

***Leptopholcus signifer* Simon, 1893**

Simon, E. 1893. Descriptions d'espèces et de genres nouveaux de l'ordre des Araneae. Ann. Soc. Ent. France 62: 299-330.

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***Leptopholcus signifer*, n. sp.** — ♂. Long. 7 mill. (ceph.th. 1 mill., abd. 6 mill.). — Cephalothorax paulo latior quam longior, albido-testaceus, parte cephalica macula fusca triquetra oblecta, parte thoracica, in parte secunda, macula fusca maxima, antice angulosa, notata. Clypeus fuscus, longus et porrectus, ad marginem acuminatus et dente medio instructus. Abdomen cylindraceum, longissimum, apice truncatum, albido-testaceum, supra maculis nigris, fere inordinatis, series duas designantibus, ornatum. Chelæ testaceæ, muticæ. Sternum pedesque albido-testacea, apice femorum et tiliarum patellisque anguste nigris. Pedes-maxillares albido-testacei, femore patellaque olivaceis, apophysi tarsali fusco-rufula; trochantere angusto et longo, apice dente exteriori parvo denteque medio multo majore obtuso atque ad basin subarticulato munito; femore brevi et robusto, subtus valde convexo, extus prope basin minute dentato; patella convexa; tibia femore longiore, late ovata, sed apice attenuata; apophysi tarsali longa, sinuosa et valde crinita, apice membranaceo-laciniosa et intus dentata; bulbo globoso, intus apophysibus binis magnis, compressis et securiformibus instructo.

♀. Cephalothorax haud longior quam latior, parte cephalica haud maculata. Plaga genitalis rimam vix superans, subrotunda, simplex, rufula et subtiliter striata. Pedes-maxillares albi, tarso tibia cum patella circiter æquilongo, acuminato.

Africa occid. : Congo.

Simon, E. 1893. Histoire Naturelle des Araignées. 2e edit, 1(2): 256-488. Paris.

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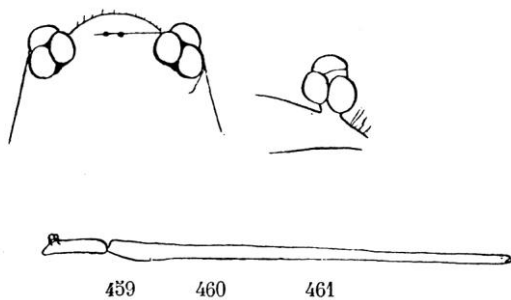


Fig. 459. *Leptopholcus signifer* E. Sim. ♀. Front et yeux, en dessus. — Fig. 460. *Id.* Céphalothorax et abdomen de profil. — Fig. 461. *Id.* L'un des groupes oculaires de profil. —

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Les chélicères des mâles sont quelquefois mutiques (*L. signifer* E. Sim.),

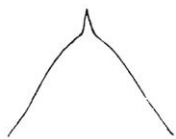


Fig. 464.

Leptopholcus signifer E. S.
Bandeau du mâle vu en
dessus.

dans le genre
Leptopholcus, celui du mâle a un bandeau plus pro-
clive, plus acuminé et pourvu, au milieu, d'une petite
pointe aiguë dirigée en avant (fig. 464).

Timm, H. 1976. Die Bedeutung von Genitalstrukturen für die Klärung systematischer Fragen bei Zitterspinnen (Arachnida: Araneae: Pholcidae). Ent. Germ. 3(1/2): 69-76.description of some related new species. Mem. Qd. Mus. 22(2): 205-224.

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Der Taster von *Leptopholcus signifer* SIMON 1893 (Abb. 11-12) zeigt einen recht einfach gestalteten Tarsus, der S-förmig geschwungen ist. Der Bulbus ist rund und trägt eine große Apophyse, die deutlich zweigeteilt ist. Zwischen beiden Teilstücken erkennt man den Embolus, dessen Ende frei liegt, also nicht mit der Apophyse verschmolzen ist. Insgesamt erinnert der Taster an denjenigen von *Pholcus* WALCKENAER 1805, doch ist diese Zuordnung keineswegs sicher.

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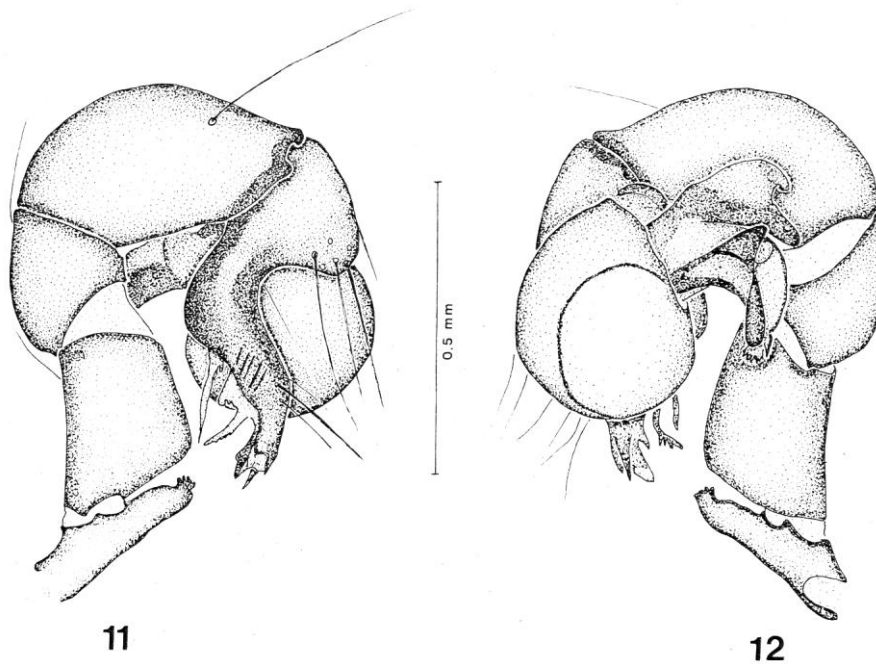


Abb. 11-12: *Leptopholcus signifer* SIMON 1893 [Araneae: Pholcidae], ♂. 11 Rechter Pedipalpus von lateral, 12 von medial.

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

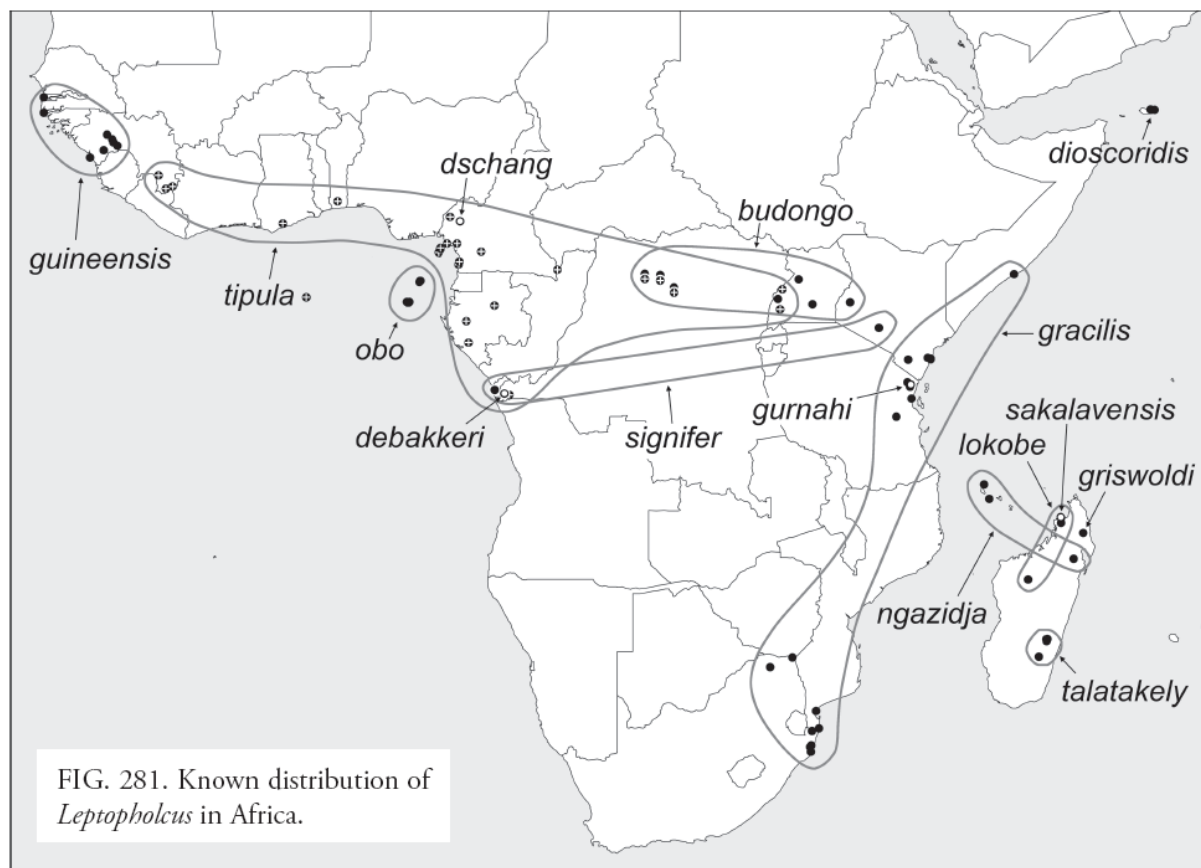
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lateral views.

207, 208. *L. signifer*, male, dorsal and

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Leptopholcus signifer Simon, 1893

Figs. 207, 208, 283-285

Leptopholcus signifer Simon 1893b: 319. Simon 1893a: 472-473, figs. 459-461, 464. Simon 1907: 248. Timm 1976: 72, figs. 11, 12.

Types. Male and female syntype(-s?) from Angola, Cabinda Prov., Landana [5°13'S, 12°09'E], no further data, not examined. According to O. Kraus (pers. comm.), the drawings in Timm (1976) were prepared based on a type specimen, and the types were returned to the MNHN. However, the material could not be found at the MNHN.

Note. The single male specimen described below is tentatively assigned to this species based on Timm's (1976) quite good drawings. All relevant characters (procursus: distal strong pointed prolateral sclerite; uncus: shape of tip and of dorsal process; appendix: general shape) show strong similarities between the Kenyan specimen below and Timm's drawings, rather than with the newly described *L. debakkeri* from nearby Luki Forest Reserve in Congo Democratic Republic. However, the possibility remains that Timm's specimens were not the real types from Landana. Only new material from the type locality can possibly solve this problem. In any case, the type

species *L. signifer* is part of an African species group that is characterized by a median process on the male clypeus.

The absence of a retrolateral femur apophysis in Timm's figure 11 is almost certainly a lapsus because all known congeners have this apophysis.

Diagnosis. Distinguished from similar species with clypeus process (*L. debakkeri*, *L. gracilis*, *L. guineensis*, *L. dschang*, *L. budongo*) by shapes of uncus and appendix (Fig. 283).

Male (Langata). Total body length 6.1, carapace width ~0.9 (slightly damaged). Leg 1 missing, tibia 2: 7.4 (detached), tibia 3: 4.5, tibia 4 missing. Habitus as in Figs. 207 and 208. Carapace ochre-yellow with large brown mark posteriorly, ocular area also brown, sternum and legs pale ochre-yellow, patella-area and tibia-metatarsus joints brown, abdomen monochromatic pale ochre-gray. Distance PME-PME 320 µm, diameter PME 105 µm, distance PME-ALE 45 µm, distance AME-AME 55 µm, diameter AME 25 µm. Ocular area weakly raised, each triad on short elevation directed laterally. No thoracic furrow; clypeus with median process (~95 µm long). Chelicerae as typical for the genus (Fig. 285), with pair of small lateral apophyses distally. Sternum slightly wider than long (0.65/0.60), unmodified. Palps as in Figs. 283 and 284, coxa unmodified, trochanter with retrolatero-ventral apophysis with serrated tip, femur with small retrolateral apophysis, widened ventrally, procursus with distinctive membranous and sclerotized processes, uncus with dorsal membranous process, appendix large and strongly bent, embolus almost transparent.

Female. Simon (1893b) briefly described the female, but none of the few traits mentioned serves to distinguish females in the genus *Leptopholcus*. I thus consider the female unknown.

Distribution. Known from type locality in Cabinda Prov., Angola, and from Kenya (Fig. 281). Simon (1907) mentioned additional material from "Congo Français: Fernand Vaz" [now Gabon, Ogooué-Maritime Prov., Fernand Vaz: ~1.5°S, 9.25°E].

Material examined. KENYA: *Nairobi Area*: Langata [1°21'S, 36°42'E], "T.n.3", i-ii.1999 (T. Wagner), 1♂ in ZFMK.

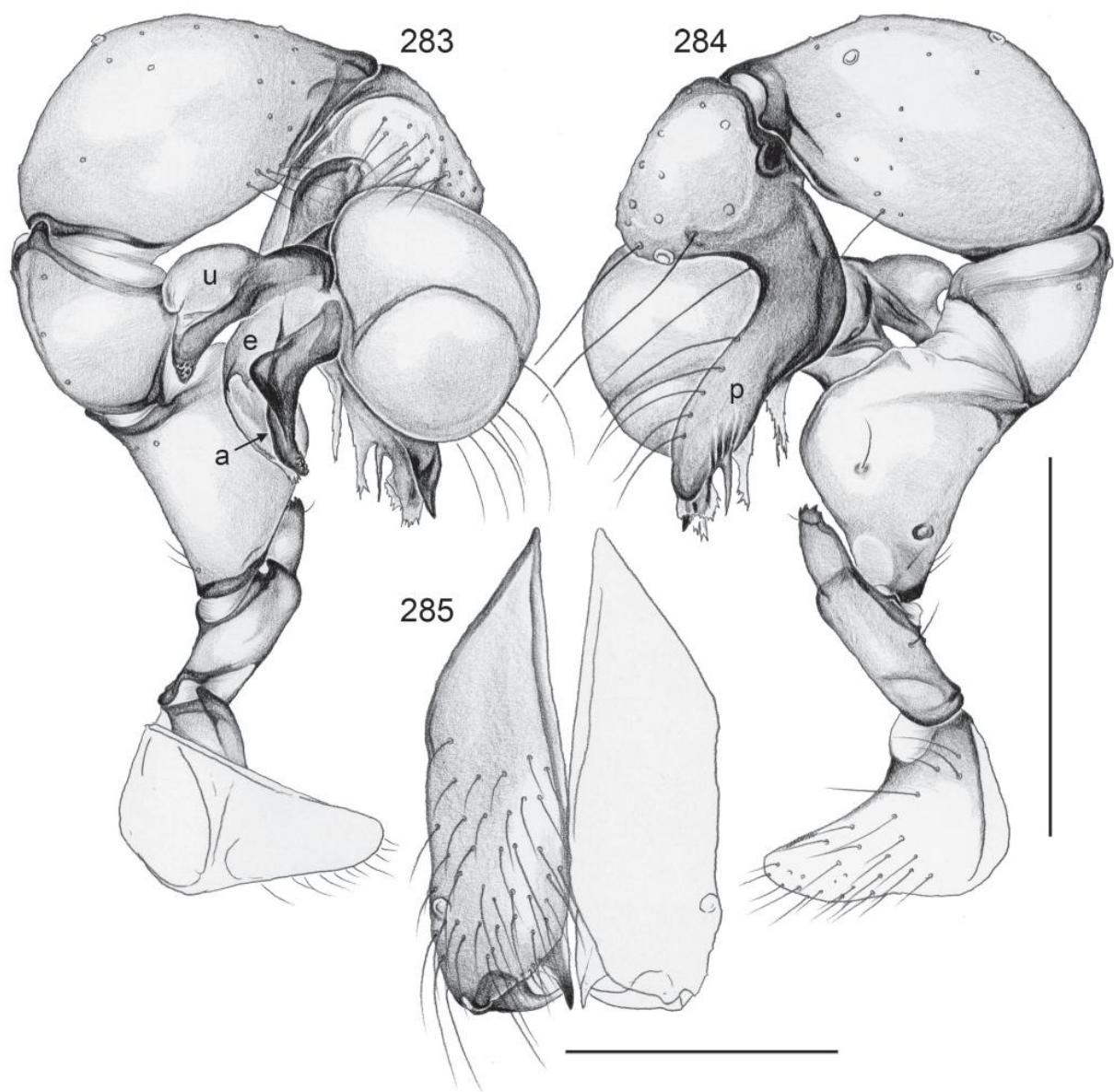


FIG. 283-285. *Leptopholcus signifer*. 283, 284. Left male palp, prolateral and retrolateral views. 285. Male chelicerae, frontal view. Scale lines: 0.5 (283, 284), 0.3 (285).