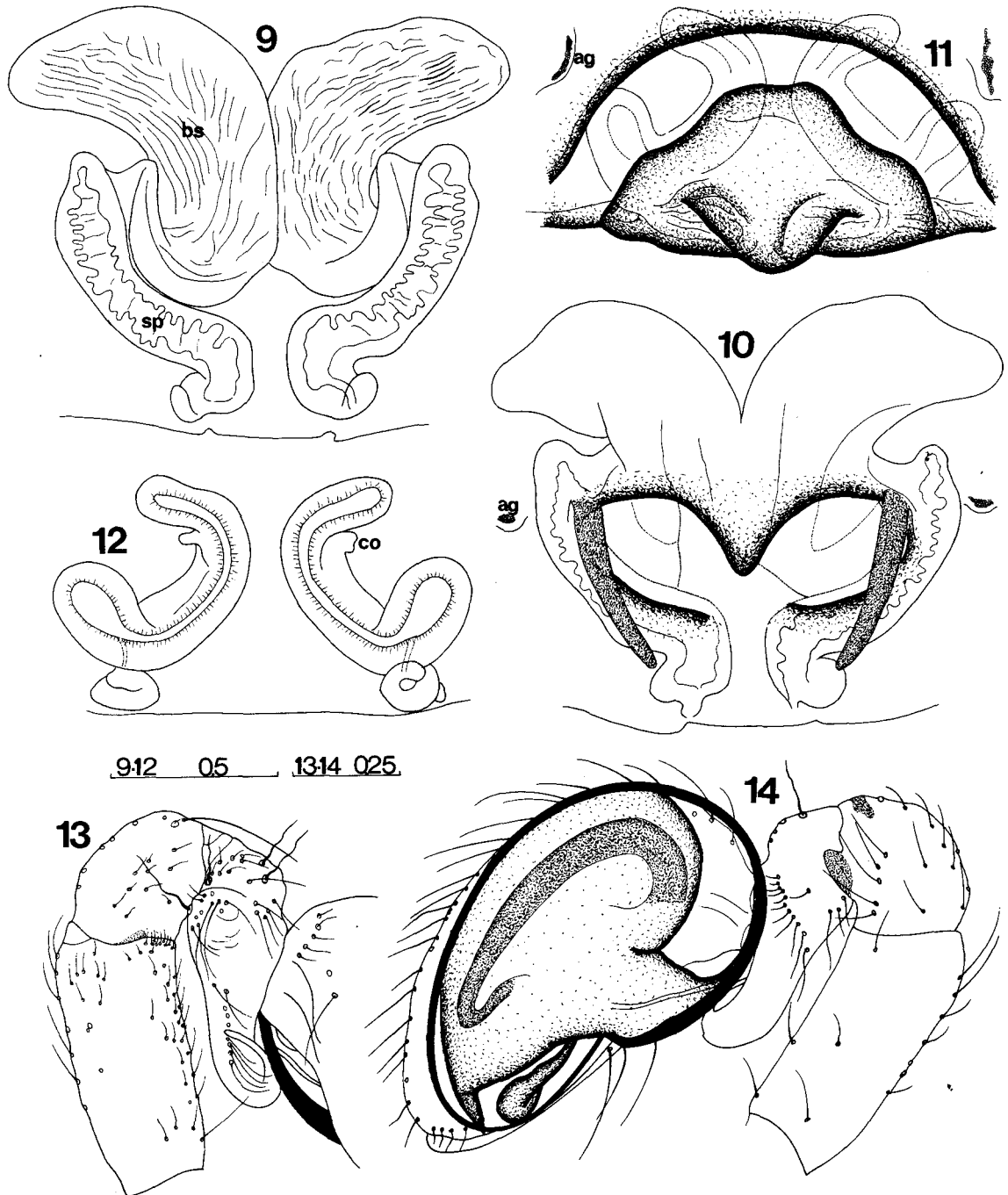
Coelotes armeniacus Brignoli, 1978b.

Discussion

This genus corresponds to my "segestriiformis-group" of *Coelotes* (Brignoli, 1978a) and to *Coras* as interpreted by some Eastern authors, e.g. Paik (1978).

The true *Coelotes*, related to the type species, *C. saxatilis* (Blackwall, 1833) (= *C. atropos* Auctorum, *nec* Walckenaer, 1830) have a small laminar conductor between which and the median apophysis lies the easily visible terminal part of the embolus; they have well developed patellar and tibial apophyses on the male pedipalp and a vulva with no bursae (this is probably the most easily noticeable character). Good illustrations of the type species and of most European species have been published by de Blauwe (1973) who, unfortunately, did not consider the nomenclatural problems concerning the type species and created with no justification many unnecessary neotypes (see Brignoli, 1977).

It may be noted that my position on the name and identity of the type species of *Coelotes* is not identical with that of other authors who have written on this problem; Chrysanthus (1965) was right in assuming that *C. atropos*, as currently interpreted,



Figs. 9-10: *Paracoelotes luctuosus* (L. Koch, 1878). 9 vulva, dorsal view (BS = (membranous) bursa, SP = (sclerotised) spermatheca); 10 epigyne (AG = anchoring groove).

Figs. 11-12: *Tamgrinia chhanguensis* (Tikader, 1970). 11 epigyne (AG = anchoring groove); 12 vulva, ventral view (CO = copulatory opening).

Figs. 13-14: *Hahnia thortoni* n. sp., male. 13 retrolateral view of pedipalp; 14 prolateral view of pedipalp and bulbus. Scales in mm.

was not identical with the species described by Walckenaer (which corresponds instead to *C. terrestris* (Wider, 1834)), but I do not see any valid reason for following his proposal of eliminating *C. atropos* (Walckenaer, 1830), after having ascertained its true identity, and of substituting for this species the more recent name by Wider. The proposal by Levi & Kraus (1964), of using *C. atropos* not for the species described by Walckenaer, but instead in place of *C. saxatilis* (Blackwall, 1833), would go against all the principles of nomenclature. The whole problem is indeed quite simple and has been only unnecessarily complicated by the "unconventional" proposals of the cited authors.

Coras Simon, 1898 (type species: *Tegenaria medicinalis* Hentz, 1821) is probably closer to *Paracoelotes* than *Coelotes*; it can be distinguished from both genera (see Muma, 1946) by the male pedipalp with well developed patellar apophyses, a complicated tibia and the very long embolus, the terminal part of which is supported and enclosed by a relatively large and complicated conductor. The epigyne is more similar to that of some *Coelotes* than of the *Paracoelotes*; it has usually a "T" or "V" shaped fossette with, at its corners, two short "teeth" ("écailles"); the vulva apparently should have no bursae.

In the western part of the Palearctic region most large, lapidicolous Agelenidae belong to *Coelotes* or *Paracoelotes*; to this last genus I attribute also the European *P. segestiformis* (Dufour, 1820) comb. nov., *P. pyrenaicus* (Simon, 1870) comb. nov. and *P. garibaldii* (Kritscher, 1969) comb. nov., and the Transcaucasian *P. spasskyi* (Charitonov, 1946) comb. nov.

I do not know directly *Coras medicinalis* nor any North American species, but, judging from the illustrations, a few European *Coelotes*, e.g. *C. karlinskii* (Kulczynski, 1906) and *C. falciger* Kulczynski, 1897, may belong to *Coras*.

In central Asia and the Himalayan region live both *Coelotes* and *Paracoelotes* (*P. wuermlii* (Brignoli, 1978) comb. nov. from Bhutan); *Coelotes major* Kroneberg, 1875 from Kazakhstan should be a *Paracoelotes* according to the illustrations by Charitonov (1946); unfortunately, the species depicted by Kroneberg (1875) corresponds neither to that of Charitonov nor to that illustrated by Schenkel (1936);

from China, Tienshan and Kansu).

In the Far East there is considerable confusion about the whole group; a glance at the papers by Nishikawa (1974) and Paik (1978) reveals that species belonging to completely different groups are united under *Coelotes*.

This situation is largely the result of uncertainty about the limits of *Coras* which already existed at the time of Simon (1898) and Bösenberg & Strand (1906). Most Far Eastern authors have used only *Coelotes* in recent times, following implicitly the suggestion of Lehtinen (1967) who proposed to attribute to this genus the "group B" of *Coras* of Muma (1946). The epigynes of the "group B" species are indeed superficially similar to those of some European *Coelotes*, but as the males of this group are structurally identical to those of the (typical) "group A", it is impossible to split *Coras*.

Paik (1978) on the other hand, has used *Coras* for two closely related species, one of which (*Coelotes luctuosus* L. Koch, 1878) had already been attributed to *Coras* by Bösenberg & Strand (1906): for me these species belong instead to *Paracoelotes*.

A large number of Japanese and Korean "*Coelotes*" in my opinion would be better placed in *Coras*; unfortunately, the existing illustrations are wholly insufficient for a specific identification, but are not sufficiently detailed for ascertaining the correspondence of some characters with those illustrated by Muma (1946). It is wholly open to question for me whether the "true" *Coelotes* are actually present in the Far East: very few of the species illustrated by Nishikawa (1974) and Paik (1978) seem strictly related to the European species and some (e.g. "*Coelotes*" *uenoi* Yamaguchi & Yaginuma, 1971) are evidently of uncertain generic position.

The Far Eastern *Paracoelotes* are rather widespread and have often been misidentified; *P. csikii* (Kulczynski, 1901) comb. nov. (described from China, surroundings of Peking) is not only identical with *Coelotes luctuosus schensiensis* Schenkel, 1963 (see also Lehtinen, 1967) but also with the Korean *Coras vulgaris* Paik, 1971 (syn. nov.), as is evident from the detailed illustrations of all authors who cited it. To this species could also belong the female from Kansu wrongly attributed by Schenkel (1936) to his *Coelotes* (now *Tamgrinia*) *laticeps*;

also "*Coelotes*" *major sensu* Charitonov (1946) is very close to this species.

Paracoelotes luctuosus (L. Koch, 1878) *comb. nov.*
(Figs. 9-10)

Coelotes luctuosus L. Koch, 1878: 752.

Coras luctuosus, Bösenberg & Strand, 1906: 300.

Coelotes birulai Ermolaev, 1927: 347 (*syn. nov.*).

Coras luctuosus, Paik, 1978: 354.

Material

China — Nanking, Prof. C. Ping leg., 1 ♀ (BM 1928-III-16-35-64).

Remarks

The best recent illustrations of this species (the second and still the only other Far Eastern *Paracoelotes* apart from *P. csikii*) are those by Paik (1978); Ermolaev (1927) distinguished it correctly from the closely related *P. csikii*, but did not compare it with the species by L. Koch, possibly for geographical reasons (Ermolaev's material came from western Siberia, surroundings of Tomsk, and at this time *P. luctuosus* was known only from Japan); the illustrations by Ermolaev are very good and detailed and allow an easy comparison with those of the other authors. Another possible synonym of this species may be *P. fedotovi* (Charitonov, 1946) *comb. nov.* from Uzbekistan.

P. luctuosus seems very widespread in Palearctic Asia; it had previously been recorded from China by Fox (1936; from Szechwan).

Family Amaurobiidae

Tamgrinia chhanguensis (Tikader, 1970) *comb. nov.*
(Figs. 11-12)

Material

China — Tibet — Yatung, 10,000 ft, 16 April 1924, R. W. G. Hingston leg., 1 ♀ (in my collection).

— Yatung, 23 April 1924, R. W. G. Hingston leg., 1 ♀, 1 juv. (BM 1934-2-18-138-139).

— Tuna, 14,500 ft, 9 April 1924, R. W. G. Hingston leg., 1 ♀ (BM 1934-2-18-156).

— Trop de Tibet, 12,000 ft, 22 June 1924, R. W. G. Hingston leg., 1 ♀ (BM 1934-2-28-205).

Remarks

Described from Sikkim as a *Tegenaria* (Agelenidae); as in most *Tamgrinia* Lehtinen, 1967 its cribellum and calamistrum are easily overlooked. According to the structure of its epigyne this species is evidently related to *T. coelotiformis* (Schenkel, 1963) from Kansu; Lehtinen (1967: 266) admitted only two species of *Tamgrinia* (*alveolifer* and *laticeps*), since he considered the two *Coelotes* described by Schenkel in 1936 to be the males of the two *Amaurobius* described by the same author in 1963. This may be true (but is not proved) for "*Coelotes*" *laticeps* (male only, female possibly identical with *Paracoelotes csikii*, see above) and "*Amaurobius*" *coelotiformis* which were both described from Kansu, but, for geographical reasons, is extremely doubtful for "*Coelotes*" *alveolifer* (from Kansu) and "*Amaurobius*" *potanini* (from Mongolia).

Family Oecobiidae

Oecobius annulipes Lucas, 1846

Material

Hong Kong, 6 April 1965, I. W. B. Thorton leg., 1 ♀.

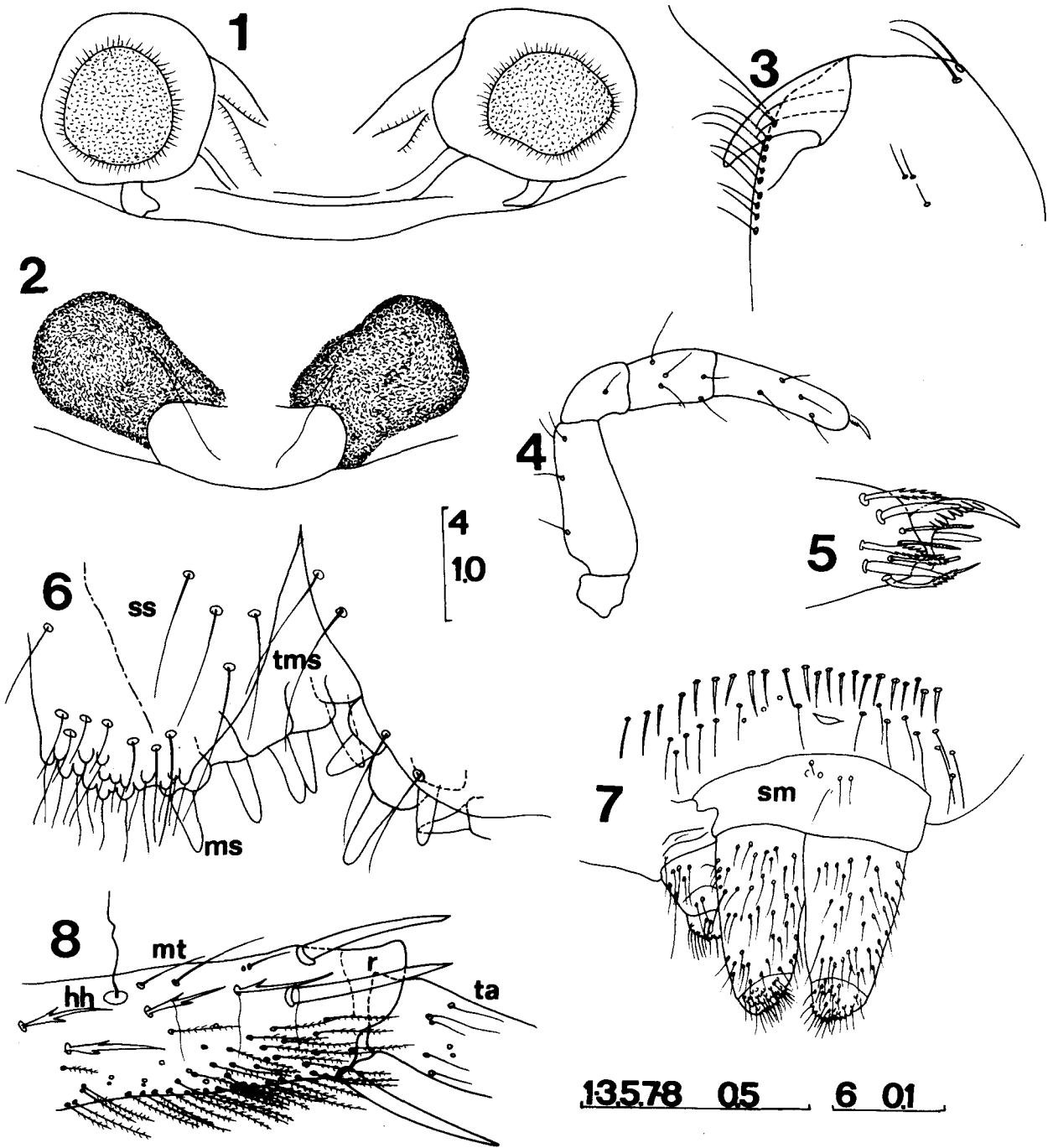
Remarks

Widespread species, already known from Hong Kong (Shear, 1970).

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Figs. 1-8: *Suffucia hingstoni* n. sp., female. 1 vulva; 2 epigyne; 3 chelicera; 4 pedipalp; 5 claw of pedipalp; 6 spinnerets, dorsal view (SS = superior spinnerets, TMS = transformed median spinnerets, MS = modified spigot); 7 spinnerets, ventral view (SM = "support membraneux"); 8 metatarsal-tarsal articulation (MT = metatarsus, TA = tarsus, HH = harpoon-like hairs, R = "rebord"). Scales in mm.