

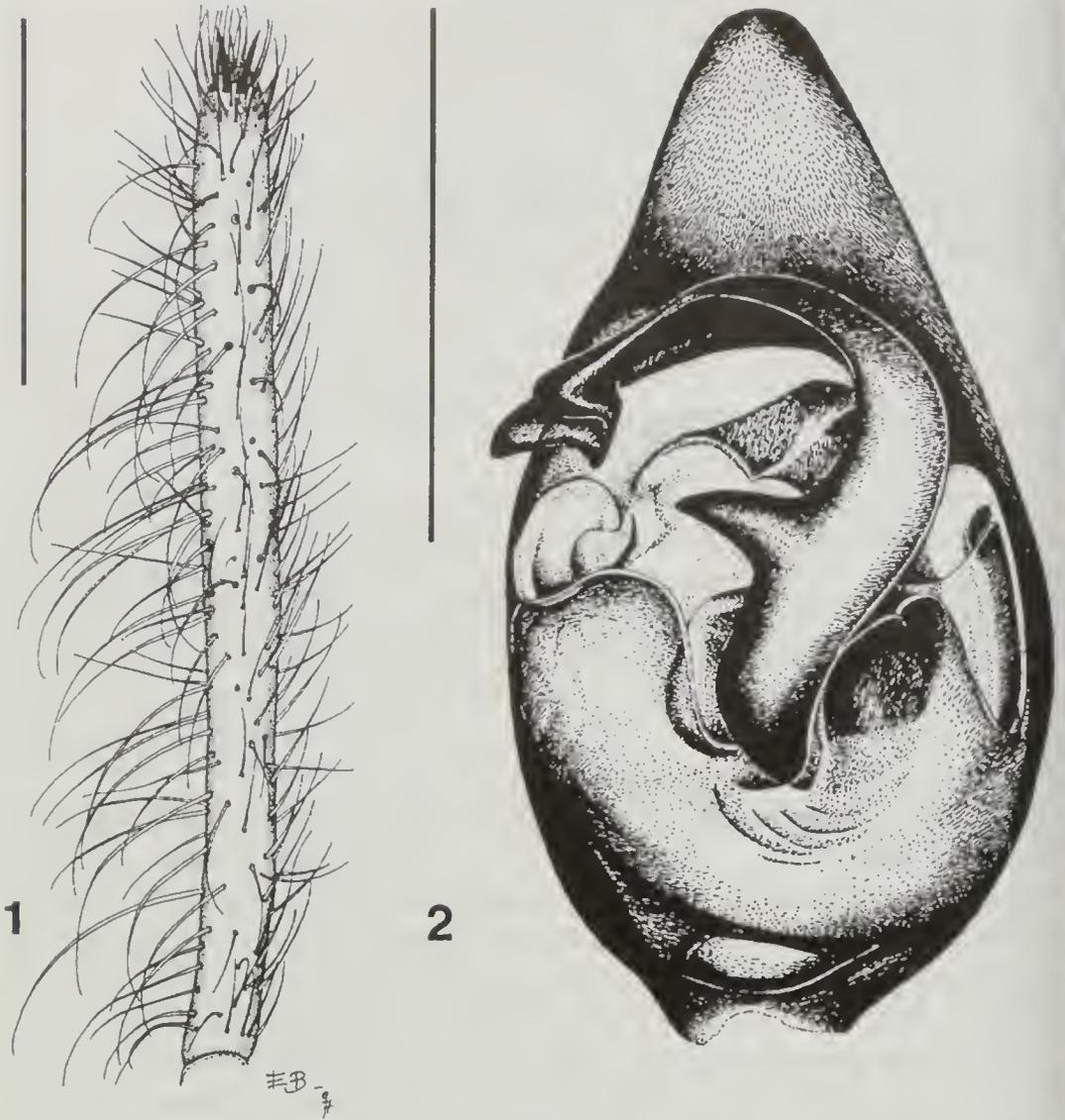
Torbjörn KRONESTEDT: First record of *Aulonia kratochvili* (Araneae, Lycosidae) from Europe

The fauna of wolf spiders is rather well-known in certain parts of the Balkan Peninsula, in others less so. While extensive collecting has been undertaken in Bulgaria (summarized in DELTSHEV & BLAGOEV 1995), other parts, like Greece, still await to be better explored.

During a short visit to Greece in 1995, two of my colleagues at the Swedish Museum of Natural History brought back a small collection of spiders. Among the spiders (captured by trapping) were numerous males of the lycosid *Aulonia kratochvili* DUNIN, BUCCHAR et ABSOLON. This species was recently described from both sexes, collected in Azerbaijan (DUNIN et al. 1986) and also found in Turkmenia (SW Kopetdagh: sub "*Aulonia* sp.n." in FET 1985; MIKHAILOV 1997). Its occurrence in Greece indicates a Pontomediterranean distribution.

The Greek material was collected at Porto Lagos in east Macedonia. The site is a flat marshy area with halophilous vegetation not far from the sea. Among the hitherto identified co-occurring species are *Arctosa latithorax* LUGETTI et TONGIORGI (3 ♂♂), *Arctosa leopardus* (SUNDEVALL) (3 ♂♂), *Argenna patula* (SIMON) (1 ♂), and *Erigone vagans* AUDOUIN (17 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀), all of them more or less confined to moist conditions.

Aulonia kratochvili, though larger (carapace length of male 2.2-2.7 mm, N = 10, specimens from Greece), reminds of the only other European species, *A. albimana* (WALCKENAER) (carapace length of male 1.9-2.1 mm, specimens from Sweden: HOLM 1947). The male of *A. kratochvili* has the distalmost part of the palpal femur and all except the distal margin of the palpal patella yellowish and dorsally covered with white hairs (the rest of the palpal femur, tibia and cymbium is dark-coloured and with dark hairs). Also the females have the apical part of the palpal femur and patella contrastingly light-coloured according to DUNIN et al. (1986). The tarsi of legs I in males are provided with numerous scattered, long, dark, erect hairs, most of them in a dorsoprolateral position. These hairs are characteristically bent (Fig. 1). Numerous scattered, long, dark, erect hairs are also present on the first metatarsi and tibiae (only a few in retrolateral position) but many of those hairs are not as curved as the ones on tarsi I. Both sexes of



Figs. 1, 2: *Aulonia kratochvili*, male. - 1. Tarsus of right leg I in dorsal view. - 2. Right male palp in ventral view. (Scale bars = 0.5 mm.)

A. kratochvili differ from *A. aulonia* in having a narrow median stripe of white hairs along the entire dorsum of abdomen, tapering rearwards. The copulatory organs are quite different from those of *A. aulonia* (for female *A. kratochvili* see DUNIN et al. 1986). The tegular apophysis in male *A. kratochvili* is very prominent and characteristically shaped, reminiscent of the letter F (Fig. 2).

When describing *A. kratochvili*, DUNIN et al. (1986) gave comparative notes on some poorly known, presumably related species found in Africa, viz. *Aulonia wernerii* ROEWER (Egypt), *Auloniella maculisternum* ROEWER (Tanzania) and *Anomalomma rhodesianum* ROEWER (Zimbabwe) (ROEWER 1960), all three in need of renewed studies of the type material.

The genus *Aulonia* was assigned to the subfamily Hippasinae by ROEWER (1959) because of the the posterior spinnerets being long, more or less diverging (usually not diverging in *Aulonia*, cf. JOB 1968) and having a distal segment at least half as long as the basal segment. JOB (1968) firstly observed the building of agelenid-like webs in *A. albimana*, and later gave a more thorough account of the biology of this species (JOB 1974). Web-building in *A. kratochvili* is so far not known. Web-building as such, however, is a primitive trait within Lycosidae and has no bearing on the higher classification within the family. On evidence from male palpal morphology, it has recently (ZYUZIN 1993) been suggested to include *Aulonia* together with some rather diverse genera in subfamily Piratinae, a proposal in need of further substantiation.

Material of *A. kratochvili* examined: GREECE, E Macedonia, Porto Lagos, pitfall traps, 2-4.V.1995, 32 ♂♂ (leg. P. LINDSKOG & B. VIKLUND; preserved in the Swedish Museum of Natural History).

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