

Notes on African Linyphiidae IV
The male of **Araeoncus subniger** Holm
and a new **Lepthyphantes***

by R. JOCQUÉ**

The present note treats of two isolated males from East Africa deposited in the British Museum, London (BMNH). The first one is an *Araeoncus* from near the top of Mt. Kenya, probably the unknown male of a species described after some females from the same locality. The second one belongs to an unknown species of the genus *Lepthyphantes*. Several more males and females of the species are present in the collections of the « Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika », Tervuren (MRAC). One of these was selected as holotype.

Araeoncus subniger Holm (fig. 1-3)

Araeoncus subniger Holm, 1962 : 90 (descr. ♀).

MALE : total length 1.79 mm, carapace 0.97 mm long, 0.63 mm wide ; ocular area 0.36 mm wide.

Couleur : carapace dark to medium brown suffused with black in ocular area on striae and along margin ; clypeus paler ; sternum dark brown ; legs, palpus and chelicerae medium brown ; abdomen uniform dark grey.

Carapace (fig. 1-2) : smooth, long and narrow ; cephalic area raised and with deep cleft between PME and AME, provided with a dense tuft of hairs.

Eyes : small.

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** Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika, 1980 Tervuren.

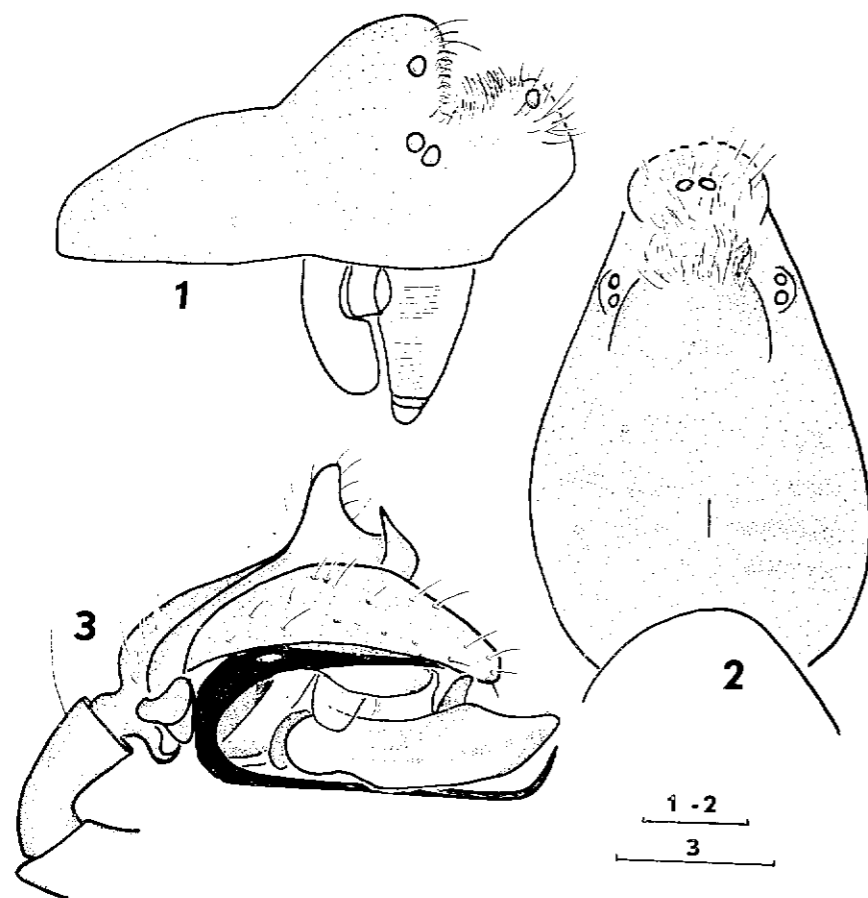


FIG. 1-3. — *Araeoncus subniger* Holm : 1. Male carapace, lateral view ; 2. Ditto, dorsal view ; 3. Male right palp, lateral aspect (scale lines : 0.2 mm).

Sternum 0.46 mm wide, 0.45 mm long ; smooth and shiny ; posterior tip separating coxae IV 0.8 times their diameter.

Chelicerae weak : laterally slightly concave and with fine striulating ridges.

Legs, measurements (mm) :

	T	P	T	Mt	r	Tot
I	0.60	0.29	0.50	0.49	0.39	2.27
IV	0.71	0.21	0.62	0.58	0.35	2.46

Tibia I and II with two, III and IV with one dorsal spine ; TM1 : 0.50 ; TM IV absent.

Palpus : fig. 3. Typical for the genus.

MATERIAL EXAMINED : 1 ♂ : Kenya, Mt. Kenya, N slope, 4400 m, Liki stream, XII.1980, P.S. Cranton (BMNH 1981-79).

DISCUSSION : this specimen most probably belongs to *A. subniger* Holm of which only the female was known. The type locality is on Mt. Kenya at 4350 m. As the female, this male is fairly dark and its leg chaetotaxy and spination is almost identical ; both have small eyes. The male is most easily diagnosed by the shape of the head : it is the only African representative of the genus in which the head has a transversal cleft.

Lepthyphantes ruwenzori n. sp. (fig. 4-10)

TYPE MATERIAL : Male holotype : Zaïre, Ruwenzori, northern slope, camp de Kanzuizi, Karibumba, 3700 m, VII-VIII. 1974, M. Lejeune (MRAC 163253).

Paratypes :

- 8 ♂, 8 ♀ : together with holotype (MRAC)
- 1 ♂, 1 ♀ : as holotype but at 3500 m (MRAC)
- 1 ♂ : same mountain area, Senguye, 3800 m, VII-VIII, 1974, M. Lejeune (MRAC)
- 1 ♂ : Uganda, Ruwenzori, 1952, Evans (BMNH)

MALE : total length 2.00 mm ; carapace 0.94 mm long, 0.77 mm wide ; ocular area 0.32 mm wide.

Colour : carapace yellow with dark median line between eyes and fovea, widened before the latter into a triangular patch and continuing behind it ; broad dark margin. Sternum yellow, strongly suffused with black. Legs and chelicerae yellow, darkened at joints. Abdomen : dorsum with on each side a row of three black blotches on a pale background followed by three transversal bars and a black area around the spinnerets ; laterally black with a longitudinal pale stripe. Venter black.

Carapace and eyes typical for the genus.

Sternum : smooth, bulging, 0.58 mm long, 0.57 mm wide.

Chelicerae (fig. 4) : slender ; laterally with 26 stridulating ridges ; promargin with 5 strong, retromargin with 4 small teeth.

Legs : Measurements (mm)

	T	P	T	Mt	t	Tot
I	1.43	0.31	1.43	1.46	1.07	5.70
IV	1.33	0.29	1.20	1.35	0.83	5.00

Spination

	F	P		T		Mt
I	pl	d	whorl complete		whorl complete	d
II	-	d				d
III	-	d	(d - pl - rl)		(d)	d
IV	-	d	(d - rl)		(d - pl - rl)	d

The spination of tibiae III and IV is variable : spines lacking in certain specimens may be present in others.

TM I : 0.14.

Palpus (fig. 5-6) : Cymbium with a basal horn, itself provided with a denticle at the base. Paracymbium with four sharp teeth : two at distal extremity, one at basis of distal arm and one just behind former on proximal arm. Lamella deeply incised : lateral arm bifid at extremity, mesal part with several short teeth at base. Terminal apophysis simple ; broad at base and gradually tapering towards truncated extremity. Lateral lobe of embolus broad, no fickert's gland although spermduct is slightly enlarged at turning point in radix.

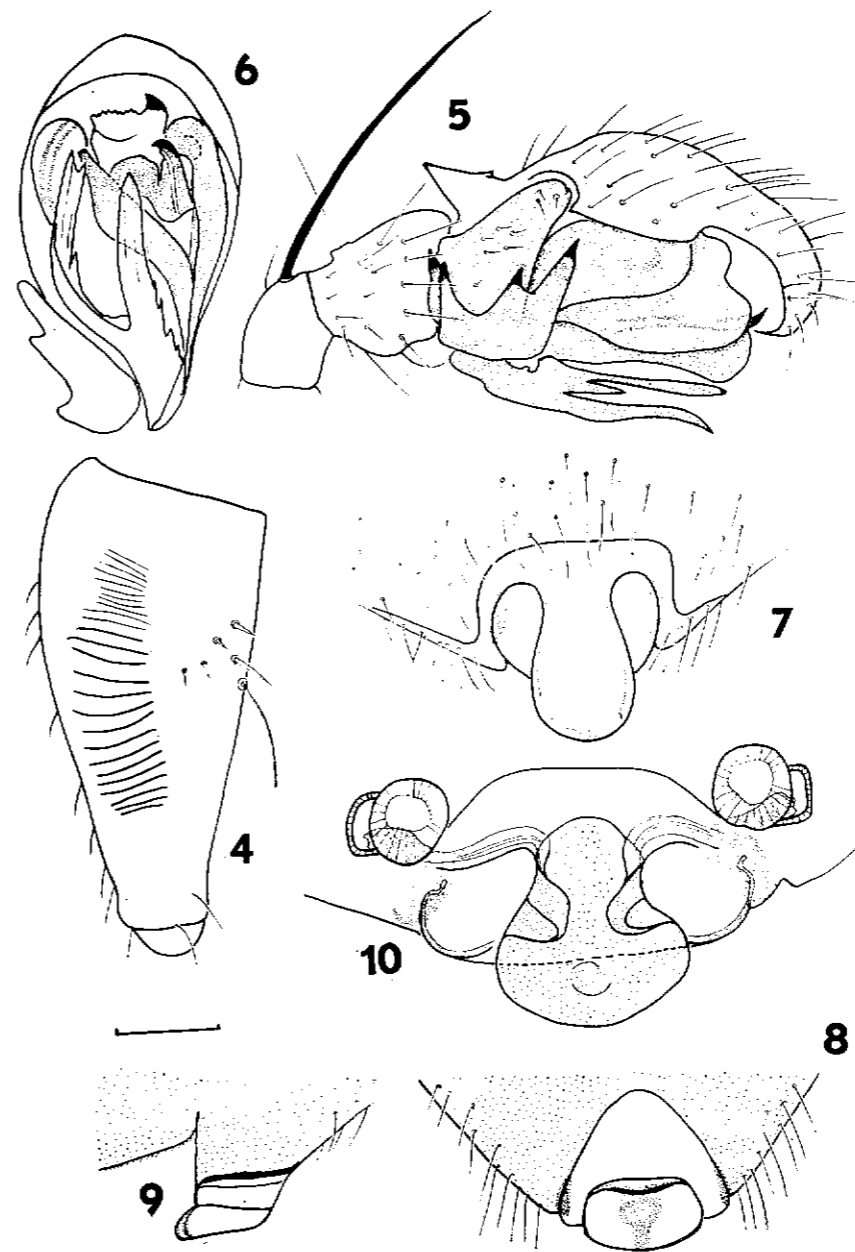


FIG. 4-10. — *Leptyphantes ruwenzori* n. sp. : 4. Male left chelicera, lateral aspect ; 5. Male right palp, lateral view ; 6. Ditto, ventral view ; 7. Epigyne, ventral view ; 8. Ditto, from behind ; 9. Ditto, lateral view ; 10. Vulva, ventral view (scale line: 0.1 mm).

FEMALE : total length 2.64 mm, carapace 1.07 mm long, 0.94 mm wide ; ocular area 0.39 mm wide.

Colour as in the male except abdominal pattern which has median dorsal stripe in front, narrowly connected with lateral blotches. Lateral pale stripe divided in three or four patches.

Carapace, eyes and sternum typical for genus.

Chelicerae : 0.57 mm long : stronger than in male ; promargin with 5 teeth, retromargin with 5 smaller teeth ; stridulating file as in male.

Legs : Measurements (mm)

	T	P	T	Mt	t	Tot
I	1.61	0.34	1.61	1.64	1.09	6.29
IV	1.51	0.34	1.35	1.46	0.81	5.47

Spination

	F	P	T	Mt
I	pl d		whorls complete	(d - pl - rl)
II	- d		„	(d - pl - rl)
III	- d		„	(d - pl - rl)
IV	- d		„	(d - pl - rl)
TM I	0.16.			

Epigyne (fig. 7-9) : scape broad at base, longer than wide and gently rounded at extremity ; no stretcher but shallow concavity on dorsal side of scape.

Vulva (fig. 10) : typical for the *tropicalis*-group (Bosmans 1978) with short entrance ducts.

ETYMOLOGY : the species is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

DIAGNOSIS : the species obviously belongs to the *tropicalis*-group as defined by Bosmans (1978). It is strongly related to *L. tropicalis* Tullgren, *L. biseriatus* Simon and Fage and *L. tullgreni* Bosmans but differs from the latter by the absence of dorsal spines on femora I-III. The male is characterized by the typical paracymbium with four teeth, the cymbial horn with basal den-

ticle, the deeply incised lamella and the simple terminal apophysis. The female is diagnosed by the oblong scape and by the dorsal converging margins of the pale epigyneal area as seen from behind.

Acknowledgements

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References

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