# REICHENBACHIA

STAATLICHES MUSEUM FÜR TIERKUNDE IN DRESDEN

Band 14 | Ausgegeben: 7 September 1973 | Nr. 18

## Fifth Study to the Antillean Phalangida: Mirda gen. nov.

**(Arachnida, Opiliones)**

with 11 figures

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In 1902, BANKS described a new species of the genus *Stygnus* from Puerto Rico, *Stygnus insulanus*. The single known specimen is found in El Yunque, 2880 feet, February (Richmond). In the time of description, the system of phalangids was not stabilised and the description gives no possibility to set this species in any family because there are no mentions about the form of the tarsal claws. The author only writes: This species is evidently related to *Styphelus flavitarsis* SIMON, from Guadeloupe, but it has not the tarsal arrangement of that genus, so I retain it in the genus *Stygnus* ROEWER (1923) on the page 631–632 places this opilion as „Spez. spur." in the family *Triaenonychidae* (!) and writes: Aus Banks' Diagnose u. seiner (am 4. Bein fehlerhaften) Fig. (vgl. Fig. 791) kann für dieses Tier nicht einmal auf die Familienzugehörigkeit geschlossen werden, also vor Nachprüfung der Type nicht identifizierbar

In the material of opilionids from the West Indies made generously available for my studies by Dr. HERBERT W LEVI, curator of Arachnida, Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard University, Cambridge, U. S. A.), I found two specimens of opiliones from Haiti which appertain without all doubt to this species. The morphological analysis has proved it is not possible to set this species either in the genus *Stygnus* (family *Stygnidae*) or in the family *Triaenonychidae* but as a new genus in the subfamily *Phalangodinae* (family *Phalangodidae*). I think it will be useful to redescribe this species and to complete BANKS' description.

Suborder Gonyleptomorphi ŠILH.

**PHALANGODIDAE** SIMON

**Phalangodinae** ROEWER

**Mirda gen. nov.**

Carapace unarmed. Eyemound in the form of a big cone pointed by two small spines, situated near the anterior margin of carapace. Dorsal scute with five distinct areas, all

boundaries parallel. First area without a median line. Area 1–4 armed with median paired small spines, area 5, free tergites and anal plate with a median spine. Coxa 1–4 and the abdominal sternites with very low hair-tipped tubercles, coxa 3 on the anterior and posterior margin with a row of small round tubercles, coxa 4 widened laterally Maxillary lobe of coxa 2 with a small spine, spiracles visible.

Basal segment of chelicerae with a distinct dorsal elevation, chelicerae of male enlarged. Pedipalpus robust, femora without a medial-apical spine.

Tarsal segments of legs: 4, more than 6, 5, 6. Distitarsus 1 with 2, distitarsus 2 with 3 segments; metatarsus 1 of male spindle shaped, segments of basitarsus 1 bulky. End-segment of tarsus 3 and 4 without pseudonychium and scopula, claws untoothed.

This new genus is related to the genus *Kokoda* ROEWER, 1949, from New Guinea. It differs in the form and situation of the eyemound, armature of pedipalpus and anal plate and in the sexual dimorphisme.

Generotypus: *Stygnus insulanus* BANKS, 1902.

**Mirda insulanus** (BANKS, 1902)

Male: body length 5,5 mm.

Carapace smooth, eyemound in the form of a cone which is pointed by 2 small spines, but not curved forward. Areas distinct, area 1 without a median line. Area 1–4 with 2 small paired spines (the greatest on the area 2, the smallest on the area 4). On the area 3 a great median spine and any small tubercles. Lateral margins of scute with a row of tubercles. First free tergite with a great median recurved spine and 2 lateral tubercles, situated near the spine. The other pair of tubercles on the lateral margin of tergite. Free tergite 2 with a similar great median spine and a pair of lateral tubercles. Free tergite 3 with a small median spine and a pair of slight tubercles. Anal plate with a small median spine and a pair of low tubercles.

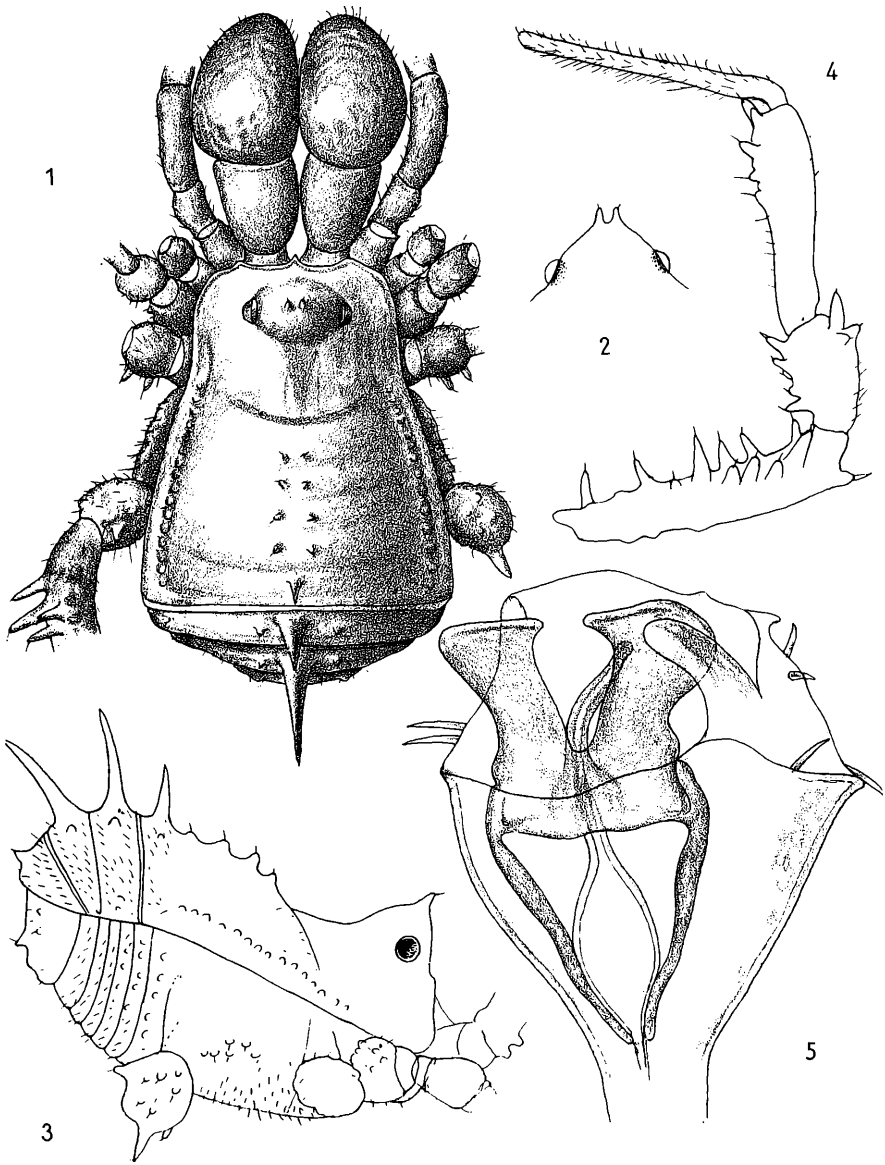
Coxae 1–4 finely granulate with low hair-tipped tubercles, coxae 3 with a row of small tubercles on the anterior and posterior margin. Maxillary lobes of the coxae 2 have the form shown in fig. 9.

Free sternits with a transversal row of very low hair-tipped tubercles.

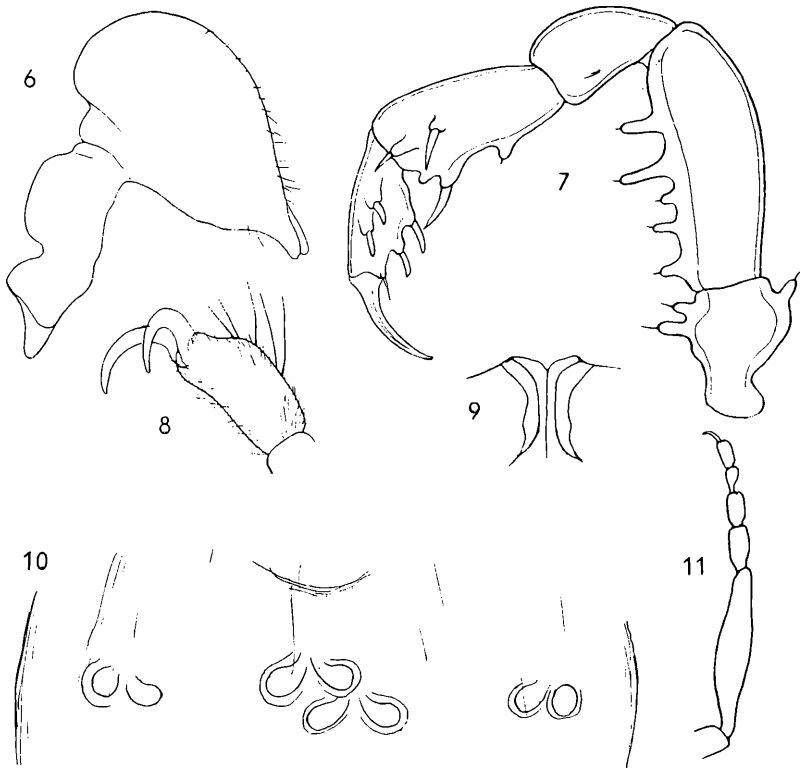
Chelicerae enlarged, unarmed, proximal segment with a dorsal elevation.

Pedipalpi 5,0 mm. Trochanters dorsally with 1, laterally with 2 spines, femora dorsally unarmed, ventrally with a row of 5 unequal spines, without a medial-apical spine. Patellae medially with a spinebearing tubercle, tibiae ventromedially with 2, ventrolaterally with 2 spines too, tarsi ventromedially as ventrolaterally with 2 spines, tipped by a long curved claw.

Legs: 8,5; 15,5; 11,2; 15,5 mm. Trochanter 1–2 with tubercles, trochanter 3 posteriorly with 2 spines, trochanter 4 dorsally with 1, ventrally with 2 great spines and some tubercles. Femora 1 with a ventral row of hair-tipped tubercles, otherwise unarmed, only with hairs, also all remaining segments of the leg 1. Metatarsi 1 spindle-shaped, tarsal segments bulky. Femora 2 with a ventral row of unequal spines, patellae and tibiae 2 with some ventral tubercles, remaining segments of the leg 2 only with hairs. Femora 3 with 3 ventral unequal rows of great spines and with 2 dorsal-apical spines, patellae 2 with a ventral




Figs. 1–5: *Mirda insulanus* (Banks, 1902)
1: Dorsal view of body, ♂ – 2: Eyemound from anteriorly, ♂ – 3: Lateral view of body, ♂ – 4: Lateral view of leg 4 (femur-metatarsus), ♂ – 5: Distal end of penis (prolateral).




Figs. 6–11 *Mirda insulanus* (Banks, 1902)
6: Lateral view of chelicera, ♂ – 7 Medial view of pedipalpus, ♂ – 8: Distal segment of leg 4, ♂ – 9: Maxillar lobe of coxa 2 with the anterior end of sternum, ♂ – 10: Receptaculа seminis – 11 Metatarsus and tarsus of leg 1, ♂

spine and 2 dorsal tubercles, tibiae ventrally-posteriorly with a row of unequal spines, remaining segments with hairs. Femora 4 ventrally with 3 unequal rows of great spines, dorsally with tubercles, dorsally-apically with 2 spines. Patellae 4 ventrally and dorsally apically with 7–8 spines, tibiae 4 ventrally-apically with 5–6 spines; remaining segments of leg 4 with hairs. Tarsal formula 4, 11–12, 5, 6; distitarsus of leg 1 with 2 segments, of leg 2 with 3 segments.

Penis has the form shown in fig. 5.

Colour (in alcohol). Body and chelicerae reddish-brown, pedipalpi, legs and dorsal spines yellowish.

Locality: Haiti (the label in the vial without other informations).

Female: body length 5,5 mm.

Resembling the male in general appearance and colour. Differing in the number of tarsal segments of the leg 2 (9–10), in the normal form of metatarsi and tarsi 1 and of chelicerae. The median spine on the free tergite 3 is longer as at the male. Receptacula have the form shown in fig. 10. The female is in the same vial as the described male.

Both specimens are deposited in the collection of Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard University), Cambridge, U. S. A.

## References

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