

***Leptopholcus baoruco* Huber, 2006**

Huber, B. A., Wunderlich, J. 2006. Fossil and extant species of the genus *Leptopholcus* in the Dominican Republic, with the first case of egg-parasitism in pholcid spiders (Araneae: Pholcidae). *Journal of Natural History* 40: 2341-2360.

p. 2342

***Leptopholcus baoruco* Huber, new species**
(Figures 1a, b, 2a, b, g-i, 3, 4, 9a)

Type

Male holotype from near Polo (18°06.8'N, 71°16.2'W), Sierra de Baoruco, Barahona Prov., Dominican Republic; forest with plantations, 850 m a.s.l., underside of leaves, mostly banana, 17 November 2005 (B. A. Huber), in ZFMK.

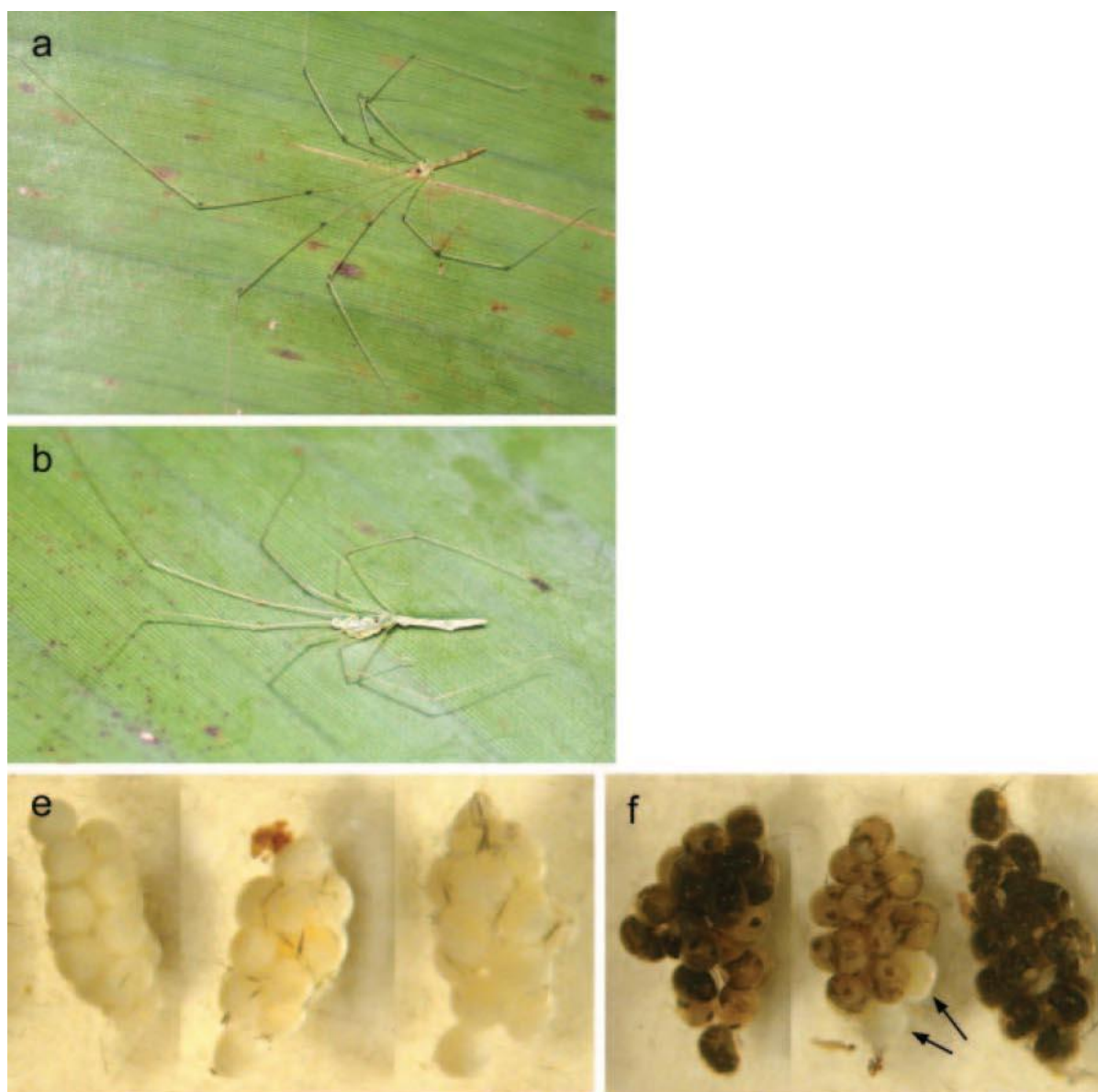


Figure 1. (a, b) *Leptopholcus baoruco*, male (a) and female with egg sac (b) on banana leaves, in the typical position flat against the leaf;

(e) unparasitized egg sacs of *L. baoruco*; (f) parasitized egg sacs of *L. baoruco* (arrows point to two unparasitized eggs).

Etymology

The species name is a noun in apposition, derived from the type locality.

Diagnosis

Distinguished from known Caribbean congeners by the shapes of the apophyses on the male genital bulb, especially the unique appendix (Figures 3a, 4b, c, 9a), by the shape of the procursus (Figure 3b), and by the internal sclerotized structures in the female genitalia (Figures 2i, 3d); from *L. hispaniola* also by the much longer male palpal trochanter apophysis (Figure 3b) and longer abdominal projection beyond the spinnerets (Figure 2b); from *L. toma* also by the dark ocular area (Figure 2a).



Figure 2. (a–f) Males in dorsal and lateral views: *Leptopholcus baorucu* (a, b); (g, h) *L. baorucu* females, lateral views; (i–k) untreated female genitalia in ventral views: *L. baorucu* (i);

Male (holotype)

Total length 5.4, carapace width 1.0. Leg 1: 37.0 (8.8+0.4+8.9+17.3+1.6), tibia 2: 5.8, tibia 3: 3.6, tibia 4: 5.7. Tibia 1 L/d: 112. Habitus as in Figures 2a, b; prosoma very pale ochre-grey, only ocular area dark, almost black; sternum whitish, legs pale ochre, patellae and tibia–metatarsus joints dark (almost black), abdomen ochre-grey with black spots dorsally (Figure 2a). Ocular area slightly elevated, with lateral triads on distinct low humps; distance PME–PME 285 μ m; diameter PME 100 μ m; distance PME–ALE 20 μ m; distance AME–AME 85 μ m, diameter AME 20 μ m. Thoracic furrow absent. Sternum about as wide

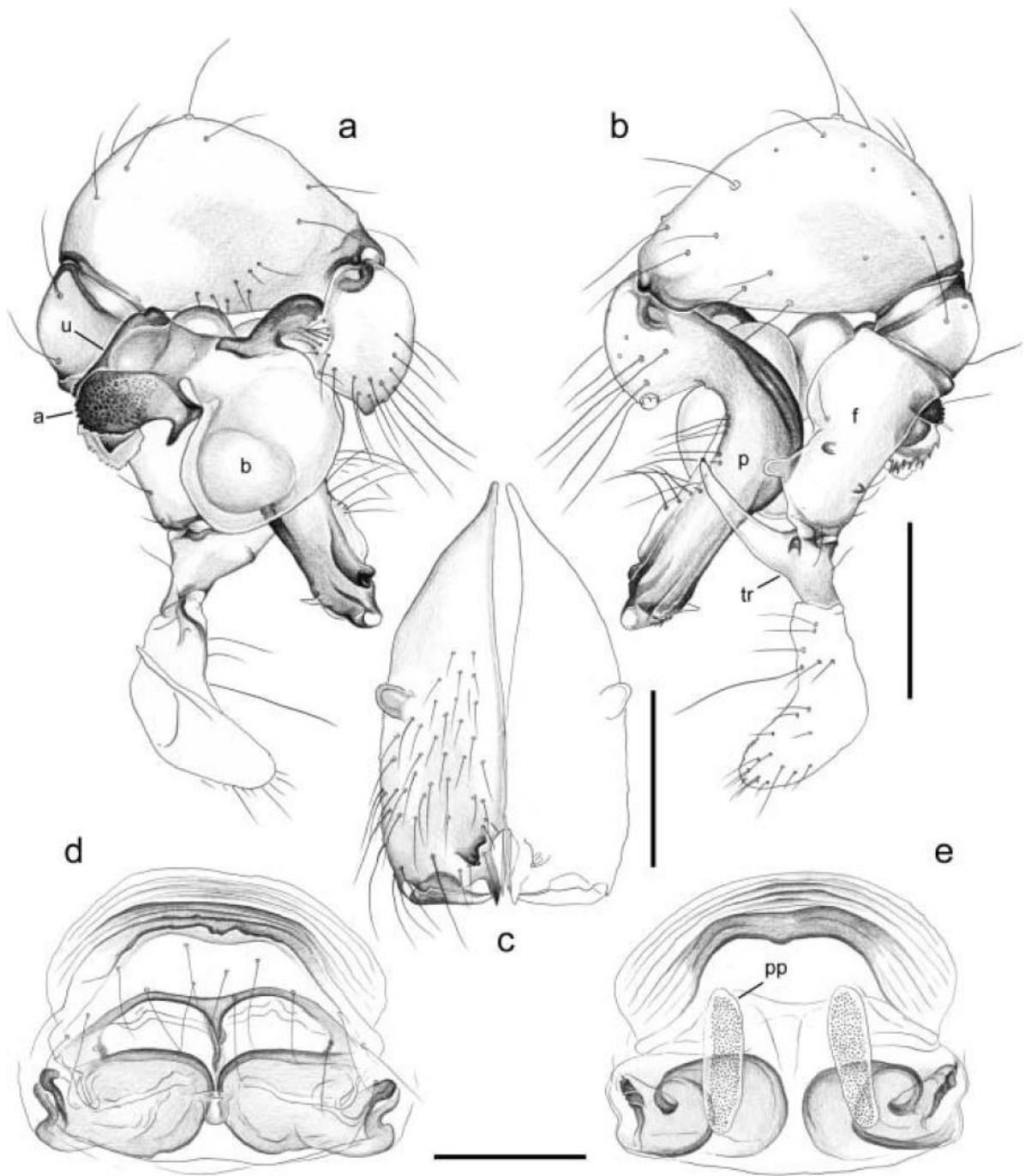


Figure 3. *Leptopholcus baoruco*. (a, b) Male palp in prolateral and retrolateral views; (c) male chelicerae, frontal view; (d, e) cleared epigynum in ventral and dorsal views. a, appendix; b, bulb; f, femur; p, procurus; pp, pore plate; tr, trochanter; u, uncus. Scale bars: 0.3 mm (a, b); 0.2 mm (c-e).

as long (0.6). Chelicerae with proximo-lateral projections and two modified hairs on distal apophyses (Figures 3c, 4d). Palps as in Figure 3a, b; coxa unmodified, trochanter with short retrolateral and long ventral apophyses, the latter with distal modified hair (Figure 4h); femur with two small apophyses retrolaterally and one larger projection ventrally; procurus strongly bent dorsally, distal part longer than in other species, with distinctive distal structures (Figure 4e); genital bulb with distinctive uncus and appendix and slightly

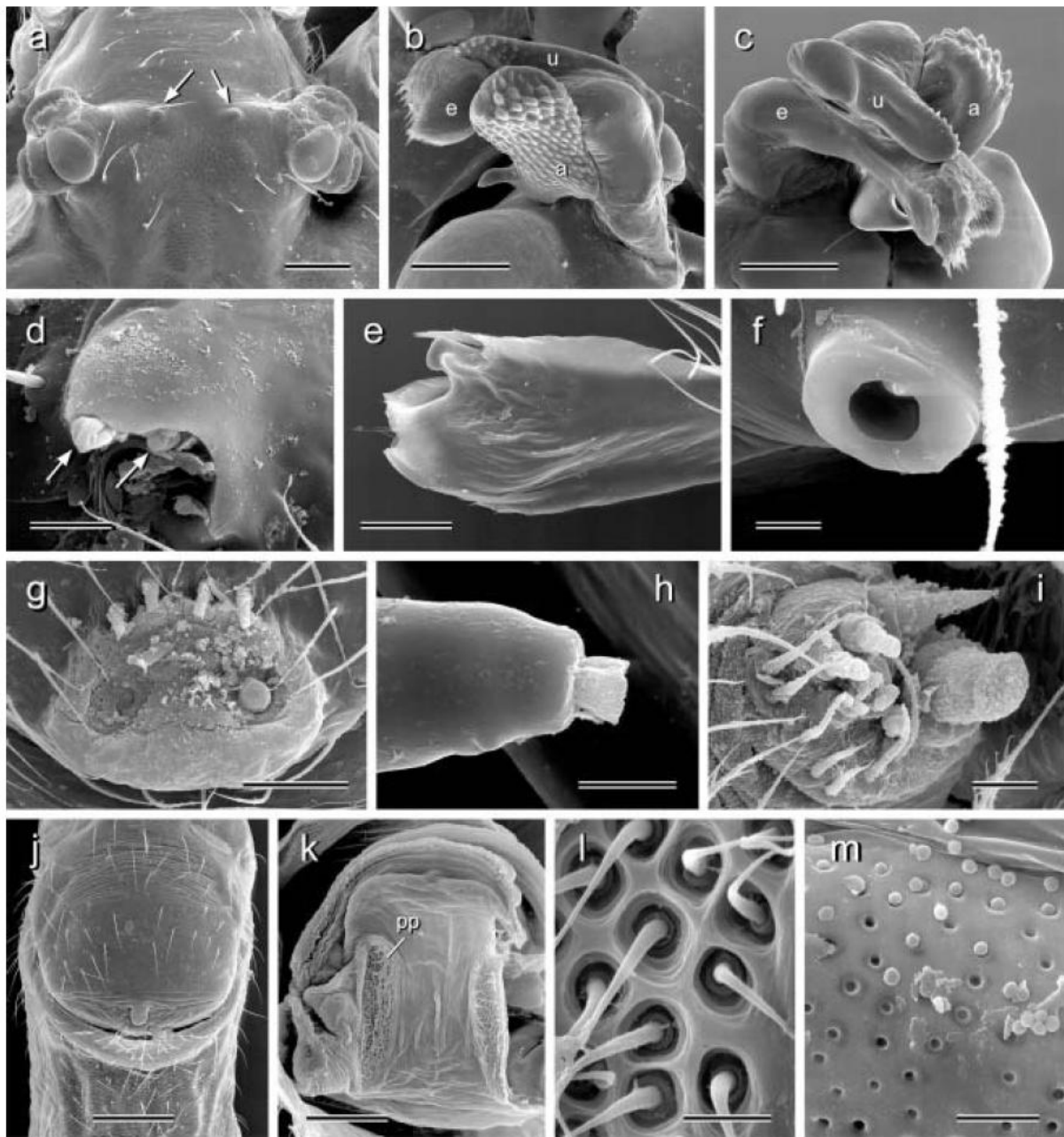


Figure 4. *Leptopholcus baoruco*, SEM images. (a) Female ocular area (arrows point to AME); (b, c) male bulbal projections; (d) male distal cheliceral apophysis (arrows point to modified hairs); (e) tip of procurus, retrolateral view; (f) male palpal tarsal organ; (g) male gonopore; (h) tip of male palpal trochanter apophysis with modified hair at tip; (i) female ALS; (j) epigynum, ventral view; (k) female internal genitalia, dorsal view of cleared genitalia; (l) pore plate, dorsal view; (m) pore plate, ventral view. a, appendix; e, embolus; pp, pore plate; u, uncus. Scale bars: 100 μ m (a–c, k); 10 μ m (d, f, h, i, m); 70 μ m (e); 40 μ m (g); 200 μ m (j); 6 μ m (l).

sclerotized embolus (Figures 3a, 4b, c, 9a); palpal tarsal organ capsulate (Figure 4f). Retrolateral trichobothrium of tibia 1 at 6%; prolateral trichobothrium absent on tibia 1, present on other tibiae; legs without spines and curved hairs, few vertical hairs; serrated hairs on tarsi 4 as in *L. toma* (cf. Figure 8g); pseudosegments on tarsi very indistinct, only a few visible distally. Gonopore with four epiandrous spigots (Figure 4g). Spinnerets as in female (see below).

Variation

The pattern on the abdomen is fairly constant but variably distinct. Tibia 1 in two other males: 8.4, 8.7.

Female

In general similar to male, but abdomen tip mostly longer, in some cases much longer (Figure 2g, h), and ocular area not darker. Pattern on abdomen usually less distinct, in some cases even missing. All specimens with small but distinct AME lenses (Figure 4a). Usually with pair of small grey marks behind ocular area. ALS with one widened, one pointed, and five cylindrically shaped spigots (Figure 4i), PMS with two small pointed spigots, PLS without spigots. Epigynum with median rounded projection (Figures 3d, 4j), with distinctive internal sclerotized structures, very elongated pore plates (Figures 3e, 4k). Tibia 1 in 18 females: 5.8–6.8 (mean: 6.4). Serrated hairs on tarsi 4 as in male.

Distribution

Known only from type locality (Figure 10).

Material examined

Dominican Republic: Barahona Prov.: near Polo: type above, together with 5♂, 20♀, same collection data (ZFMK).

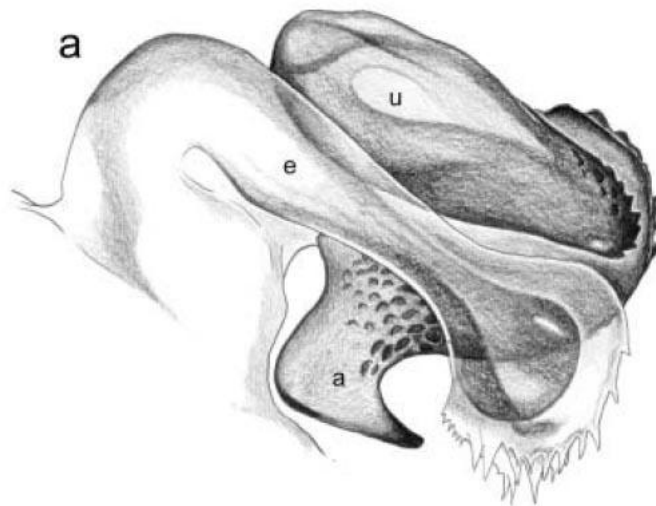


Figure 9. Distinctive bulbal projections (left bulbs in retrolateral views). (a) *Leptopholcus baoruco*; a, appendix; e, embolus; u, uncus. Scale bar: 0.2 mm.