

***Micropholcus jacominae* Deeleman-Reinhold & van Harten, 2001**

Deeleman-Reinhold, C. L., van Harten, A. 2001. Description of some interesting, new or little known Pholcidae (Araneae) from Yemen. Pp. 193-207 in: Ishwar Prakash (ed.) Ecology of Desert Environments. Scientific Publishers, India, Jodhpur.

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Micropholcus Deeleman-Reinhold and Prinsen

Micropholcus Deeleman-Reinhold and Prinsen, 1987: 73; type species *M. fauroti* (Simon, 1887), males, females, Obock, Djibouti.

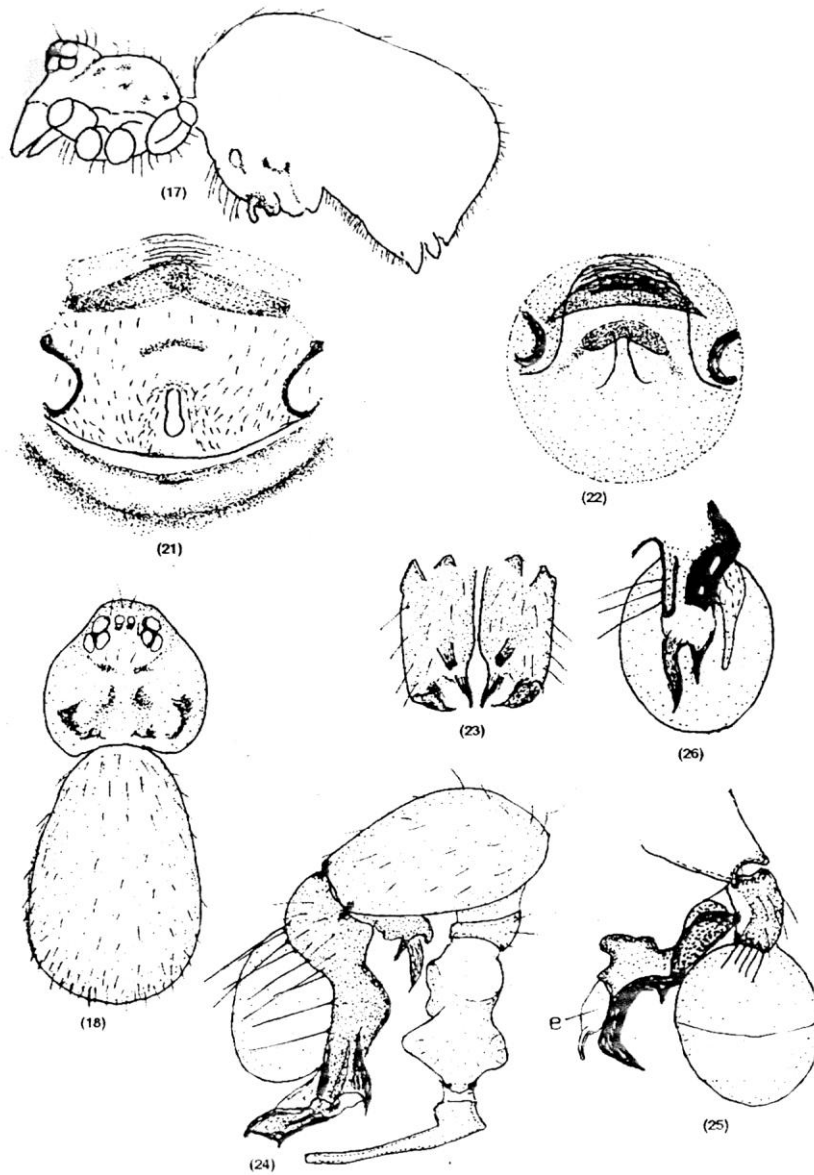
Diagnosis. Small 8-eyed pholcid spiders, related to the genus *Pholcus*. *Micropholcus* species exhibit a characteristic profile: the head is at the same level as the thorax, the abdomen is short-elongate. The male palpal structure resembles that of *Pholcus* but can be recognised by the two-segmented paracymbium, the distal segment articulating with the basal segment.

Epigyne externally with knob, vulva with a sclerotized arch on either side of the valve.

Micropholcus jacominae n.sp.

(fig. 17-18, 21-26, for comparison *M. fauroti* fig.19-21)

Type locality. Yemen, Khamis Bani Sa'd, Al Mahwit province, 15°11'N, 43°25'E, 550 m.



Figures 17-26. Figs. 17-18. *Micropholcus jacominae* n.sp. 17- Female, side view; 18- dorsal view. Figs. 21-26. *Micropholcus jacominae* n.sp. 21- Female, epigyne; 22- vulva, dorsal view. 23- Male, chelicerae; 24- left palp, retrolateral view; 25- bulb and appendages, prolateral view; 26- paracymbium and bulb, distal view. e = embolus.

Type material. Holotype male from the type locality, 11.x.1999; paratypes: 1 male, 1 female, same data; 1 female, 8.xii.98; 2 females, 19.v.99; 1 male, 9.vi.99; 1 male, 11.x.99; 2 males, 1 female, 28.iii.2000.

Diagnosis. Distinct from *M. fauroti* by the pattern on the carapace (compare fig.18 and 19) and the armament of the male chelicerae. Males are characterised by the longer trochanteral spur on the palp, the ventral crest on the femur and the shorter broader distal segment of the paracymbium; females have a pair of subcutaneous semicircular sclerites laterally on the epigyne.

Description. MALE, holotype. Total length 2.10 mm (largest specimen 2.50 mm, smallest 2.10 mm). Carapace length 0.75 mm, width 0.80 mm, width eye group 0.40 mm, length eye group 0.11 mm; abdomen length 1.50 mm, width 0.95 mm, height at rear end 1.05 mm. Leg length: leg I 24.15 mm (5.90-6.25-10.50-1.50), leg II 14.80 mm (4.05-3.95-6.15-0.65), leg III 9.90 mm (2.90-2.55-3.60-0.85), leg IV 13.10 mm (4.10-3.40-5.05-0.55). Palp: trochanter with spur 0.60 mm, femur 0.40 mm, patella 0.25 mm, tibia 0.60 mm, cymbium 0.20 mm, bulb 0.40 mm, paracymbium basal segment 0.40 mm, distal segment 0.20 mm. Pale yellow spider with uniform legs, carapace with pattern of grey spots as in fig.18; the pattern may be more or less extended and is quite different from that in *M. fauroti*, where it consists of ochre coloured areas (fig. 19). Four anterior eyes in a straight line, as in *M. fauroti*. Chelicerae with conical projection at the proximo-lateral angle and a low boss anteriorly. Medially directed apophyses in the distal part with toothed distal edge. Male palp fig. 24-26, distalmost apophysis of paracymbium much stronger than in *M. fauroti*.

FEMALE (fig. 17,18). Total length 2.65 mm (largest specimen 2.70 mm, smallest 2.20 mm). Carapace length 0.90 mm, width 0.90 mm, width eye group 0.40 mm, length eye group 0.15 mm; abdomen length 1.75 mm, width 1.25 mm, height at rear end 1.00 mm. Leg length: leg I 19.65 mm (4.75-4.90-9.00-1.00), leg II 9.65 mm (3.20-2.75-2.80-0.90), leg III 7.65 mm (2.30-1.95-2.80-0.60), leg IV 10.90 mm (3.40-2.75-4.20-0.55). Palp 0.20-0.05-0.12-0.15 mm. Epigyne (fig. 21,22) 0.65 mm wide. A pair of semicircular sclerites on either side are the most conspicuous trait; the valve is much wider than in *M. fauroti*.

Distribution. Only known from the type locality.

Habitat. Found in irrigated banana plantation, shaken from dry plant debris. Syntopic with *Tidarren* sp., *Phoroncidia* sp., Mysmenidae sp. and Oonopidae sp.

Etymology. In honour of the Dutch arachnologist Jacomijn Prinsen, co-author of the genus *Micropholcus*.