

***Leptopholcus ngazidja* Huber, 2011**

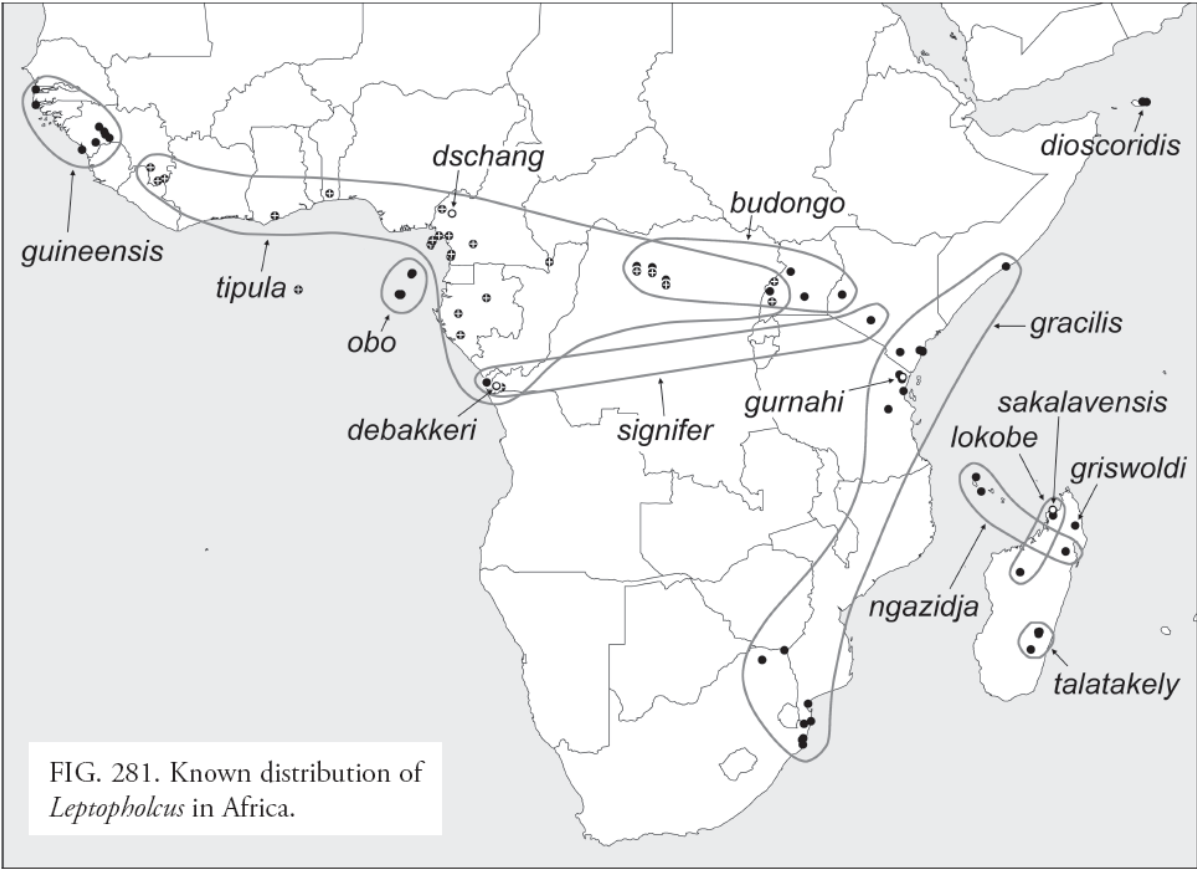
**Huber, B. A. 2011.** Revision and cladistic analysis of *Pholcus* and closely related taxa (Araneae, Pholcidae). *Bonner zool. Monographien* 58: 1-510.

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222. *L. ngazidja*, male, dorsal view.

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*Leptopholcus ngazidja* n. sp.

Figs. 222, 347-350

*Type.* Male holotype from Comoro Islands, Grande Comore, Kourani [11°21'S, 43°24'E], 1050 m a.s.l., 17.x.1983 (L. Jansen), in MRAC (161164).

*Etymology.* Ngazidja is the official name of Grande Comore, the largest island in the Comoros nation; noun in apposition.

*Diagnosis.* Distinguished from most African and Malagasy congeners by pincer-shaped appendix (Figs. 349, 350); from *L. sakalavensis* and *L. lokobe* by male triads not on turrets (similar to *L. griswoldi*, cf. Fig. 221).

*Male* (holotype). Total body length 6.2, carapace width 1.0. Leg 1: 36.0 (8.8 + 0.5 + 8.4 + 15.2 + 3.1), tibia 2: 6.2, tibia 3: 4.2, tibia 4: 6.5; tibia 1 L/d: 95. Habitus as in Fig. 222. Prosoma and abdomen pale ochre-yellow, legs with brown patellae and tibia-metatarsus joints, and brown marks proximo-dorsally on femora 3 and 4. Distance PME-PME 370 µm, diameter PME 80 µm, distance PME-ALE 35 µm, no trace of AME. Ocular area barely elevated, few stronger hairs on posterior side, triads on low elevations. No thoracic furrow; clypeus unmodified. Chelicerae as in *L. talatakely* (cf. Fig. 357). Sternum wider than long (0.65/0.60), unmodified. Palps as in Figs. 347 and 348, very similar to *L. lokobe*, only procurus smaller and different in shape distally and ventrally, with different processes prolaterally, bulb also similar to *L. lokobe*, with similar degree of variation (see below). Legs without spines and curved hairs, few vertical hairs; retrolateral trichobothrium on tibia 1 at 2%; prolateral trichobothrium absent on tibia 1, present on other tibiae. Tarsal pseudosegments not visible in dissecting microscope.

*Variation.* This species may show a similar polymorphism as *L. lokobe* above, but only two morphs are

known (Figs. 349, 350). Since the three known male specimens were all taken at different localities (see below), they may eventually turn out to represent different species. The male from Vohibe has an appendix almost identical to that of the holotype while the uncus resembles closely that of the male from Mohéli. Tibia 1 in two other males: 7.9, 8.7. The males from Mohéli and Vohibe have a pattern on the abdomen (similar to *L. lokobe*).

*Female.* The MRAC has two female *Leptopholcus* specimens from the Comoro Islands, with remarkably different epigyna. Since none of them originates from the type locality (Mayotte: MRAC 208255; Grande Comore, Moroni: MRAC 143033), the female is here considered unknown.

*Distribution.* Known from Grande Comore and from specimens assigned tentatively from Mohéli and Madagascar (Fig. 281).

*Material examined.* COMORO ISLANDS: *Grande Comore*: Kourani: ♂ holotype above.

*Assigned tentatively:* COMORO ISLANDS: *Mohéli*: Ikoni River [12°15'S, 43°45'E], near bridge, river bed and plantations, 25.v.2003 (R. Jocqué, D. van den Spiegel), 1♂ in MRAC (213146).

MADAGASCAR: Vohibe (16°06'S, 49°08'E), vii.1970 (A. Lambillon), 1♂ in MRAC (142765).

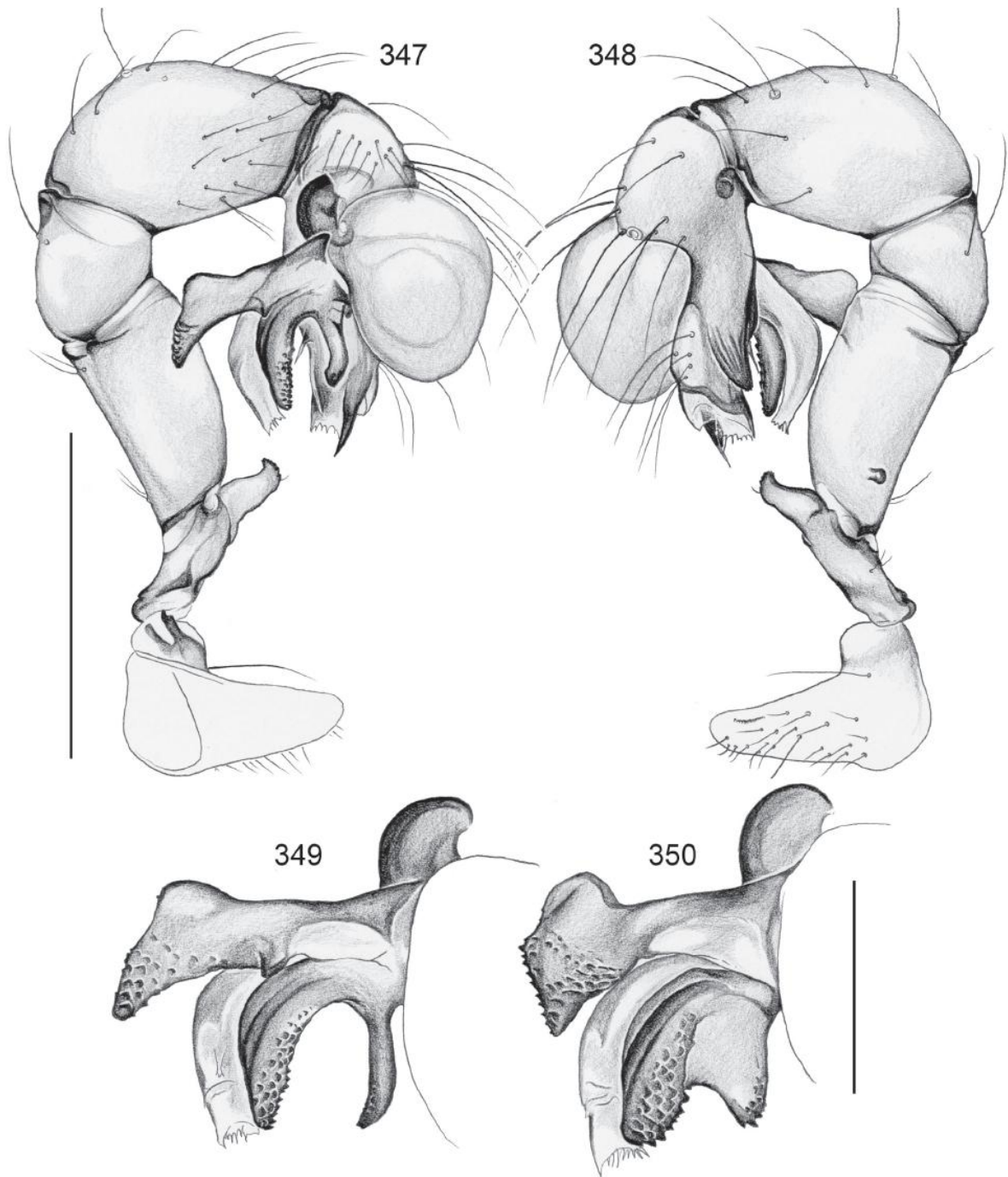


FIG. 347-350. *Leptopholcus ngazidja*. 347, 348. Left male palp, prolateral and retrolateral views. 349, 350. Processes of left bulb in two specimens, prolateral views. Scale lines: 0.5 (347, 348), 0.2 (349, 350).