

Walckenaeria aksoyi sp. n. (Araneae: Linyphiidae) from Turkey

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Abstract: *Walckenaeria aksoyi* sp. n. (Araneae: Linyphiidae) is described based on males from Marmaris Province in Turkey.

Key words: Taxonomy; Linyphiidae; *Walckenaeria*; new species; Turkey

Introduction

The spider fauna of Turkey, despite its outstanding zoogeographical interest, is rather poorly known when compared to other regions of the world. The linyphiid fauna of Turkey consists of 56 species, but must be regarded as an insufficiently studied family. It has recently been a subject of intensive taxonomic and faunistic studies (Topçu et al. 2005).

Walckenaeria Blackwall, 1833 is a genus of the subfamily Erigoninae, with 191 species being listed in the latest version (8.0) of the world spider catalogue (Platnick 2008). This genus can be properly defined only by the elongate cephalothorax with the sternum longer than wide, the stout teeth on the tarsal claws and the structure of the palpal organ. In Turkey, only two species, *Walckenaeria abantensis* Wunderlich, 1995 and *Walckenaeria atrotibialis* (O.P.-Cambridge, 1878), have been recorded so far (Topçu et al. 2005). In the present study, a new species from Turkey is described.

Walckenaeria aksoyi sp. n. (Figs 1–6)

Description. Holotype – male (All measurements are in millimeters).

Total length 2.0, prosoma 0.75 long, 0.52 wide; leg I: Femur 2.5, patella 0.18, tibia 0.42, metatarsus 0.3, tarsus 0.25, tibia II 0.4, tibia III 0.31, tibia IV 0.48.

Colour. Prosoma dark brown, legs redbrown, opisthosoma black.

Prosoma (Figs 1–4) 1.45 times longer than wide, finely rugose, thoracal fissure quite indistinct, cephalic part raised into along and slender lobe which bears the posterior median eyes and two antero-dorsal hair tufts, the posterior one with spatulate hairs directed sideward. Clypeus wide, basal part fairly large, lateral stridulatory files well developed; the anterior margins

of the cheliceral furrows bear four larger teeth, sternum distinctly rugose, separating the coxae IV by almost their diameter.

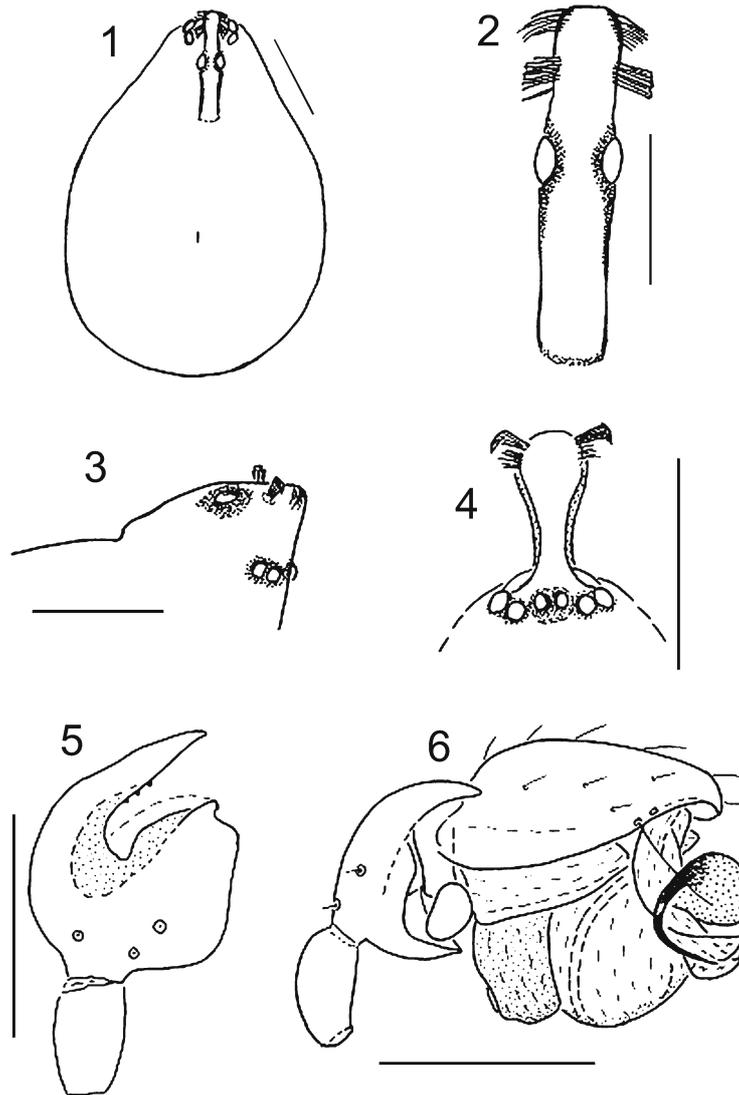
Legs only fairly long, order IV/I/II/III, indistinctly covered with short hairs, tibiae with short spines, their number 2/2/1/1. Metatarsi I–III bear a trichobothrium, position on I is 0.4. Paired tarsal claws with long teeth which are characteristic in this genus.

Opisthosoma slender, 1.5 times longer than wide, covered with indistinct short hairs. Pedipalp (Figs 5, 6): Tibia bipartite, with slender prolateral and wide retrolateral apophysis, bulbus strongly protruding, embolus fairly small, in a distal position, describing half a circle. Female unknown.

Material examined. Holotype – male, paratype 1 ♂ (with right pedipalp dissected), from Turkey, Muğla province, Marmaris district (36°50'11" N, 28°18'10" E), below 100 m altitude, pitfall in *Pinus brutia* forest, 30.IV.2007, leg. T. Türkeş, deposited in the Arachnology Museum of the Niğde University (NUAM).

Etymology. The species is named in honour of the famous Turkish biologist Prof. Dr. A. Aksoy.

Differential diagnosis. *Walckenaeria aksoyi* sp. n. is closely related to *W. bifasciculata* described by Tanasevitch (1987) from Caucasus. In male *W. aksoyi* cephalic part with long, slender lobe bearing the posterior median eyes and two pairs of hair tufts, sternum distinctly rugose, for pedipalpus see Figs 5, 6. Tibia bipartite, embolus fairly short and in a distal position. In the male of *W. bifasciculata* hair brushes of the raised cephalic are present too, but the cephalic part is higher posteriorly and the tibia of the pedipalpus is quite different, the retrolateral part is distinctly more slender.



Figs 1–6. *Walckenaeria aksoyi* sp. n., male: 1 – prosoma, dorsal view; 2 – cephalic part of prosoma, dorsal view; 3 – idem, lateral view; 4 – idem, anterior view; 5 – right pedipalpal patella and tibia, dorsal view; 6 – right pedipalp, retrolateral view. Scales 0.2 mm.

Remarks. *W. aksoyi* is a member of the subgenus *Prosopotheca* Simon, 1884 which was defined as a genus principally on eye characters and on the form of the male carapace. In revision of this genus, Wunderlich (1972) reduced it as a subgenus of *Walckenaeria*.

Distribution: Turkey, Anatolia.

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