

***Leptopholcus tipula* (Simon, 1907)**

Simon, E. 1907. Arachnides recueillis par L. Fea sur la côte occidentale d'Afrique. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova 43: 218-323.

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Genus *Micromerys*.

46. **M. tipula**, sp. nov. — ♀ long. 10 mm. — Cephalothorax sternum, pedes-maxillares pedesque pallide luteo-testacea, oculis nigro-cinctis, femoribus ad apicem patellisque fulvo-rufulis, tibiis apice minute nigris. Cephalothorax humilis, fronte late truncata,

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oculis in duos triangulos latissime inter se separatos, ordinatis. Abdomen albidum, cylindraceum et vermiforme, cephalothorace plus sextuplo longius, apice obtusum, area genitali convexa plagula fulvo-olivacea, antice rotunda, postice truncata cum angulis leviter prominulis, munita.

A *M. debili* Thorell (sp. mihi ignota) differt sec. cel. Thorell fronte haud infusca, patellis rufulis haud nigris, abdomine subtus plaga rufula carente, etc.

Ile Fernando-Poo: Punta Frailes.

NOTA. Nous avons reçu antérieurement cette espèce du Gabon.

Brignoli, P. M. 1980. Sur le genre *Leptopholcus* Simon, 1893 (Araneae, Pholcidae). Rev. Zool. afr. 94(3): 649-655.

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a les yeux moyens antérieurs atrophiés. Il est donc très vraisemblable que les *Micromerys* décrits d'Afrique ne soient que des *Leptopholcus* senoculés: j'écris donc *L. debilis* (Thorell, 1899) comb. nov. et *L. tipula* (Simon, 1907) comb. nov. Les différences entre ces deux espèces se limitent à des particularités de la coloration; l'une est du Cameroun, l'autre du Gabon et de Fernando Po.

Deeleman-Reinhold, C. L. 1986. Studies on tropical Pholcidae II. Redescription of *Micromerys gracilis* Bradley and *Calapnita vermiformis* Simon (Araneae, Pholcidae) and description of some related new species. Mem. Qd. Mus. 22(2): 205-224.

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and *M. debilis* Thorell is uncertain; *Micromerys tipula* and *M. dalei* Petrunkevitch belong to the genus *Leptopholcus*. *Micromerys delicata*

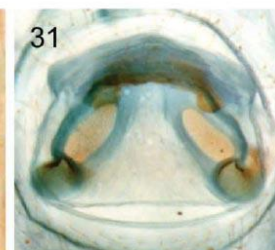
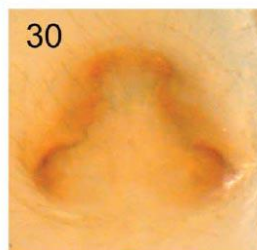
Huber, B. A. 2009. Life on leaves: leaf-dwelling pholcids of Guinea, with emphasis on *Crossopriza cylindrogaster*, a spider with inverted resting position, pseudo-eyes, lampshade web, and tetrahedral egg-sac (Araneae: Pholcidae). J. Nat. Hist. 43: 2491-2523.

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(8–9) *Leptopholcus tipula*, females with newly hatched spiderlings and with egg-sac;

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(24–27) males in dorsal and lateral views of *L. guineensis* (24, 25) and *L. tipula* (26, 27); (28–31) epigyna in ventral and cleared dorsal views of *L. guineensis* (28, 29) and *L. tipula* (30, 31).

Leptopholcus tipula (Simon, 1907)

(Figures 8, 9, 26, 27, 30, 31, 82–100, 149)

Micromerys tipula Simon 1907, p. 248–249.

Leptopholcus tipula Brignoli 1980, p. 653; Deeleman-Reinhold 1986b, p. 206.

Type

The original description is based on a female from “Ile Fernando-Poo: Punta Frailes” (Equatorial Guinea: Bioko, ~3°46’N, 8°42’E); this specimen is apparently lost (could not be found in MNHN).

Note

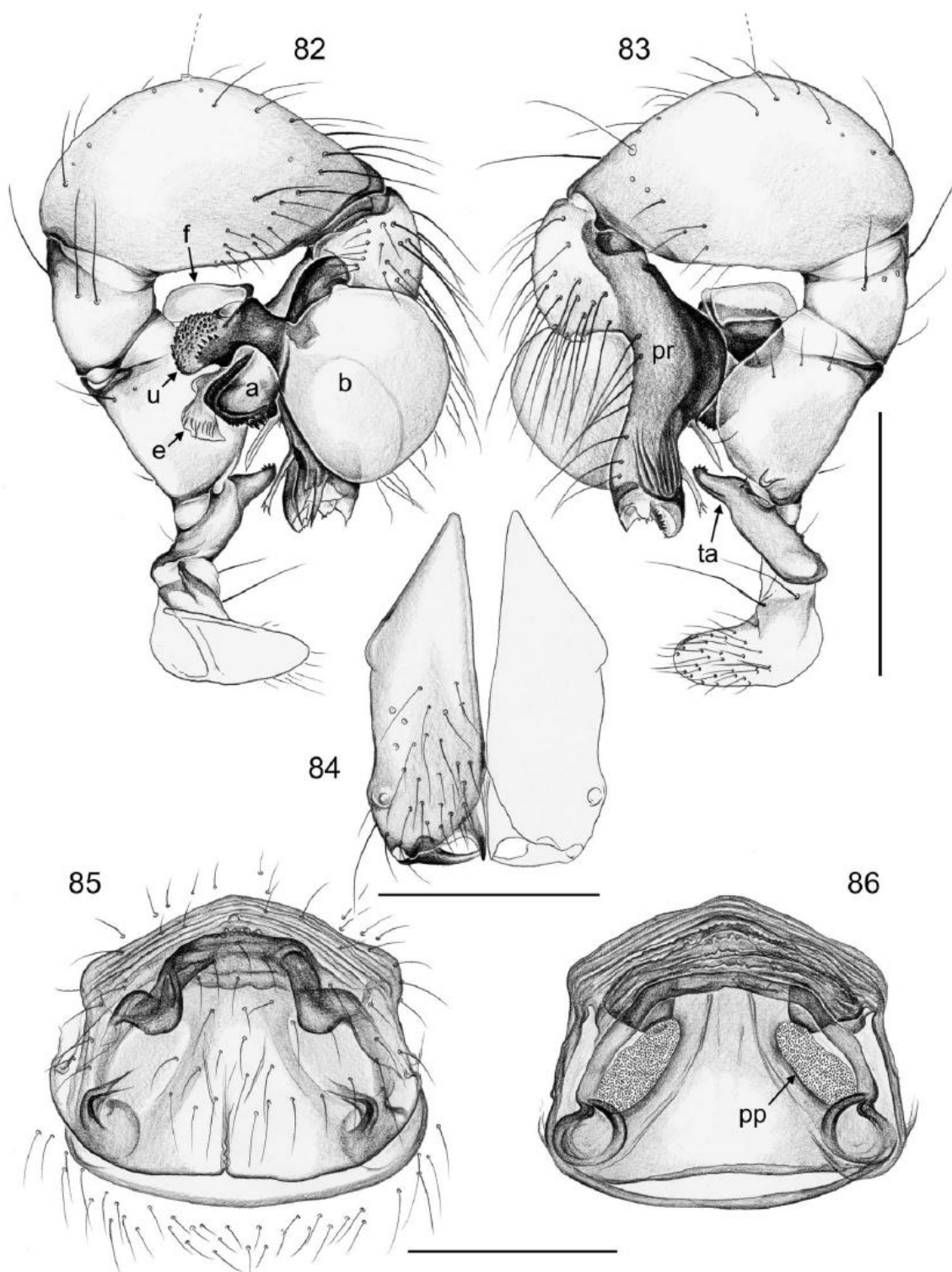
Simon (1907) mentioned additional material from Gabon, and these non-type specimens are well preserved and still available in the MNHN (see later). They are identical to specimens newly collected on Bioko very close to the type locality. In addition, no other *Leptopholcus* species has been collected on Bioko, and the only other species collected in Cameroon is clearly different (B.A. Huber, unpublished data). Together, this suggests that the following material is in fact conspecific with Simon’s lost type.

Diagnosis

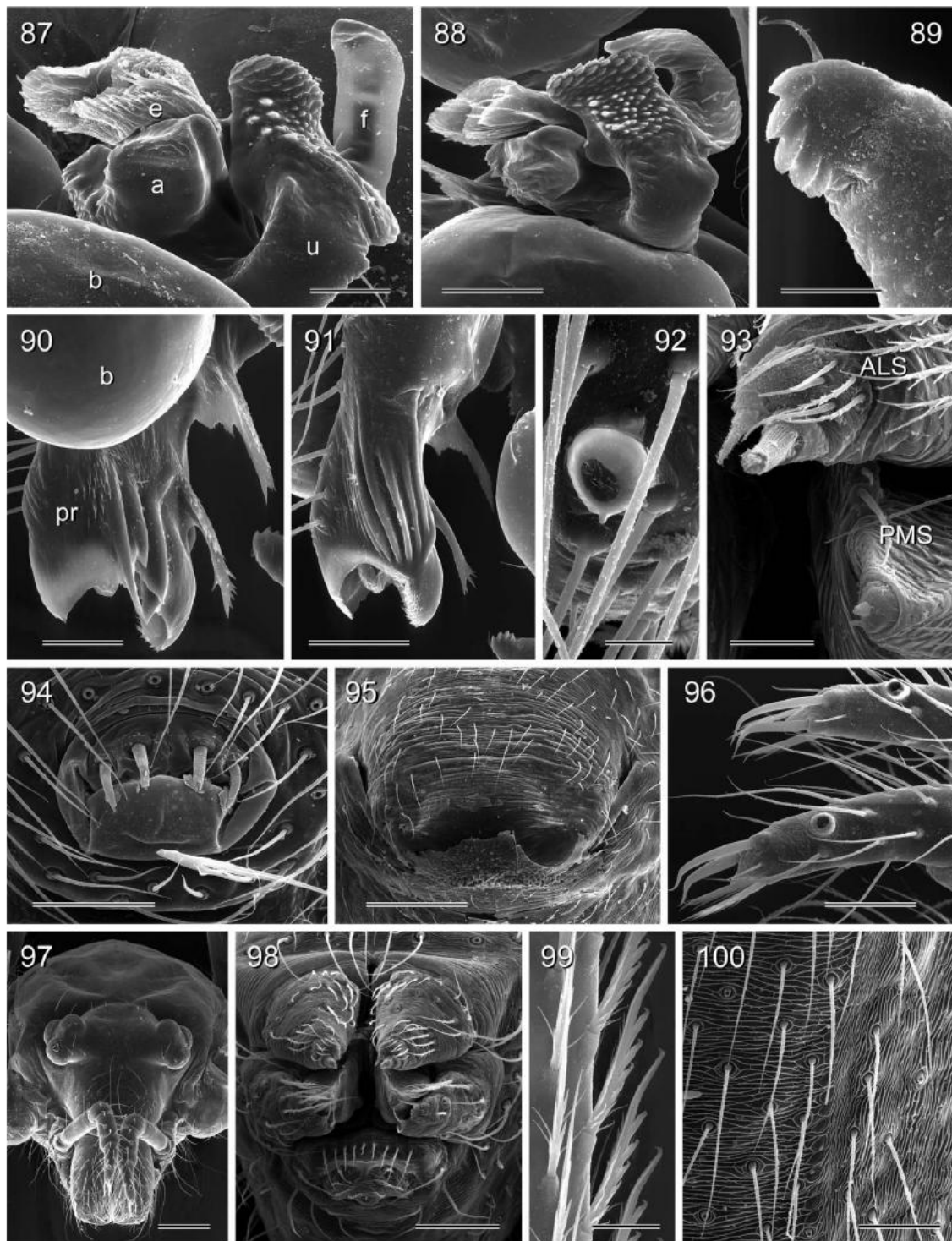
Easily distinguished from known congeners by the semitransparent flap dorsally on the uncus (Figures 82, 87, 88).

Male (Bioko: Punta Beecrof)

Total body length 7.1, carapace width 0.9. Leg 1: 36.8 (9.2 + 0.4 + 8.5 + 14.6 + 4.1), tibia 2: 6.4, tibia 3: 4.4, tibia 4: 7.2, tibia 1 L/d: 113. Habitus as in Figures 26 and 27;



Figures 82–86. *Leptopholcus tipula*. (82, 83) Left palp, prolateral and retrolateral views; (84) male chelicerae, frontal view; (85, 86) cleared female genitalia, ventral and dorsal views. Notes: a, appendix; b, bulb; e, embolus; f, flap on uncus; pp, pore plate; pr, procursus; ta, trochanter apophysis; u, uncus. Scale lines: 0.3 mm (84–86), 0.5 mm (82, 83).



Figures 87–100. *Leptopholcus tipula*. (87, 88) Left bulbal projections, prolateral, from Cameroon (87) and Guinea (88); (89) tip of right male palpal trochanter apophysis; (90) tip of right procurus, prolateral view; (91) tip of left procurus, retrolateral view; (92) right male palpal tarsal organ; (93) male ALS and PMS; (94) male gonopore with epiandrous spigots; (95) epigynum; (96) female palpal tarsi, dorso-lateral view; (97) female prosoma, dorso-frontal view; (98) female spinnerets and anal cone; (99) comb hairs on female left tarsus 4, prolateral view; (100) cuticular sculpturing on female abdomen, showing difference in ventral (left) and lateral (right) pattern (frontal side on top). Notes: a, appendix; b, bulb; e, embolus; f, flap on uncus; pr, procurus; u, uncus. Scale lines: 20 μ m (89, 92, 93, 99), 60 μ m (87, 90, 94, 96, 100), 100 μ m (88, 91, 98), 200 μ m (95, 97).

entire spider mostly pale ochre-yellow to whitish, patella area and tibia-metatarsus joints brown. Distance PME–PME 370 μm , diameter PME 80 μm , distance PME–ALE 45 μm , no trace of AME. Ocular area not elevated, each triad on low hump, some stronger hairs on posterior side. No thoracic furrow, clypeus unmodified. Chelicerae as in Figure 84, with indistinct lateral apophyses distally. Sternum wider than long (0.65/0.50), unmodified. Palps as in Figures 82 and 83, coxa unmodified, trochanter with ventral apophysis with serrated tip (Figure 89), femur with distinct retrolateral apophysis proximally, widened ventrally, tarsal organ capsulate (Figure 82), procursus with distinctive distal elements (Figures 90, 91), some of them membranous, bulb with short weakly sclerotized embolus, uncus with long dorsal transparent flap, appendix short and massive (Figures 82, 87). Legs without spines and curved hairs, few vertical hairs; retrolateral trichobothrium on tibia 1 at 3%; prolateral trichobothrium missing on tibia 1, present on other tibiae; tarsal pseudosegments not visible in dissecting microscope. ALS with one widened and one pointed spigot; PMS with two small spigots (Figure 93). Gonopore with four epiandrous spigots (Figure 94).

Variation

In some males dorsal part of clypeus slightly darkened; in some abdomen appears (still) greenish. Tibia 1 in 36 other males: 7.2–8.8 (mean 8.0). In males from Bilik, Cameroon, uncus slightly smaller; in males from Mayombe, Congo D.R., sclerotized part of uncus slightly narrower; in males from Ghana and Guinea, both uncus and appendix minimally different in shape (Figures 87 and 88 are from slightly different angles of view and thus exaggerate this difference).

Female

In general similar to male but triads closer together (distance PME–PME 300 μm). Tibia 1 in 65 females: 5.9–7.5 (mean 6.8). Tip of palpal tarsus ending in sclerotized cone accompanied by several strong bristles (Figure 96). Spinnerets and spigots as in male (Figure 98). Tarsus 4 with ventral row of comb-hairs (Figure 99). Epigynum very simple and weakly sclerotized (Figures 30, 95), with distinctive internal structures (including pair of apparent pockets) visible through cuticle (Figure 30); internal genitalia as in Figures 31 and 86. The female from Makokou, Gabon, has a slightly different epigynum and is therefore assigned tentatively.

Distribution

Widely distributed, ranging at least from western Congo D.R. to eastern Guinea (Figure 149).

Material examined

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Bioko: Punta Beecrof (3°43.3'N, 8°39.7'E), at night, 18.x.1998 (D.K. Dabney, D. Ubick), 1♂1♀ in CAS; 3.5 km N Luba (3°28.9'N, 8°35.0'E), swampy forest, 13.x.1998 (M. Boko, D.K. Dabney, L. Henwood, R.W. Tomos, D. Ubick, J.V. Vindum), 1♀ 1 juv. in CAS.

CONGO DEM. REP.: Bas Congo, Mayombe, Luki Forest Reserve (5°37.3'S, 13°05.9'E), 270 m a.s.l., primary rainforest, 4.-13.xi.2006, 26.ix.-4.x.2007 (D. de Bakker, J.P. Michiels), 37♂65♀ in MRAC (15 vials separated from 219850-855,

224312-319; and 222067); same locality and collectors: beating along trail near guest house, 8./14.xi.2006, 2♂2♀ in MRAC (2 vials separated from 219959 and 991); beating along trail, primary rainforest, 11.xi.2006, 1♂ in MRAC (221534); beating in secondary forest, 16.xi.2006, 1♂2♀ in MRAC (219849); old secondary rainforest, 17.-25.ix.2007, 14♂21♀ in MRAC (9 vials, separated from 224303-311); young secondary rainforest, 14.ix.2007, 1♀ in MRAC (separated from 224301).

GABON: unspecified locality and date, collected by “Mcq.”, 1♂1♀ in MNHN (10499; Simon collection number 15558). 10 km S Bigouenia [~0°55'S, 10°21'E], 29.xii.1985 (A. Pauly), 1♀ in MRAC (172913). *Ogooue-Maritime*: Reserve de Faune de la Moukalaba-Dougoua, 12.2. km 305° NW Doussala (2°17.0'S, 10°29.8'E), 110 m a.s.l., rainforest, beating vegetation, 24.ii.2000 (B.L. Fisher), 1♂ in CAS (9027072).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Sangha-Mbaéré: Parc National Dzanga-Ndoki, 37.9 km 169° S Lidjombo (2°22.2'N, 16°10.3'E), 360 m a.s.l., rainforest, beating low vegetation, 20.-28.v.2001 (B.L. Fisher), 1♂ in CAS (separated from 9027099).

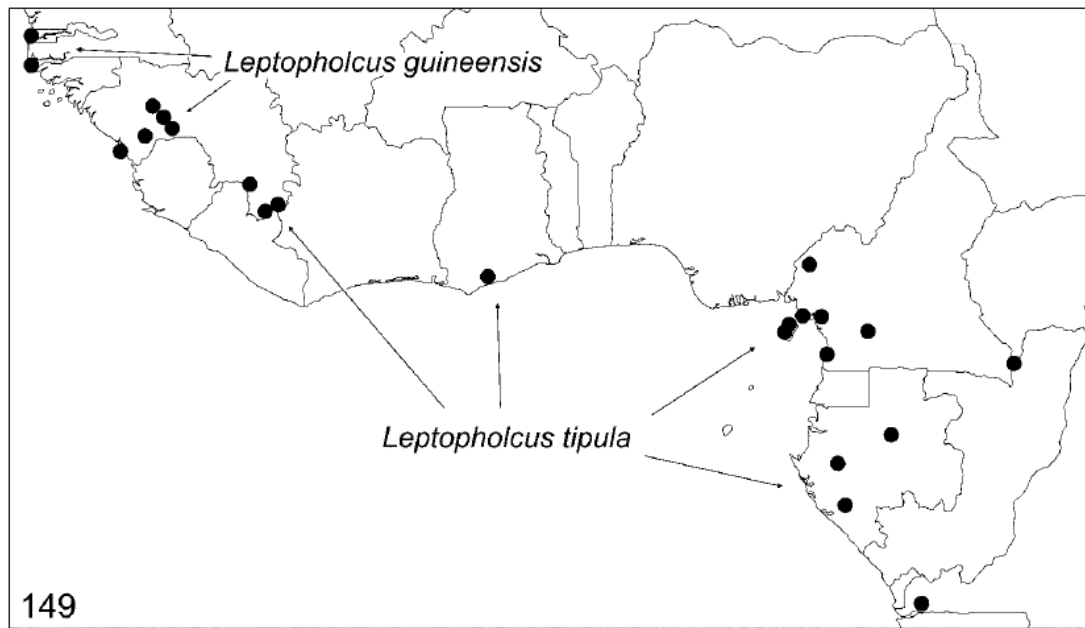
CAMEROON: *South Region*: near Kribi (2°54.0'N, 9°54.4'E), 20 m a.s.l., 9.iv.2009 (B.A. Huber), 3♂3♀ in ZFMK; same data, 2♀ 7 juvs. in pure ethanol, in ZFMK. Between Kribi and Campo, “site 1” (2°42.2'N, 9°51.8'E), 10 m a.s.l., 10.iv.2009 (B.A. Huber), 1♂ in ZFMK; same data, 2♀ 2 juvs. in pure ethanol, in ZFMK. Between Kribi and Campo, “site 2” (2°40.4'N, 9°51.4'E), 15 m a.s.l., 10.iv.2009 (B.A. Huber), 2♀ 2 juvs. in pure ethanol, in ZFMK. Bilik (3°32'N, 11°17'E), *Terminalia* forest, fogging sample 92/13, 29.i.1993 (A. Russell-Smith), 1♂1♀ in ZFMK; same data but “F04 A2/1B”, 1♂2♀ 1 juv. in ZFMK. *Littoral Region*: Douala [~4°03'N, 9°45'E], 1913 (A. Haas), 1♀ in SMF. *Southwest Region*: Fako Div., Limbe Subdiv.: 1.4 km NE of Etome (4°03.0'N, 9°07.5'E), ca. 400 m a.s.l., 13.-19.i.1992 (S. Larcher, G. Hormiga, J. Codrington, C.E. Griswold, C. Wanzie), 5♂4♀ in CAS; same data, 9♂14♀ in USNM. Mamfe [~5°45'N, 9°19'E], 7.-11.i.1949 (B. Malkin), 1♀ in CAS.

GHANA: Kakum forest (5°20'N, 1°23'W), secondary forest, 15./17./19.xi.2005 (R. Jocqué, D. de Bakker, L. Baert), 7♂4♀ in MRAC (3 vials: 217688, 691, 699); same data but primary forest, 16./18./21./23./25.xi.2005, 9♂10♀ in MRAC (5 vials: 217696, 700, 713, 716, 727).

GUINEA: *Guinée Forestière*: Forêt Classée de Diéké (7°32.0'N, 8°49.9'W), 430 m a.s.l., 1.xii.2008 (B.A. Huber), 3♂ in ZFMK; same data, 1♂1♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK; Forêt Classée de Ziamia (8°24.2'N, 9°19.3'W), 640 m a.s.l., 2.xii.2008 (B.A. Huber), 2♂3♀ in ZFMK; same data, 2♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK; Mount Nimba (~7°41.5'N, 8°24.5'W), ~600 m a.s.l., forest, 29.xi.2008 (B.A. Huber), 2♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK.

Assigned tentatively

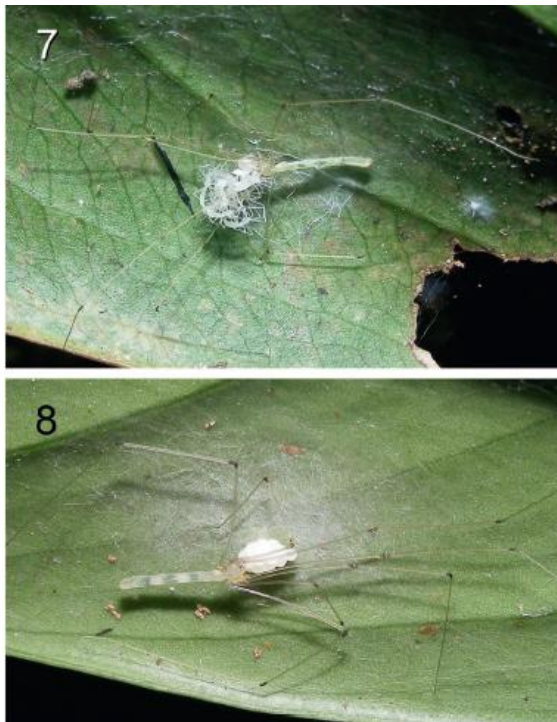
GABON: Makokou, CNRS (0°04'N, 12°08'E), Ogooue-Invindo, ix.-xi.1976 (A.L. Rypstra), 1♀ in USNM.



Figures 148–149. Known distributions of *Crossopriza cylindrogaster* and the two *Leptopholcus* species treated herein.

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

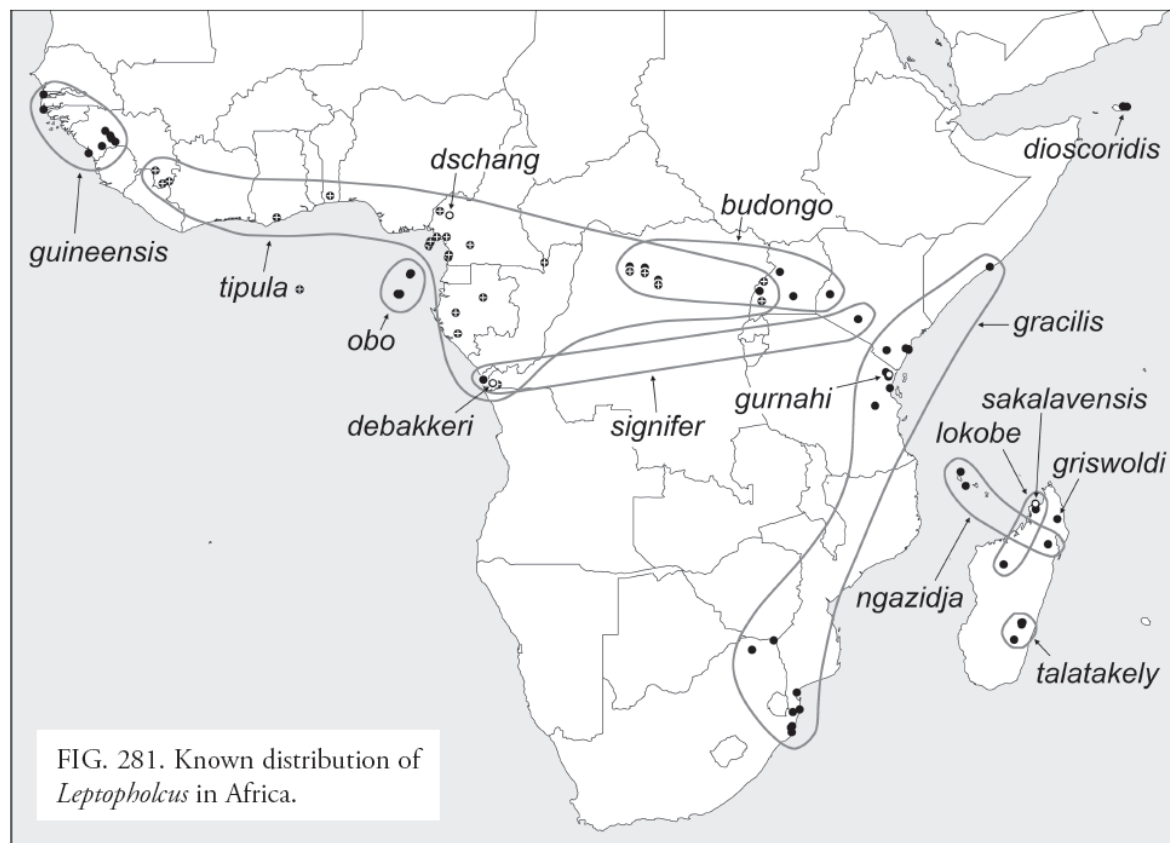
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and egg sac, Ziama, Guinea.

7, 8. *Leptopholcus tipula*, females with juveniles

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Leptopholcus tipula (Simon, 1907)

Micromerys tipula Simon 1907: 248-249.

Leptopholcus tipula: Brignoli 1980: 653. Deeleman-Reinhold 1986b: 206. Huber 2009b: 2506-2510, figs. 8, 9, 26, 27, 30, 31, 82-100, 149.

New records. BENIN: Niaouli (6°44'N, 2°08'E), 20.xi.2008 (S. Tchibofo), 1♂ in ZFMK.

CONGO DEM. REP.: Mbangi (2°07'N, 21°44'E), fogging in old secondary forest, 23.-25.vi.2009 (D. de Bakker), 1♂7♀ (4 vials) in MRAC. Monzé (Engengele) (2°02'N, 22°44'E), fogging in old secondary forest (periodically inundated), 29.-30.vi.2009 (D. de Bakker), 3♂7♀ (4 vials) in MRAC. Basoko (Bokungu) (1°14'N, 23°36'E), fogging in old palm plantation (60 years old), 7.iii.2009 (D. de Bakker), 2♂1♀ (2 vials) in MRAC.

UGANDA: *Bushenyi District*: Kyambura River Gorge, (~0°10.7'S, 30°05.8'E), 900 m a.s.l., 29. xi.2010 (B.A. Huber), 1♂2♀ in ZFMK; same data, 2♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK. *Bundibugyo District*: Semuliki N.P., between Sempaya and Bumaga (~0°49.3'N, 30°09.5'E), ~700 m a.s.l., 4.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 2♂ in ZFMK; same data, 1♂ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK.