

Notes on *Cesonia*, a newly recorded genus for the Asian spider fauna (Araneae, Gnaphosidae)

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Abstract. The spider species *Cesonia aspida* Chatzaki, 2002, together with its genus *Cesonia* Simon, 1893, was found in Anatolia (Turkey) and represent new records for the Asian spider fauna. Its characteristic features, drawings of genitalia, a photograph of the general habitus and a distribution map for Eurasia are presented.

Key words: Anatolia, *Cesonia aspida*, spider, Turkey

Cesonia is a rare and striking Palaearctic gnaphosid genus which is widely distributed in North and Central America, including the West Indies. Members of this genus are fast-moving, agile hunters, usually found in sandy habitats, under loose leaf litter and stones. They can easily be recognised by their distinct colour pattern on the abdomen and carapace (PLATNICK & SHADAB 1980).

Thirty species, belonging to four species groups, within the genus *Cesonia* are known from America (PLATNICK 2007). In Europe only a single species of *Cesonia* has so far been reported, stemming from the Greek island of Crete (CHATZAKI et al. 2002). Until now, no member of this genus has been recorded from Asia (TOPÇU et al. 2005, PLATNICK 2007). Here, we describe both the male and female of *Cesonia aspida* Chatzaki, 2002 from Anatolia, Turkey.

Material and methods

The two specimens were collected from southern Turkey and have been deposited in the Arachnology Museum of Niğde University (NUAM GNA 80/0001-2). Identification was made using a SZX61 Olympus stereomicroscope based on the study of CHATZAKI et al. (2002).

Cesonia aspida Chatzaki, 2002 (Figs. 1-3)

Identification and description. CHATZAKI et al. (2002)

Material examined. TURKEY: (1♂, 1♀) (NUAM), Osmaniye Province, Yarpuz valley (37° 03'N, 36° 25'E),



Fig. 1: General habitus of female of *Cesonia aspida* Chatzaki, 2002.

900 m a.s.l., 1.V.2007, leg. O. Seyyar & H. Demir.

Remarks. The adult male and female were found in May in Anatolia. Both specimens were collected under flat, broad stones from a *Pinus* forest in the Yarpuz valley in Turkey. The specimens of *Cesonia aspida* were found associated with ants, on which they may feed. However, we observed this association at only one collection site; further observations are needed to confirm a myrmecophilous life style. This new record of *Cesonia aspida* in Anatolia Peninsula indicates that this taxon occurs in Asia too and along part of the eastern border of the Mediterranean (Fig. 2). It is predicted that careful searching will reveal further localities in Anatolia, as well as other parts of Asia.

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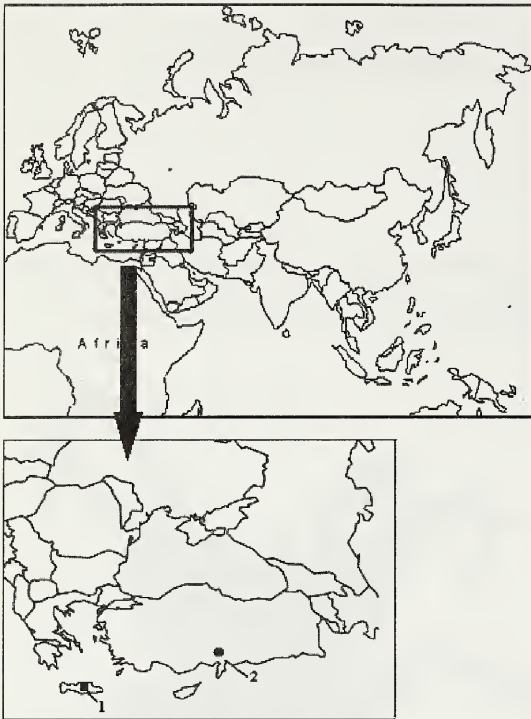


Fig. 2: Distribution map of *Cesonia aspida* Chatzaki, 2002 in Eurasia.

Distribution. Crete (CHATZAKI et al. 2002, PLATNICK 2007) and Anatolia (first record for Asia).

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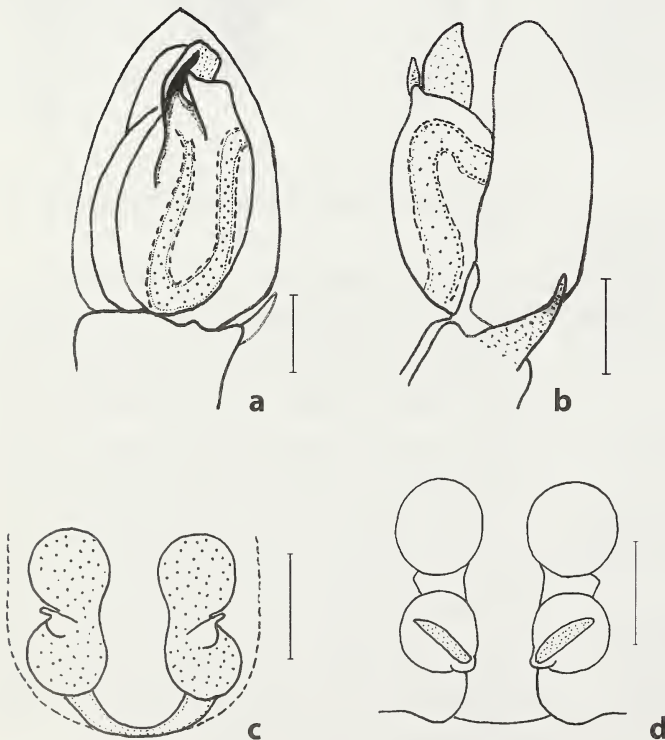
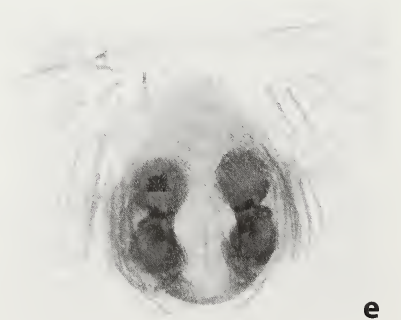


Fig. 3: Genitalia of *Cesonia aspida* Chatzaki, 2002. Male palp; **a** - ventral view, **b** - retrolateral view. Epigyne; **c** - ventral view, **d** - dorsal view, **e** - ventral view (photograph).



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