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# New spider species (Araneae) for the Spanish and Iberian fauna found in the Basque Country (Northern Spain).

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## ABSTRACT

14 new species are mentioned for the first time for the Iberian fauna and 17 for Spain. Ecological data about the species are also included.

- **KEY WORDS:** Arachnida, Araneae, Iberian Peninsula, Spain, Basque Country.

## LABURPENA

Lehen aldiz 14 espezie berri aipatzen dira fauna iberikorako eta 17, berriz, Espainiarako. Espezieei buruzko datu ekologikoak ere ematen dira.

- **GAKO HITZAK:** Arachnida, Araneae, Penintsula Iberiar, Espainia, Euskal Herri.

## RESUMEN

Se citan por primera vez 14 nuevas especies para la fauna ibérica y 17 para España. Se aportan también datos ecológicos sobre las especies.

- **PALABRAS CLAVE:** Arachnida, Araneae, Península Ibérica, España, País Vasco.



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## INTRODUCTION

Since the last few years new research on the spider fauna of the Basque Country (Northern Spain) is in progress. Up to now only a few localities in the provinces of Gipuzkoa and Nafarroa have been searched. However, in this contribution a new family (Theridiosomatidae) and 17 new spider species for Spain of which 14 are also new for the

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Iberian peninsula are reported. This is the reason why we submit this communication. The list contains faunistic information on the collected specimens and also a short description of a wider context concerning habitat and biology such as can be found in well-known works of reference. Nomenclature of the species and geographical distribution follow the world spiders catalogue by PLATNICK (2002).

The specimens in the list are kept in two collections namely the private collection of Juan Alberdi (CJA) and the Department of Entomology of the Society of Sciences Aranzadi (CSCA). The following few abbreviations have been used: m=adult male, f=adult female and im=immature.

In the paragraph named MATERIAL in the list, the name of the municipalities where the collecting sites are situated are given. More specifically, the UTM coordinates and height (over the sea level) of the sites were the following,

- **PROVINCE OF GIPUZKOA:**

- ~ Deba-Itziar: 30TWN5591 – 310 m.
- ~ Elgeta: 30TWN4378 – 650 m.
- ~ Hernani: 30TWN88 – 10 m to 100 m.
- ~ Mendaro: 30TWN4990 – 225 m.
- ~ Urnieta: 30TWN88 – 30 m to 300 m.
- ~ Zumaia: 30TWN6194 – 20 m.

- **PROVINCE OF NAFARROA:**

- ~ Larraun: 30TWN8464 – 312 m.

## RESULTS

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### Family Clubionidae

#### **Clubiona lutescens** Westring 1851

- **MATERIAL:** Gipuzkoa: Hernani: 3 m, 07.IV.2002; 3 m, 4 f, 28.IV.2002; 3 m, 3 f, 19.V.2002; 1 m, 16.VI.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA). Urnieta: 1 m, 02.VI.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).

- **REMARKS:** An holarctic species, often cited from central Europe (HÄNGGI *et al.*, 1995). We found the species in dense grass mixed with bramble in a damp place near the Urumea riverbank. This agrees with data in HÄNGGI *et al.* (1995) where the following habitats for the species are enumerated: regularly flooded, alluvial areas, on reed beds in fens, in alder forests and moist popular/willows woods, and in ruderal pioneer communities. We found adult males in April, a month earlier than reported by HEIMER & NENTWIG (1991).

## Family Gnaphosidae

### *Zelotes apricorum* (L. Koch, 1876)

• MATERIAL: Nafarroa: Larraun: 1 f, 10.VII.99; 1 m, 24.VII.99, pitfall trap, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA).

• REMARKS: A species with an European distribution extending to Kazakhstan. Previously found in the French Pyrénées Orientales department (BOSMANS & DE KEER, 1985). We found it in a holm oak wood grown on a stony ground. In central Europe the species has also been found on stony soil (HÄNGGI *et al.*, 1995). Adult activity is within the range indicated by other authors (HEIMER & NENTWIG, 1991).

## Family Linyphiidae

### *Dismodicus bifrons* (Blackwall, 1841)

• MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Hernani: 1 m, 28.IV.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA). Urnieta: 1 f, 23.VI.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).

• REMARKS: In general *D. bifrons* is a species of a palearctic distribution and it has previously been reported from the French Pyrénées Orientales department (BOSMANS & DE KEER, 1985). We found it at the same site as *C. lutescens*, on bramble in a damp place near a riverbank. It has been found in Central Europe also in damp places (HÄNGGI *et al.*, 1995). Adulthood in April-June is in agreement with literature data, that is, spring-summer according to HEIMER & NENTWIG (1991).

### *Entelecara congenera* (O.P. - Cambridge, 1879)

• MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Zumaia, 1 f, 22.V.99, beating tree branches, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA).

• REMARKS: Palearctic species. We found our specimen in a holm oak wood although in Central Europe it lives mainly in coniferous forests (HÄNGGI *et al.*, 1995). Also our adult specimen was collected one month earlier than the beginning of the adulthood period as reported by HEIMER & NENTWIG (1991).

### *Gongylidium rufipes* (Linnaeus, 1758)

• MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Hernani: 1 f, 14.X.2001; 1 f, 28.X.2001; 1 m, 30.XII.2001; 1 m, 19.III.2002; 16 m, 20 f, 07.IV.2002; 7 m, 11 f, 28.IV.2002; 15 m, 12 f, 19.V.2002; 1 m, 3 f, 16.VI.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA). Urnieta: 1 f, 12.X.2001; 1 f, 18.XI.2001; 1 f, 01.V.2002; 1 m, 26.V.2002; 1 f, 23.VI. 2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).

• REMARKS: As with *D. bifrons* the general distribution of this species is palearctic (PLATNICK, 2002). It has also previously been reported from the French Pyrénées Orientales department (BOSMANS & DE KEER, 1985). We collected our specimens on bramble, grass and fern in strata ranging from the herb layer to 1.5-2 m high, in damp open places. Adults in autumn and spring as in Europe, where the species is common (HEIMER & NENTWIG, 1991).

**Lepthyphantes bacelari** Schenkel, 1938

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Deba-Itziar: 1 f, 03.VII.1999, bark trap; 1 f, 17.VII.1999, beating sarsaparilla, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA).
- REMARKS: This is the second world record for the species after the first citation of SCHENKEL (1938) from Cintra (Portugal) and the species constitutes an endemism to the Iberian peninsula (MELIC, 2001). Both records suggest a distribution of the species along the north Atlantic border of the peninsula. SCHENKEL (1938) does not provide information on its habitat but we found our specimens in a holm oak wood.

**Meioneta mollis** (O.P. - Cambridge, 1871)

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Elgeta: 1 f, 03.I.2002, by hand, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).
- REMARKS: Palearctic species. BOSMANS & DE KEER (1985) reported the species from the French departments of Basses Pyrénées and Hautes Pyrénées. We collected our specimen on moss in a beech wood, a different habitat from those reported in Central Europe where the species favours open areas although as in our case it is also found in damp places (HÄNGGI *ET AL.*, 1995). HEIMER & NENTWIG (1991) indicate adults presence all year long.

**Pocadicnemis juncea** Locket & Millidge, 1953

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Urnieta: 1 f, 26.V.2002; 1 f, 02.VI.2002; 1 f, 23.VI.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).
- REMARKS: According to PLATNICK (2002), this species is of a Palearctic distribution. We found our specimen in a wet, shady place, overgrown with grass, bramble and alder, which agrees with the preference for moisture shown by this species (HÄNGGI *ET AL.*, 1995). The date when we collected our specimen also agrees with its known adulthood period (HEIMER & NENTWIG, 1991; CROCKER & DAWS, 1996).

**Trichoncus affinis** Kulczynski, 1894

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Zumaia: 1 f, 02.I.1999; 1 f, 24.IV.1999; 1 f, 08.V.1999; 5 m, 4 f, 22.V.1999; 1 m, 05.VI.1999; 2 f, 03.VII.1999; 1 f, 14.VIII.1999, pitfall trap, A. de Castro (CSCA). Nafarroa: Larraun: 1 m, 26.VI.1999, pitfall trap, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA).
- REMARKS: Palearctic species. In the catalogue by BOSMANS & DE KEER (1985) the species is also reported from the French Pyrénées Orientales department. Despite the scarce data on its habitat the species has always been found in woods (HÄNGGI *ET AL.*, 1995), in agreement with the finding of our specimens in holm oak tree forests. Excepted the specimen collected in January all our other specimens were collected in agreement with the adulthood period from May to July as given by HEIMER & NENTWIG (1991).

**Walckenaeria alticeps** (Denis, 1952)

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Urnieta: 1 m, 12.V.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).
- REMARKS: An European spider. Our specimen was collected on bramble in a bushy, damp, open wasteland with growing young trees and near wooded areas. Probably similar to the forest edge habitat reported for Central Europe by HÄNGGI *ET AL.* (1995). However, our adult specimen was not collected from autumn to early in the year as it seems to be usual in Central Europe (HEIMER & NENTWIG, 1991).

**Walckenaeria furcillata** (Menge, 1869)

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Zumaia: 1 f, 31.VII.1999, pitfall trap, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA).
- REMARKS: A Palearctic species. In Central Europe it seems not to be linked to any specific habitat (HÄNGGI *ET AL.*, 1995). We have found it in holm oak woods. Our collection date is into the period of adulthood in early summer as reported by HEIMER & NENTWIG (1991).

**Family Lycosidae**

**Pirata uliginosus** (Thorell, 1856)

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Hernani: 1 f, 19.V.2002; 1 m, 26.V.2002; 1 m, 09.VI.2002, pitfall trap, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).
- REMARKS: The species is distributed in Europe and Russia (PLATNICK, 2002) and it has also been found in the department of Basses Pyrénées, France (BOSMANS & DE KEER, 1985). We collected our specimens in pitfall traps or by hand at ground level, in a riparian wood with mossy ground. The known habitat of the species also belongs to wet spaces although it seems not to be associated with wooded areas (HÄNGGI *ET AL.*, 1995). Adults also appear at the same period as we found our specimens (HEIMER & NENTWIG, 1991).

**Family Theridiidae**

**Phoroncidia paradoxa** (Lucas, 1846)

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Deba-Itziar: 1 f, 05.VI.1999, by hand; 1 im, 11.IX.1999, beating sarsaparilla, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA). Hernani: 1 m, 20.I.2002; 1f, 27.I.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA). Mendaro: 1 m, 1 im, 30.I.1999, beating sarsaparilla, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA).
- REMARKS: A West Mediterranean species reaching southern France and the southern Alps (South Tirol) (NENTWIG *ET AL.*, 2002). Simon already reported the species from several places in France (SIMON, 1914) and more recently it has also been found in the French Pyrenean departments of the Basses Pyrénées and the Pyrénées Orientales (BOSMANS & DE KEER, 1985). It has also been found in Portugal (BACELAR, 1940). With respect to the habitat we found our specimens on shrubs in wooded areas with holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) but also mixed deciduous trees.

### Family Theridiosomatidae

(a new family for the Iberian peninsula)

**Theridiosoma gemmosum** (L. Koch, 1877)

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Hernani: 1 f, 16.VI.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA). Urnieta: 2 f, 23.VI.2002, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).
- REMARKS: The species is distributed in North America and in Europe until Georgia (PLATNICK, 2002). It is not a common species and has been found amongst low vegetation in damp habitats. It becomes adult in early summer (HEIMER & NENTWIG, 1991; ROBERTS, 1995). All these data agree with our records.

### Family Thomisidae

**Tmarus stello** Simon, 1875

- MATERIAL: Nafarroa: Larraun: 1 m, 12.VI.1999, tree trunk pitfall trap, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA).
- REMARKS: Mainly distributed in southern Europe (NENTWIG *ET AL.*, 2002) and in the Caucasus (LOGUNOV, 1992), however it has not been reported from the Pyrénées (BOSMANS & DE KEER, 1985). We found it in a holm oak wood.

**Xysticus ulmi** (Hahn, 1831)

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Hernani: 1 m, 28.IV.2002; 2 f, 16.VI.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA). Urnieta: 1 f, 18.XI.2001; 1 f, 01.V.2002; 1 m, 12.V.2002; 5 m, 26.V.2002; 2 m, 02.VI.2002; 1 m, 23.VI.2002, bush beating, leg. J. Alberdi (CJA).
- REMARKS: According to PLATNICK (2002) the species is palearctic. It has been reported from Portugal (BACELAR, 1928) although not from the Pyrénées (BOSMANS & DE KEER, 1985). We found this spider in wet places on grassy strata as it has been reported by other authors (HEIMER & NENTWIG, 1991; ROBERTS, 1995; CROCKER & DAWS, 1996). Our data on adulthood seem to agree with CROCKER & DAWS, (1996) who reports adult males in May and June and females from June to October.

### Family Zodariidae

**Zodarion italicum** (Canestrini, 1868)

- MATERIAL: Gipuzkoa: Zumaia: 1 m, 28.VIII.1999, pitfall trap, leg. A. de Castro (CSCA).
- REMARKS: With a central and southern european distribution in general, the nearest place where the species has been reported is from the southwest of France (BOSMANS, 1997; NENTWIG *ET AL.*, 2002). We collected our specimen in a holm oak wood. No other information is available as we did not found any data on habitat or adulthood in the literature.

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