

Short Communication

Phaeocedus is a new genus of ground spider (Araneae, Gnaphosidae) in Turkey

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The spider genus *Phaeocedus* belonging to family of Gnaphosidae is recorded from Turkey for the first time. The characteristic features are described and illustrated, and data on distribution are given.

Key words: Gnaphosidae, *Phaeocedus*, Turkey and New Record.

INTRODUCTION

Gnaphosid spiders are generally characterized by having barrel-shaped anterior spinnerets that are one spinneret diameter apart. In Gnaphosidae, 1975 species belonging to 116 genera have been described all over the world (Platnick, 2006). This family is the most abundant and one of the most diverse of all spider families on Turkey. So far, 90 species of Gnaphosidae belonging to 21 genera have been recorded in Turkey, but no member of the genus *Phaeocedus* (Ovtsharenko et al., 1995; Topçu et al., 2005a,b, 2006; Özdemir et al., 2006; Seyyar et al., 2006a,b; Varol et al., 2006) has been reorted.

Phaeocedus is one of small genus of Gnaphosidae. The members of this genus may be distinguished most easily from the other gnaphosid genera by the pairs of light abdominal mottles and the lack of chericeral teeth (Figure 1). We can now add *Phaeocedus braccatus* (L. Koch, 1866) as a new to the spider fauna of Turkey, and we describe some of the characteristic features of the species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In this study, the specimens were obtained under stone on Erciyes mountain in central parts of Turkey. Examined specimens are deposited in the Arachnology Museum of Niğde University (NUAM). The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol. The identification and drawings were made by means of a SZX9 Olympus stereomicroscope with camera lucida. In the identification

of this species, the works of Heimer and Nentwig (1991) and Roberts (1995) were consulted. All measurements are in millimetres.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Phaeocedus braccatus (L. Koch, 1866)

Only three male specimens were investigated in this study. These specimens were recorded from Erciyes mountain (2300 m), Kayseri, located 37°58'N, 34°40'E in the Central Anatolia in Turkey. The specimens were collected from under stone on 11.VI.2006.

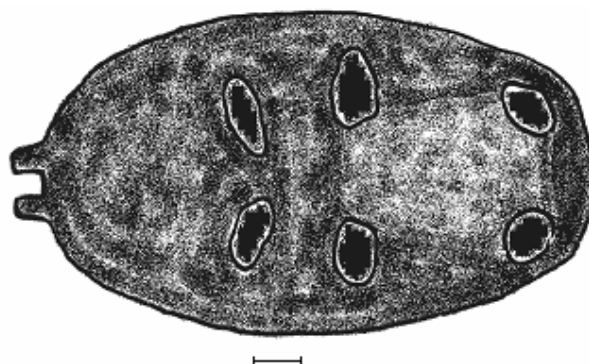


Figure 1. The shape of opisthosoma of *Phaeocedus braccatus* (L. Koch, 1866). Scale line = 0.2 mm.

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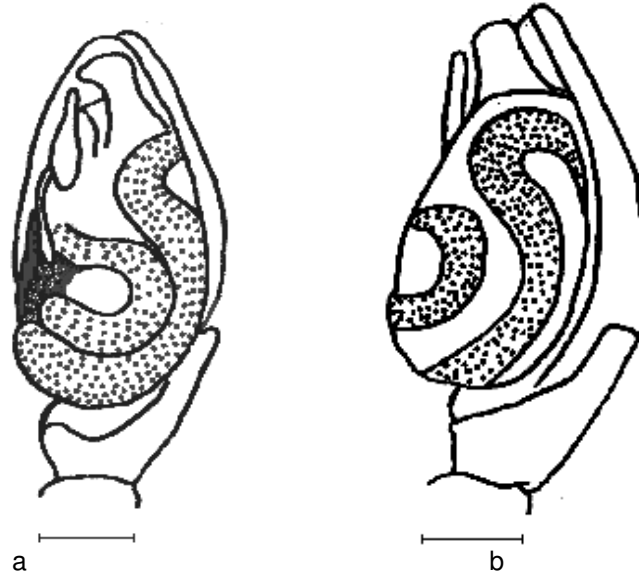


Figure 2. *Phaeoecedes braccatus* (L. Koch, 1866) a- Male palp, ventral view. b- Male palp, retrolateral view. Scale line = 0.2 mm.

Measurements in males

Total length: 5-5.5 mm.

Prosoma: length 2-2.2 mm, width 1.7-1.9 mm.

Opisthosoma: length 3-3.3 mm, width 1.8-2 mm.

Description

Carapace deep brown to black, slightly elevated at front, with short distinct fovea. Anterior row of eyes slightly recurved but posterior row of eyes slightly procurved in dorsal view. Chelicerae with a fine and no teeth. Opisthosoma black and hirsute with marked three pairs of light mottles along upper sides. Sternum almost same colored with carapace and oval. Legs light yellow but femora of legs I and II deep brown. Male palp (Figure 2) resembles the description of Heimer and Nentwig (1991) and Roberts (1995).

World distribution: Crete, Israel (Platnick, 2006).

Conclusion

With this study, the number of gnaphosid spiders in Turkey has increased from 90 species belonging to 21 genera to 91 species belonging to 22 genera. The morphometric measurements and other characteristic features of this species are not different from European specimens. As a result of our study, a new genus record was given for the araneofauna of Turkey.

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