

A new species of *Yllenus* Simon, 1868 from northern India (Araneae, Salticidae)

Dmitri V. Logunov

Manchester Museum,
University of Manchester,
Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL,
e-mail: dmitri.v.logunov@manchester.ac.uk

Summary

A new species, *Yllenus gregoryi* sp. n. (♀), from the *hamifer* group is diagnosed, figured and described from northern India (Jammu and Kashmir's Leh district). A new faunistic record is given for *Yllenus baltistanus* Caporiacco, 1935.

Introduction

The genus *Yllenus* was recently revised by Logunov & Marusik (2003), who treated 65 valid species in three species groups. Since the time of that revision only a single additional species has been described from Turkey (Logunov, 2009). While sorting out old salticid collections kept in the British Natural History Museum in London (BMNH), I came across two samples of *Yllenus* collected in northern India, apparently in 1931 (reasoning from their accession numbers). One female belongs to a new species from the *hamifer* group. As females in the *hamifer* group are reliable and even better for diagnosing species than males, a new *Yllenus* species name is described herein.

Both studied specimens are kept in the Department of Entomology of the BMNH (Mrs J. Beccaloni). Abbreviations used in the text: d=dorsal, pr=prolateral, rt=retrolateral, v=ventral. For the leg spination the system and terminology adopted is that used by Ono (1988). Terminology for the copulatory organs follows Logunov & Marusik (2003). The sequence of leg segment measurements is as follows: femur+patella+tibia+metatarsus+tarsus. All measurements are in mm.

Yllenus gregoryi sp. n. (Figs. 1–2)

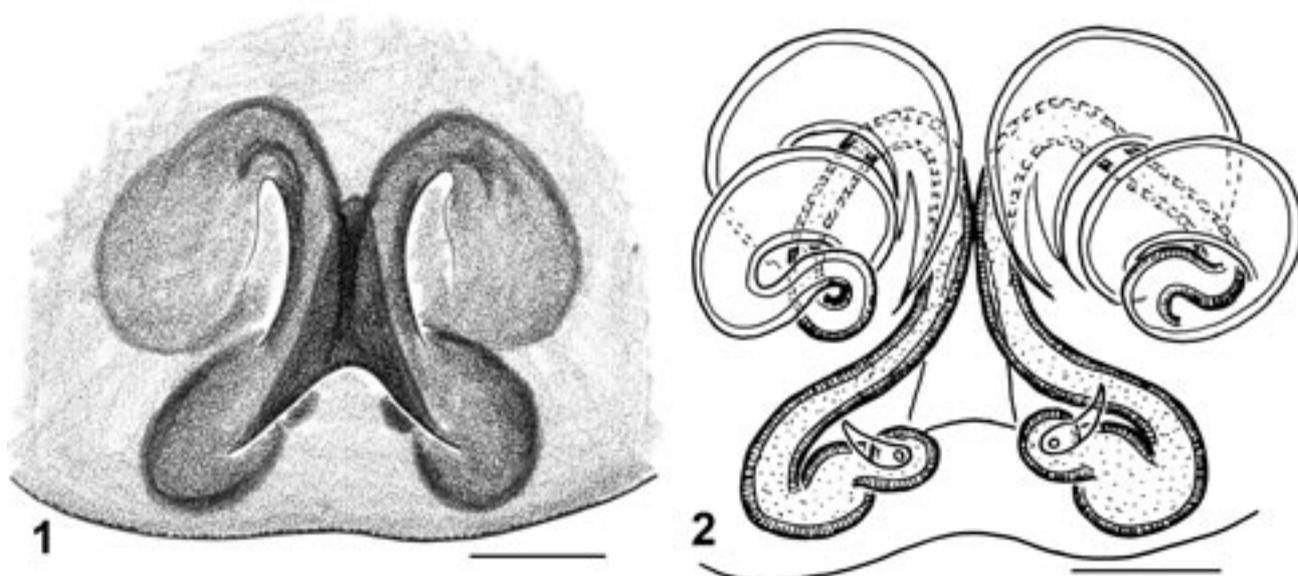
Type material: Holotype ♀ (BMNH) from India, “1932-6-30-1/Nurla Ladak, Leh Road/Thibet District, alt. 9,900 ft/No.2, 24.4.31/Capt. G. E. E. Gregory” [apparently, Nurla (c. 34°20'N, 76°58'E) in the Indus river valley, Leh district of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, northern India].

Etymology: The species is named after the collector, Captain G. Gregory.

Diagnosis: The new species belongs to the *hamifer* species group (*sensu* Logunov & Marusik, 2003) and is most similar to *Yllenus auspex* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1885) from Central Asia and *Y. baltistanus* Caporiacco, 1935 from northern India (Jammu and Kashmir) (see Logunov & Marusik, 2003: figs. 422–424 and 443–444). From both species, the female of *Y. gregoryi* sp. n. differs in having a deeper epigynal pocket (Fig. 1), which is the deepest amongst all the congeners of the *hamifer* species group, and in the insemination ducts making two revolutions (Fig. 2; 1–1.5 revolutions in the related species). The male of *Y. gregoryi* sp. n. is unknown.

Distribution: The type locality only. This new species was collected from the so-called Tibetan centre of genus diversity, from which eight species of the *hamifer* group have been described already (see Logunov & Marusik, 2003: map 5).

Description: *Female* (holotype): *Measurements*: Carapace 2.58 long, 2.10 wide, 1.13 high at PLE. Ocular area 1.48 long, 1.75 wide anteriorly and 1.90 wide posteriorly. Diameter of AME 0.58. Abdomen damaged, 2.00 long, 2.13 wide. Cheliceral length 0.50. Clypeal height 0.09. Length of leg segments: I 1.58+0.98+0.88+0.63+0.53; II 1.53+0.88+0.83+0.60+0.55; III 1.45+0.75+0.78+0.80+0.55; IV 2.25+1.00+1.23+1.00+0.55. Leg spination: leg I: Fm d 1ap; Tb v 1-2-2ap; Mt v 2-0-2ap; leg II: Fm d 1ap; Tb pr 1-1, v 2-2ap; Mt v 2-2ap; leg III: Tb pr 1-1, rt 0-1, v 1ap; Mt pr, rt and v 1-0-2ap; leg IV: Pt pr and rt 0-1-0; Tb pr and rt 1-1-1; Mt pr, rt and v 1-0-2ap. *Coloration*: Carapace red-brown, densely covered with



Figs. 1–2: *Yllenus gregoryi* sp. n., female copulatory organs of ♀ holotype. 1 Epigyne; 2 Spermathecae, dorsal view. Scale lines=0.1 mm.

white and orange adpressed scales. Clypeus brown, densely covered with white hairs hanging down over chelicerae. Sternum brown, densely covered with white hairs. Maxillae, labium and chelicerae red-brown. Abdomen: dorsum and sides grey, without colour pattern; venter yellow. Book-lung covers light yellow. Spinnerets yellow, tinged with brown. All legs yellow, with pale brown rings at segment joints, but Pt, Tb I and II brown, darker than remaining segments. Palps yellow. Epigyne and spermathecae as in Figs 1–2; epigyne with ovoid subparallel copulatory openings, deep epigynal pocket, insemination ducts making two revolutions, primary and secondary receptacles not separated.

Male: Unknown.

Yllenus baltistanus Caporiacco, 1935

Material: INDIA: 1♀ (BMNH), “1932-6-30-2/Mya, near Nima, Indus/Valley, Ladak, Thibet District/alt. 12,400ft/Capt. G. E. E. Gregory” [apparently, Nimu (c. 34°15'N, 77°20'E) in the Indus river valley, Leh district of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, northern India].

Comments: The studied female is in rather poor condition, as it was originally pinned and dried after being collected and later put into alcohol. Although its spermathecae are visible and are similar to those of

Yllenus baltistanus, the current identification should be considered provisional. Hitherto, this species was known from two localities at high elevations in the Baltistan Mts (near Skardu, Jammu and Kashmir in northern India) (Logunov & Marusik, 2003). The present locality lies very close to that region and is also at high elevation.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my thanks to Mrs J. Beccaloni (BMNH) for giving access to their collections. Many thanks go to anonymous referees who indicated a number of errors and defects in the typescript, helping eliminate them.

References

- LOGUNOV, D. V. 2009: New and poorly known species of Salticidae (Araneae) from Turkey and Iran. In C. Kropf & P. Horak (eds), *Towards a natural history of arthropods and other organisms. In memoriam Konrad Thaler. Contr. nat. Hist.* **12**(2): 899–919.
- LOGUNOV, D. V. & MARUSIK, Y. M. 2003: *A revision of the genus Yllenus Simon, 1868 (Arachnida, Araneae, Salticidae)*. Moscow: KMK Scientific Press, pp. 1–167.
- ONO, H. 1988: *A revisional study of the spider family Thomisidae (Arachnida, Araneae) of Japan*. Tokyo: National Science Museum, pp. 1–252.