

***Micromerys gracilis* Bradley, 1877**

Bradley, H. B. 1877. Araneides of the Chevert Expedition. Part II. Proc. Linn. Soc. New S. Wales 2: 115-120.

...

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

p. 474

Micromerys Bradley, *Proceed. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales*, II, 1877, p. 118. —
Calapnita E. Sim., *Ann. Soc. ent. Fr.*, 1892, p. 42 (typus *C. vermiformis*).

A *Leptopholco*, cui valde affinis et subsimilis est, tantum differt cephalothorace oculis mediis anticis carente. — Abdomen longum, interdum postice obtuse productum et tuberculatum (*M. conica* E. Sim.), interdum longissimum et vermiforme (*M. vermiformis* E. Sim.).

TYPUS : *M. gracilis* Bradley.

AR. GEOGR. : Africa occid.; ins. Madagascar (*madagascariensis* E. Sim.); ins. Philippinæ (*vermiformis* E. Sim.); Nova-Hollandia septr. (*gracilis* Bradl.); America trop. : Venezuela (*conica* E. Sim., etc.).

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.

[male see *M. yidin!*]

p. 206

DESCRIPTION

NEOTYPE: ♀ : carapace, sternum and abdomen pale yellow, chelicerae, legs and palps straw yellow with a brown area on the prolateral face of femora I and II; distal ends of tibiae and proximal and distal ends of metatarsi darkened. am eyes lacking, instead one very small black speck visible (Fig. 5). Measurements in mm : carapace 1.05 × 0.82, abdomen 6.40; leg measurements are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Leg measurements (mm) of *Micromerys gracilis* (Neotype, ♀)

Legs:	femur	patella	tibia	meta-tarsus	tarsus
I	7.70	0.40	6.25	10.10	3.12
II	5.75	0.40	5.00	7.68	1.25
III	4.32	0.40	3.12	4.55	0.72
IV	7.00	0.40	6.00	8.60	1.20
palp:	0.20	0.10	0.20	—	0.14

Genital organ (Figs. 8, 9): epigyne entirely unsclerotized. Anteriorly, a grey, horseshoe-shaped area (locking valves of uterus externus) appears through the tegument. On the interior (dorsal) surface of the epigynal lip there are two transverse lamellar valves, the edges of which are sclerotized and partly apparent near the distal margin of the epigynal lip.

OTHER FEMALES: in both specimens from Iron Range there are two minute specks in the area of the anterior median eyes; in the Siptons Flat specimen there are two black interconnected rings. They all show the dark area on the anterior femora. There are no relevant differences in vulval structure. Measurements : Iron Range, carapace 1.10 × 0.95, and 1.20 × 0.96; Siptons Flat, carapace 1.00 × 0.72.

MALES: QM S891 colour as in the ♀, but dark areas on the anterior femora lacking, apex of all femora and patellae orange. Eye groups not raised; between the eye groups in the place of the am eyes there are two tiny interconnected black rings, but no lens is apparent. Chelicerae with obtuse horn laterally (Fig. 4). Anterior femora thinner than in the ♀. Measurements in mm : carapace 1.00 × 0.80, abdomen, 6.50; leg measurements (QM S891) are given in Table 2.

Other ♂ (QM S887) : carapace 1.05 × 0.85, abdomen 5.40; measurements of the first leg are: 7.90, 0.38, 6.82, 11.55, 1.60.

Male palp (Figs. 1-3): femur with small distal apophysis; basal part of tarsal appendage with V-shaped bend; lateral branch provided with

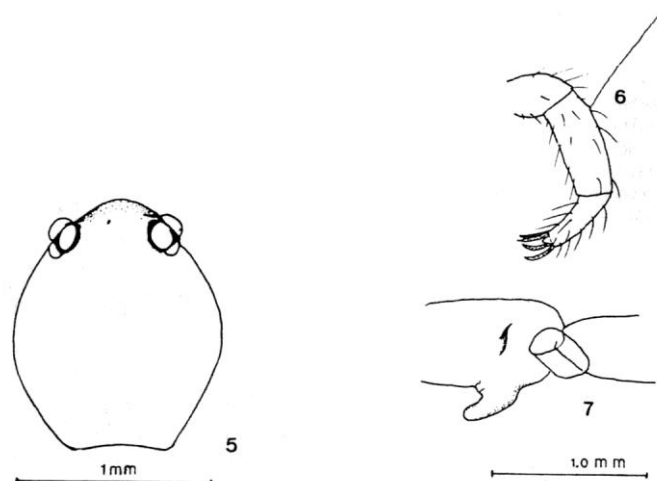
Micromerys gracilis Bradley (Figs 1-9, 60)

M. gracilis Bradley, 1877, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales* 2 : 118—Cape York, Queensland, Australia (♀).

MATERIAL EXAMINED

NEOTYPE: 1 ♀, QM S885, Lake Boronto near Somerset, 5 km south of Cape York, 10°46'S, 146°30'E, 3—4.ii.'75, R. Raven.

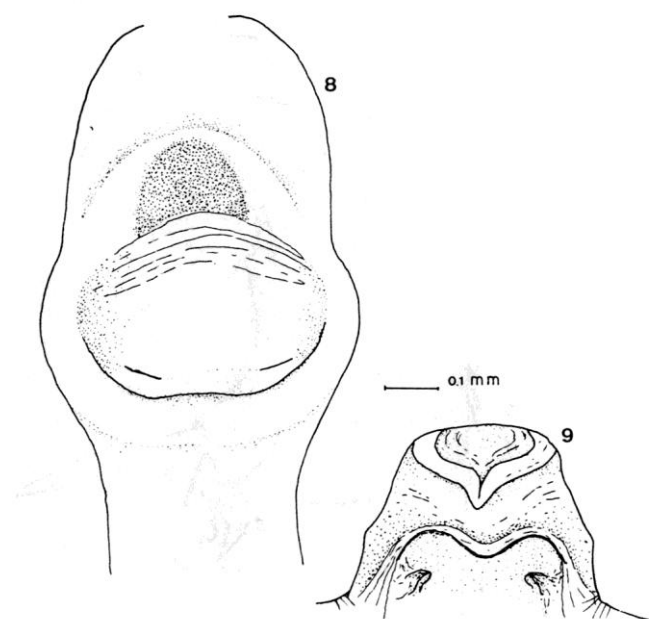
OTHER: 2 ♀, QM S886, Gordon Creek, Iron Range 12°43'S, 143°19'E, in mesophyll vine forest, 24—30.vi.'76, R. Raven and V. Davies; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, QM S887, 1 ♂, QM S891, Siptons Flat, 15°48'S, 145°15'E, complex notophyll vine forest on basalt, 16—21.xi.'75, R. Monroe and V. Davies.



FIGS 1-7: *Micromerys gracilis* Bradley.

carapace; 6. palp; 7. anterior part of abdomen, lateral.

Figs 5-7; ♀ neotype (QM S885) Lake Boronto; 5.



FIGS 8-13: Figs 8-9; *Micromerys gracilis* Bradley, ♀ Lake Boronto. 8. anterior part of abdomen, ventral; 9. interior (dorsal) view of epigynal lip, turned up. Figs 10-13, *Micromerys daviesae* n.sp. 10. ♀ Finch Hatton, anterior part of abdomen, ventral; 11. id., interior (dorsal) view of epigynal lip, turned up; 12. id. anterior part of abdomen, lateral; 13. ♂ Finch Hatton, head and chelicerae, front.

TABLE 2: Leg measurements (mm) of *Micromerys gracilis* (QM S891, ♂)

Legs:	femur	patella	tibia	meta-tarsus	tarsus
I	7.35	0.35	7.32	13.64	—
II	7.28	0.35	6.30	10.00	1.57
III	5.25	0.35	3.67	5.77	1.05
IV	7.87	0.35	6.63	11.02	1.60

various membranous processes. Shape of tarsal appendage and embolus diagnostic.

REMARKS

Anterior median eyes : the neotype female from Lake Boronto, the northernmost locality, shows only one minute pigment speck, hardly perceptible. Both the female specimens from Iron Range have two such tiny dots, whereas the female and two male specimens from the southernmost locality, Shiptons Flat (see Fig. 60) are provided with distinct pigment rings. A lens is never apparent.

Lake Boronto, the neotype locality is only 5 miles from the northernmost tip of Cape York Peninsula. The type locality 'Cape York' probably refers to this area, because Macleay, who led the 1875 'Chevert' expedition to New Guinea that obtained the type specimen, wrote from Somerset : 'Cape York, the northernmost point of Australia lies about 3 miles west of us' (cited in Fletcher J.J. 1929, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 54 : 245).

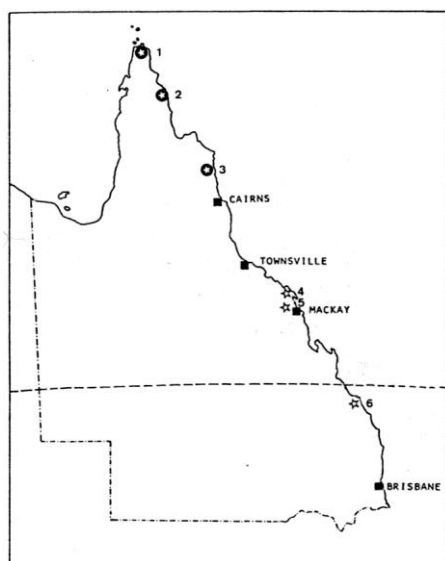


FIG. 60. Locations of *Micromerys* spp. in Queensland, Australia. *M. gracilis* Bradley. 1. Cape York; 2. Iron Range; 3. Shiptons Flat. *M. daviesae* n.sp. 4. Brandy Creek; 5. Finch Hatton; 6. Rundle Range.

Huber, B. A. 2001. The pholcids of Australia (Araneae; Pholcidae): Taxonomy, biogeography, and relationships. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 260: 1-144.

p. 98

Deeleman-Reinhold (1986b), from Lake Boronto near Somerset, 5 km S of Cape York (10°45'S, 142°35'E), Queensland, Australia; Feb. 3–4, 1975 (R. Raven), in QMB (S885), examined.

REMARK: The selection of a female as type poses some problems as females of *Micromerys* are extremely difficult to identify. However, *M. gracilis* seems to be the only species on Cape York Peninsula (map 15; note that the locality Shiptons Flat in Deeleman-Reinhold [1986b] rests on a misidentification; see *M. yidin* below), suggesting that the material studied is indeed conspecific with the neotype.

DIAGNOSIS: Distinguished from congeners by the wide main branch of the procurus (fig. 301) and by the straight bulbal apophysis that is slightly longer than the bulb (figs. 295, 302).

MALE (Murray Island): Total length 5.8, carapace width 0.84. Leg 1: 27.6 (7.3 + 0.4 + 6.3 + 10.9 + 2.7), tibia 2: 5.1, tibia 3: 3.2, tibia 4: 5.9; tibia 1 l/d: 79. Habitus and prosoma shape as figs. 293, 294, 297, 298. Entire prosoma whitish ochre, only proximal part of clypeus light brown (fig. 294). Ocular area flat; distance PME-PME 0.280; diameter PME 0.105; distance PME-ALE 0.050; AME missing, only tiny black spot between triads. Sternum slightly longer than wide (fig. 298). Chelicerae whitish, without modification except pair of lateral apophyses (fig. 299). Palps as in figs. 295 and 296, pale ochre, only procurus and bulbal apophysis light to dark brown; trochanter apophysis, procurus, and bulb as in figs. 300–302; tip of hinged process as in fig. 309; palpal tarsal organ as in fig. 308. Legs pale ochre; patellae, femora tips, and tibia–metatarsus joints darker; without spines, without curved and vertical hairs; retrolateral trichobothrium of tibia 1 at 2.3%; tarsi without pseudosegmentation (fig. 306). Opisthosoma shape as in fig. 293, monochromatic pale ochre; two spigots on ALS (fig. 307).

VARIATION: Tibia 1 in 14 males: 6.1–7.4 ($\bar{x}$ = 6.7). Some males have no trace of AME, others have black spots in that area, but lenses are always missing. Some males have darker smudges on the opisthosoma.

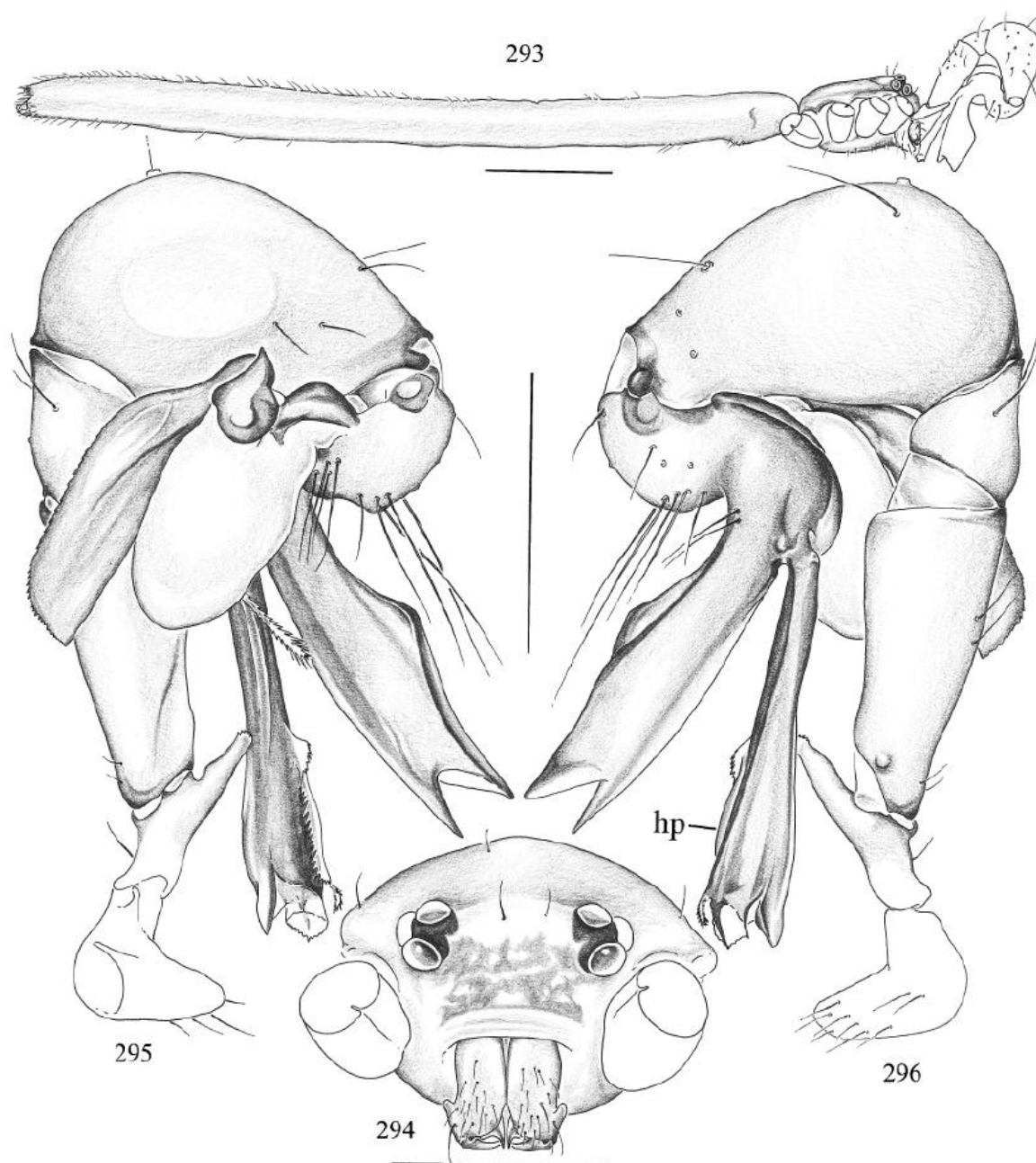
FEMALE: In general very similar to male, but clypeus proximally not darker. Tibia 1 in

Micromerys gracilis Bradley, 1877

Figures 293–309

Micromerys gracilis Bradley, 1877: 119.—Simon, 1893: 474.—Deeleman-Reinhold, 1986b: 206–209, figs. 5–9, 60 (female only; male see *M. yidin* below).

TYPE: Female neotype designated by Dee-

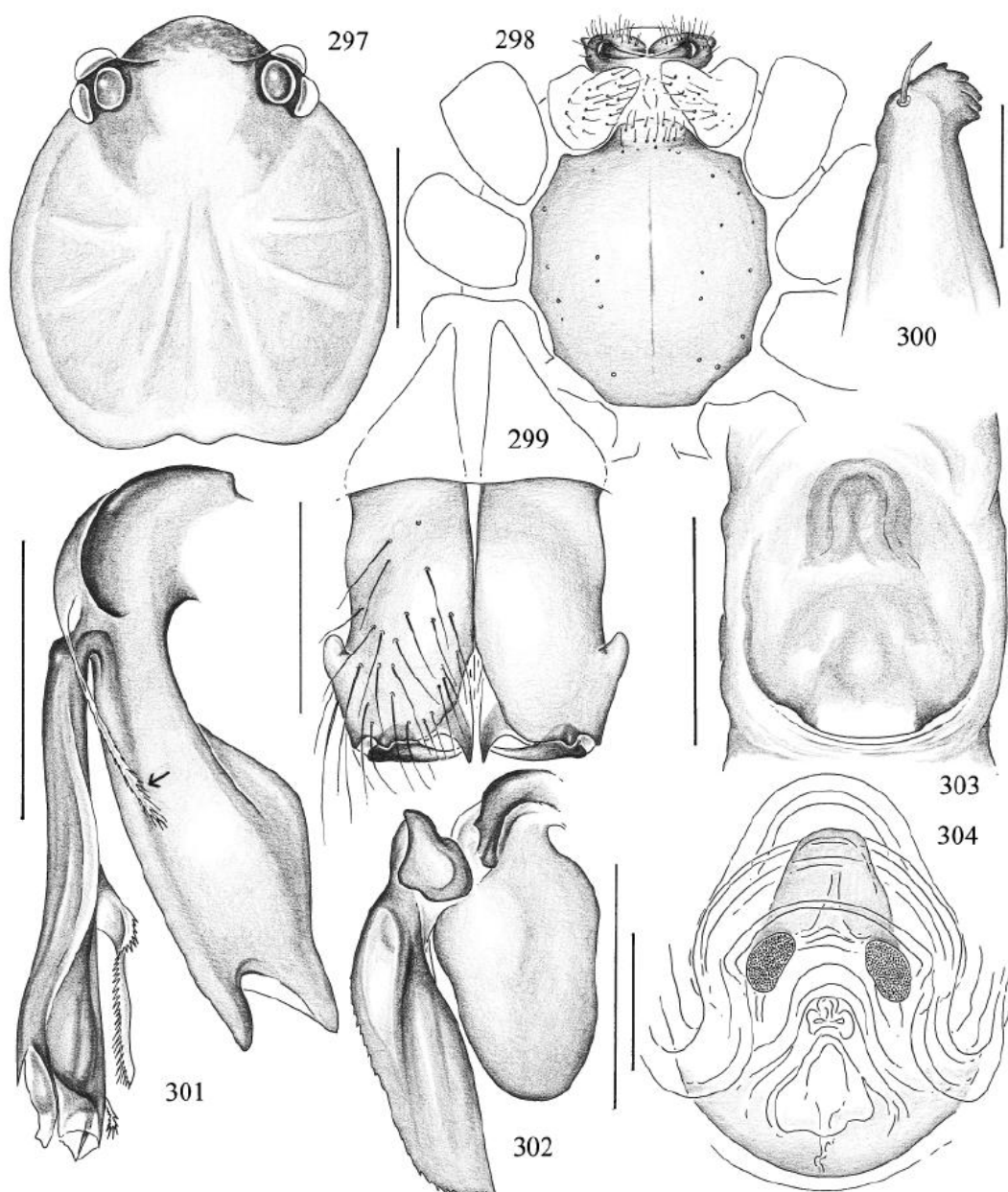


Figs. 293–296. *Micromerys gracilis*, male. 293. Habitus. 294. Prosoma, frontal view. 295, 296. Left palp, prolateral (295) and retrolateral (296) views; “hp” = hinged process. Scale lines: 1 mm (293), 0.5 mm (294–296).

9 females: 5.2–6.2 ($\bar{x}$ = 5.8). Tibia 1 in neotype: 5.5. Variation in AME spots as in male (neotype without spots). Epigynum very simple, unsclerotized, with possibly distinctive arch shining through (fig. 303); dorsal view as in fig. 304.

DISTRIBUTION: Known from several localities in northern Northern Territory and northern Queensland (map 15).

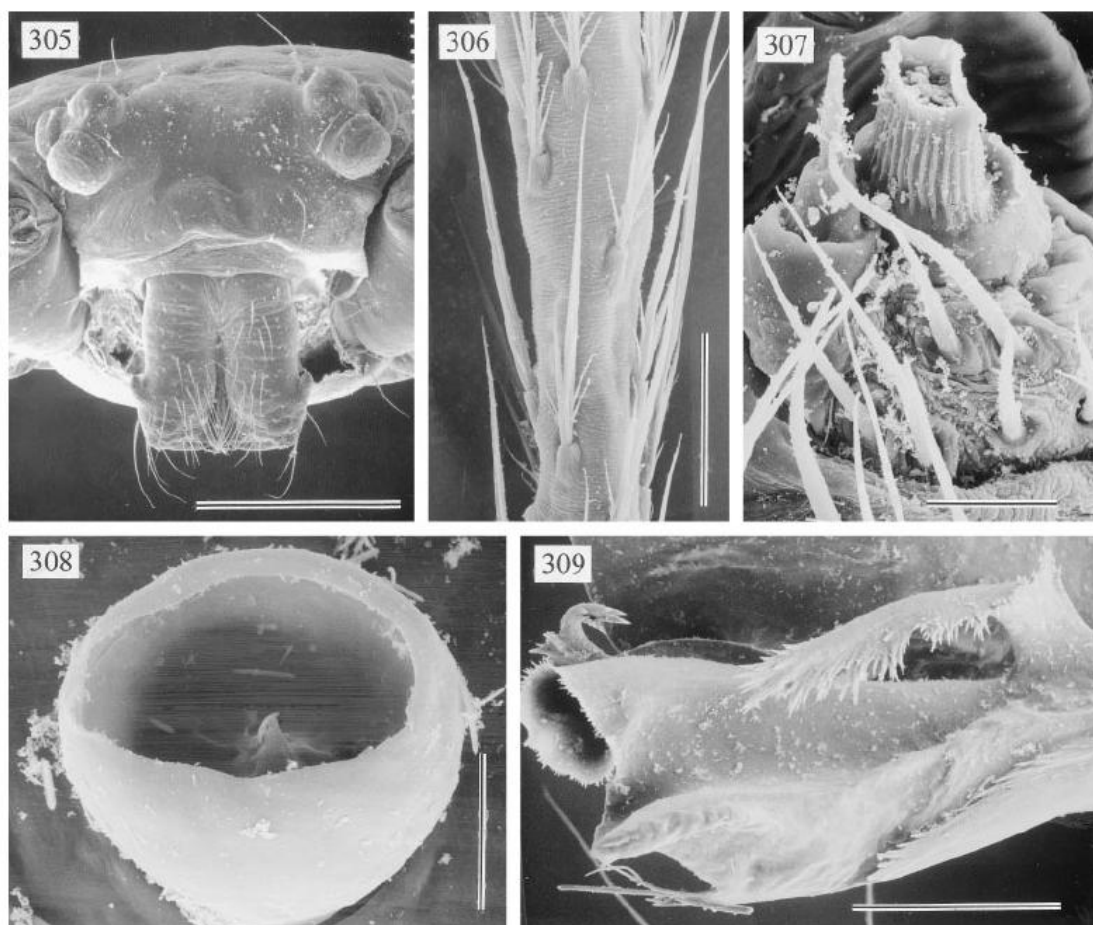
MATERIAL EXAMINED: AUSTRALIA: *Queensland*: Lake Boronto near Somerset: Female neotype above; Dividing Range, 15 km



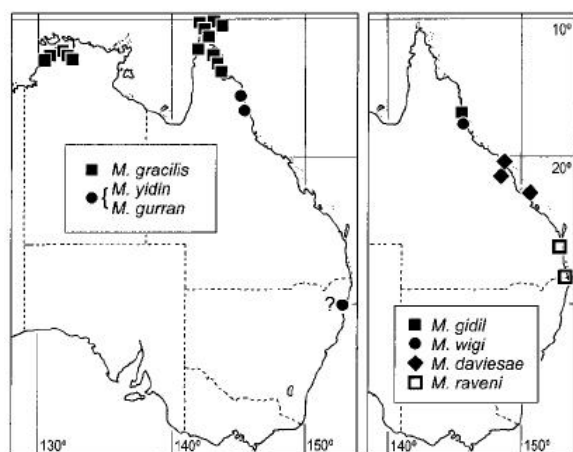
Figs. 297–304. *Micromerys gracilis*. 297, 298. Male prosoma, dorsal and ventral views. 299. Male chelicerae, frontal view. 300. Tip of male palpal trochanter apophysis. 301. Left procursus, prolateral view; arrow: translucent fringed projection. 302. Left genital bulb, prolateral view. 303, 304. Epigynum, ventral (303) and dorsal (304) views. Scale lines: 0.4 mm (297, 298, 301–303), 0.2 mm (299, 304), 0.05 mm (300).

W of Captain Billy Creek (11°40'S, 142°45'E), July 4–9, 1975 (G. B. Monteith), 2 juveniles (QMB S49743), assigned tentatively; Andoom near Weipa (12°31'S,

141°50'E), Feb. 5–8, 1975 (G. B. Monteith), rainforest, 1♂ (QMB S49738); Gordon Creek, Iron Range (12°43'S, 143°19'E), June 24–30, 1976 (R. Raven, V. E. Davies), me-



Figs. 305–309. *Micromerys gracilis*. 305. Male prosoma, frontal view. 306. Male tarsus 1 near tip, showing absence of pseudosegmentation. 307. Male ALS, with only two spigots. 308. Male palpal tarsal organ. 309. Tip of hinged process of right procurus, prolateral view. Scale lines: 300 μm (305), 100 μm (309), 30 μm (306, 308), 10 μm (307).



Maps 15, 16. Distribution of *Micromerys* species in Australia.

sophyll vine forest, 2 ♀ (QMB S886); same data, “+ Lamond Hill”, 3 ♀ several juveniles (QMB S49741); West Claudie Range, Iron Range (12°45'S, 143°14'E), Dec. 3–10, 1985 (G. Monteith, D. Cook), rainforest, 50 m elev., 2 ♂ 3 juveniles (QMB S50306); same collection data, 2 ♀ 1 juvenile (QMB S50289); McIlwraith Range (~13°43'S, 143°15'E), July 20, 1995 (J. Thompson, M. Moulds, T. Olive), 1 ♂ (AMS KS46098); Silver Plains Station, near Chester R. (13°58'S, 143°22'E), Nov. 2, 1985 (I. Fanning) 1 ♀ (QMB S50307), assigned tentatively; Thursday Island, Torres Strait (10°35'S, 142°13'E), Aug. 1949 (N.L.H. Krauss), 1 ♀ in AMNH; Hammond Island, Torres Strait (10°32'S, 142°13'E), July 4–8, 1974 (H. Heatwole, E.

Cameron), 1 ♀ (QMB S50226), assigned tentatively; Murray Island, Torres Strait (9°56'S, 144°04'E), July 1974 (H. Heatwole, E. Cameron), 2 ♂ 2 ♀ (QMB S50228); Yam Island, Torres Strait (9°53'S, 142°55'E), Nov. 28–Dec. 2, 1986 (J. Gallon), under bark, night coll., 1 ♀ (QMB S12400), assigned tentatively. *Northern Territory*: Gorge NE of Mt Gilruth (13°02'S, 133°05'E), July 10–13, 1979 (G. Monteith, D. Cook), 1 ♀ several juveniles (QMB S49771), assigned tentatively; Kakadu National Park, Baroalba (12°50'S, 132°57'E), July 6, 1994 (M. S. Harvey, D. M. Hyder), 1 ♀ (WAM 99/1509), assigned tentatively; Radon Creek (12°45'S, 132°53'E), rainforest, July 14–16, 1979 (G. Monteith, D. Cook), 2 ♂ 4 ♀ some juveniles (QMB S49752); North Point, Kapalga (12°25'S, 132°22'E), July 19, 1979 (G. Monteith, D. Cook), 1 ♂ (QMB S49745); W Alligator, “mouth, WA2” (12°11'S, 132°16'E), Nov. 1979 (R. Raven), 1 ♂ 1 ♀ (QMB S49769); Kemp Airstrip (12°35'S, 131°20'E), rainforest, July 24–25, 1979 (G. Monteith, D. Cook), 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 1 juvenile (QMB S49768); same locality, Nov. 15–16, 1979 (R. Raven), 2 ♂ 2 ♀ 2 juveniles (QMB S49755); Litchfield National Park, Wangi Falls (13°09'S, 130°38'E), May 26, 1992 (M. S. Harvey, J. M. Waldock), 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 5 juveniles (WAM 99/1501–8).

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

p. 103

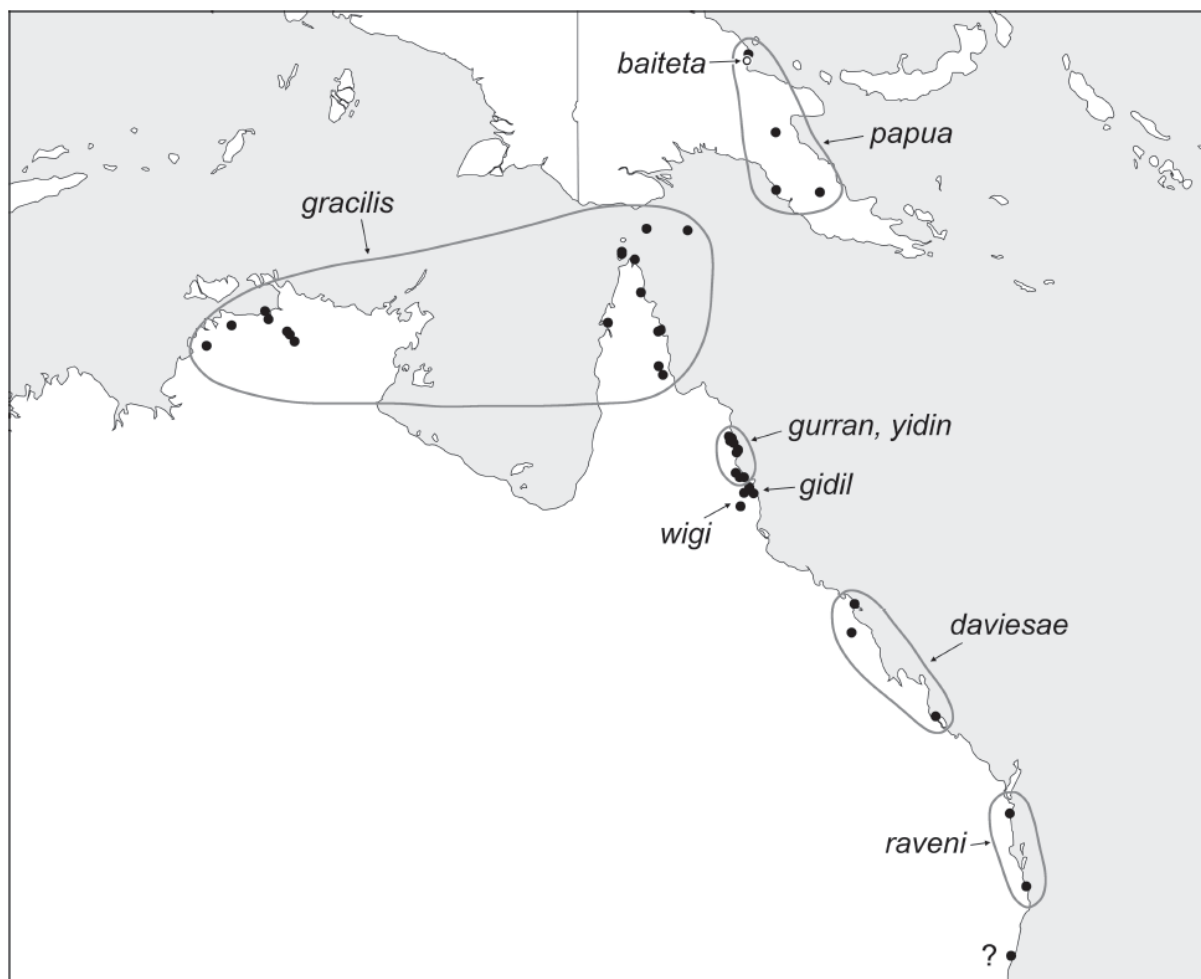


FIG. 418. Known distribution of *Micromerys*. Australian records are mostly from Huber (2001). The question mark denotes a *Mm. yidini* male that may be mislabeled (see Huber 2001).