

Dragomir DIMITROV: A record of *Achaeearanea tabulata* from the Balkan Peninsula (Araneae: Theridiidae)

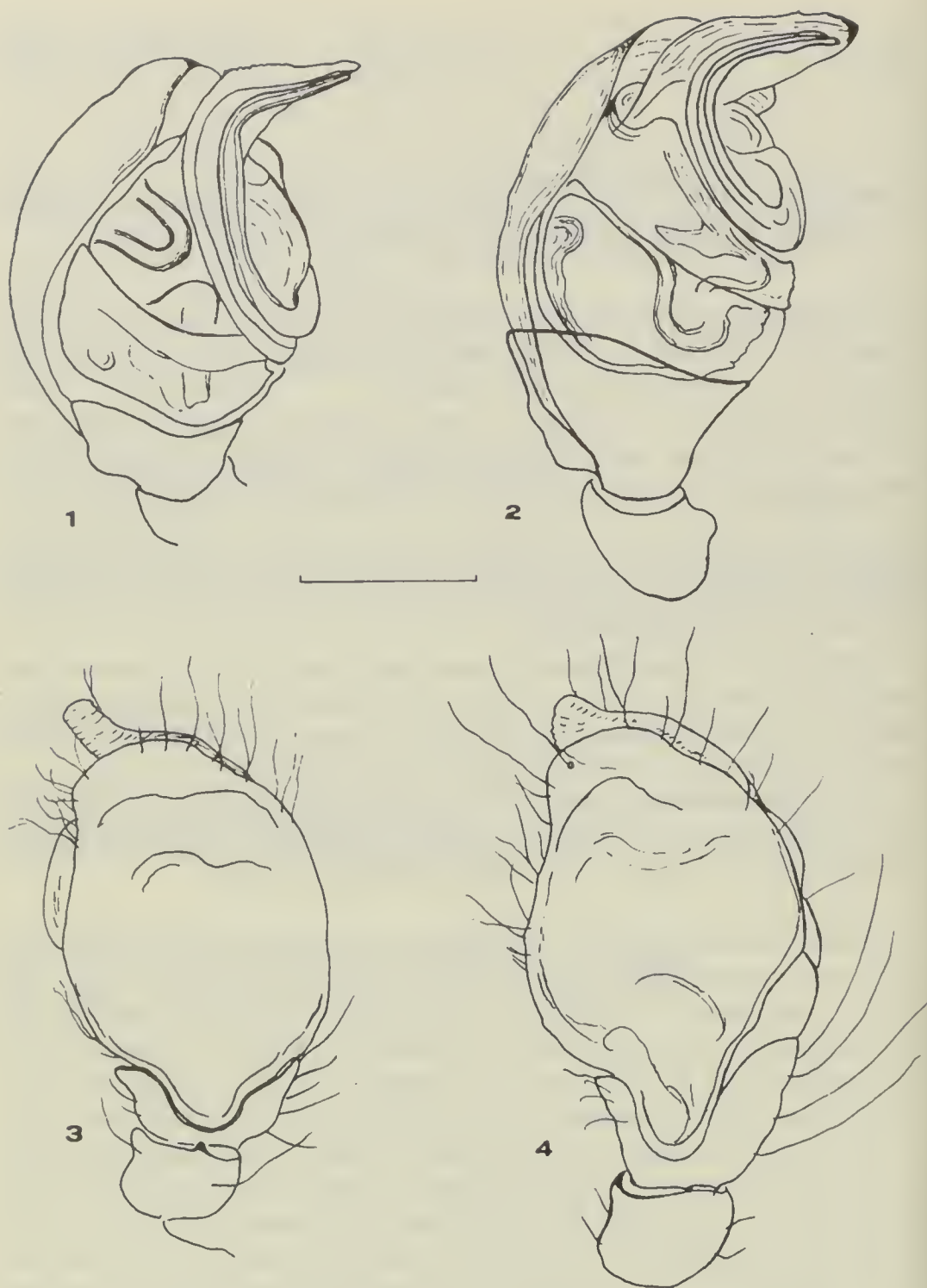
LEVI 1980 described *Achaeearanea tabulata* from USA (New York). Three years later, YOSHIDA (1983) described *Achaeearanea nipponica* from Japan; this name is a junior synonym of *A. tabulata* (LEVI, 1980). PAIK (1986) found *A. tabulata* in Korea, MORITZ et al. (1988) reported it as new for Europe, and KNOFLACH (1991) as new for Austria. In 1993, the species was found in both sexes in Bulgaria in an urban habitat.

Material and locality: Three specimens (2♂♂ and 1♀) were collected on a door and wall (western exposition) outside the house, in Silistra town (NE Bulgaria, leg. DIMITROV).

Because the material was collected only once (in July) I cannot make any conclusions about the phenology of the species in Bulgaria, but I can state a correlation between my results and these of MORITZ et al. (1988), which have found it from V to VIII (♂♂) and from V to X (♀♀).

Occurrence of two specimens of *Achaeearanea tepidariorum* (C.L.KOCH, 1841) together with *A. tabulata* is worth mentioning. Both species were found together in Austria, too (see KNOFLACH, 1991).

A. tabulata belongs to the *A. tepidariorum* complex, which is represented in Europe by three species: *A. tepidariorum*, *A. simulans* (THORELL, 1875) and *A. tabulata*. *A. tabulata* is a medium sized species, smaller than *A. tepidariorum* and larger than *A. simulans*, but the sizes of these species vary within limits, which makes it impossible to differentiate them by size. The differences in coloration of the abdomen are not sufficient either. A certain differentiation of the species is made on the genital structures. In males, the structure of the bulbus is similar, yet what differs is the conductor. In *A. tabulata* it is long and thin, with a sharp end (figs. 1, 3), while in the other species it is short and wide, with a blunt end (see e.g. *A. tepidariorum*: Figs. 2, 4). Females also differ in their copulatory organs. For useful descriptive details of these species I would like to refer to WIEHLE (1937 - *A. tepidariorum*), MARTIN (1974 - *A. simulans*), MORITZ et al. (1988 - *A. tabulata*) and KNOFLACH (1991 - *A. tabulata*).



Figs. 1, 2 Male palp, lateral view: 1) *A. tabulata*, 2) *A. tepidariorum*
Figs. 3, 4 Male palp, dorsal view: 3) *A. tabulata*, 4) *A. tepidariorum*

Up to now, in Bulgaria only *A. tepidariorum* and *A. tabulata* have been found, but *A. simulans* will probably be found in the future, concluding from its Easteuropean distribution (especially its presence in Roumania).

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