

***Orchestina pavesii* (Simon, 1873), an oonopid spider new to Slovakia (Araneae: Oonopidae)**

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Abstract: *Orchestina pavesii* (SIMON, 1873) was recently discovered in Slovakia. Description of a male is presented.

Keywords: Taxonomy, Araneae, Oonopidae, Slovakia

INTRODUCTION

Representatives of Oonopidae are tiny spiders, usually of a pale colour, with 6 oval eyes. Systematically, they belong to Dysderoidea, which include about 120 genera (CODDINGTON & LEVI 1991), but Oonopidae, alone, include 51 genera and more than 70 species (PLATNICK 1989). They are distributed all over the world, except for Antarctica, but most of the species come from the tropics. In Europe, there are 6 genera of oonopid spiders, represented by about 20 species (PLATNICK 1989). But only 6 species have been known from the Central Europe until recently (NENTWIG 1991). In Slovakia, only 2 species of oonopid spiders, *Oonops domesticus* Dalmas, 1916 and *Triaeris stenaspis* Simon, 1891, have been recorded so far (GAJDOŠ et al. 1999).

The genus *Orchestina* includes 13 fossil species described from ambers (WUNDERLICH 1981) and 11 recent species of which only 3 species occur in Europe (DALMAS 1916). *O. pavesii* (Simon, 1873) has been so far captured only in the Mediterranean area (e.g. BRIGNOLI 1967a, b). Our recent record of this species from Slovakia suggests that it is able to spread northwise presumably phoretically-using birds.

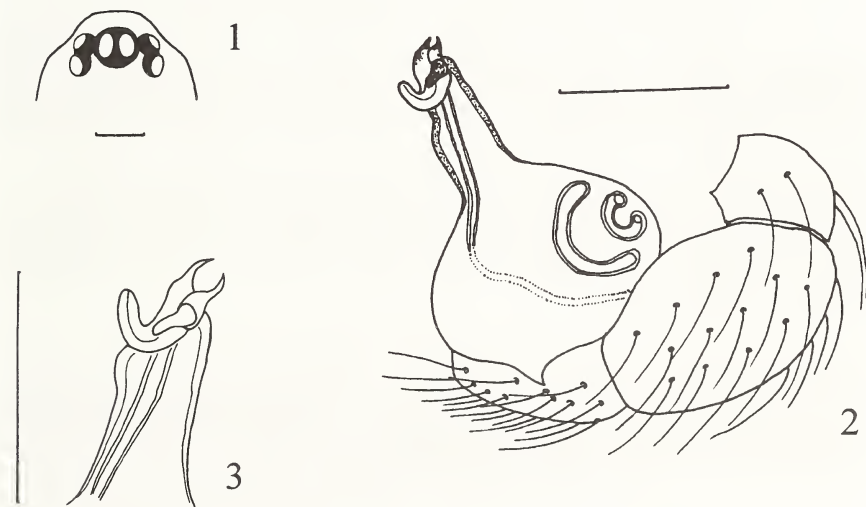
Orchestina pavesii (Simon, 1873) (Figs. 1-4)

Schoenobates pavesii Simon (1873): 127; Figs. 29, 31

O. pavesii Simon (1882): 237; (1893): 294, Figs. 259, 265; (1911): 308; (1914): 90; DALMAS (1916): 222-224, Figs 10, 15; BRIGNOLI (1967a): 146, Fig. 4; BRIGNOLI (1967b): 363-365, Figs. 18-37; MELIC (1994): 114, Figs. 9-11.

Designation: The genus *Orchestina* can be easily recognised from other oonopid genera by the remarkable width of femora IV in comparison with other leg segments and by the arrangement of eyes: the black contours of the posterior lateral eyes are clearly separated from that of median eyes (DALMAS 1916). From the European oonopids it can be further distinguished by the position of median eyes which are in a row with the anterior lateral eyes. From other species of this genus, males of *O. pavesi* can be distinguished by the shape of palpal organ.

Description: Male. Total body length 1.27 mm. Carapace 0.48 mm long, 0.37 mm wide. Whole body pale. Eyes arranged in two rows, the first includes median eyes (Fig. 1). Femora IV protruded. Palpal Ti almost as wide as bulbos. Bulbos with transparent spiral duct (Fig. 2), distally with tiny tongues. Embolus short, hook-like (Fig. 3).



Figs. 1-3. *Orchestina pavesii* (Simon, 1873): 1 – arrangement of eyes (male), dorsal view; 2 – right male palp, prolateral view; 3 – embolus, prolateral view. Scales 0.1 mm.

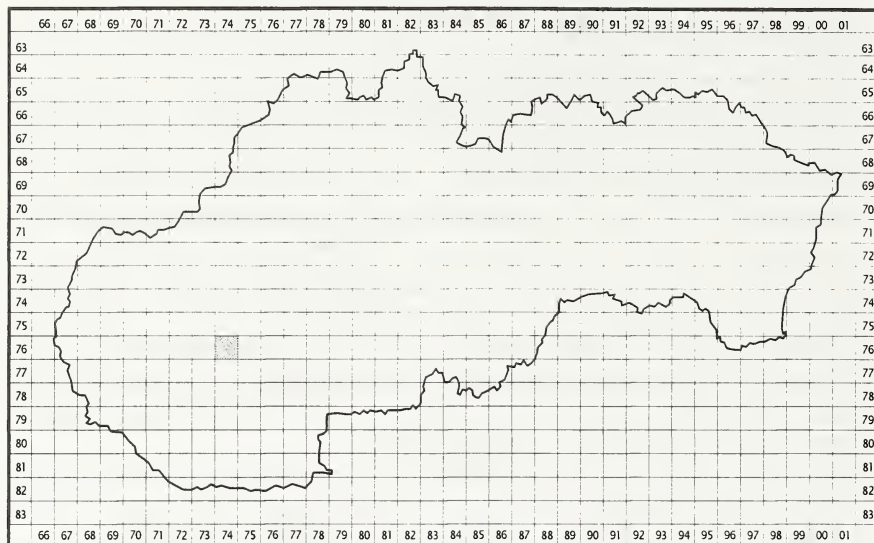


Fig. 4. Grid map of occurrence of *O. pavesii* in Slovakia.

Material: Only one male specimen was taken indoor from a wall on 18. October 1999 in the Institute of Landscape Ecology in Nitra, Slovakia (grid no. 7674). Leg. P. Gajdoš (Fig. 4).

Distribution: This species has been so far collected in the Mediterranean area: Portugal (CARDOSO 2000), Spain, south France, Italy, Corsica and Algeria (SIMON 1873, 1882, 1893, 1914; DALMAS 1916; BRIGNOLI 1967a, b; MELIC 1994).

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