Status of the hunting spider genera *Trachelas* and *Meriola* (Araneae: Corinnidae) in Kansas

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INTRODUCTION

For many years, the hunting spider genera *Trachelas* L. Koch1866 and *Meriola* Banks 1895 (Araneae: Corinnidae) were each represented in Kansas by one species. Recent collecting in the southeastern part of the state has revealed the presence of a second species of *Trachelas*.

Both *Trachelas* and *Meriola* were formerly placed in the family Clubionidae, but currently reside in the family Corinnidae. At one time, the genus *Meriola* was synonymized with *Trachelas*, but it has since been resurrected (Ubick et al. 2005). Members of both genera are strikingly colored and lack leg spines. The bright red carapace contrasts strongly against the pale white abdomen (Fig. 1). Detailed examination of the male and female genitalia is required for species determination.

The first report of *Trachelas* from Kansas is that of Scheffer (1905) who collected a female *Trachelas tranquillus* (Hentz 1847) (reported as *T. tranquilla*) under stones in Lawrence, Douglas County on October 8th. Fitch (1963) documented the presence of *Meriola* in Kansas by finding *Meriola decepta* Banks 1895 on the Fitch Natural History Reservation in Douglas County. The present note adds *Trachelas similis* F. O. P.-Cambridge 1899 to the state fauna.

**Araneae: Corinnidae: Trachelas similis**

An adult female was collected in an insect canopy trap 2 miles west of Pittsburg in Crawford County, Kansas between June 13 and 27, 2005 by Glen Salsbury (lat. 37° 25.162 N, long. 94° 45.472 W). *T. similis* (total length = 5.5-7.0 mm) occurs throughout the southeastern United States, from Virginia westward to Tennessee and Arkansas, southward to Florida, Texas, and Costa Rica. The current record documents its presence in Kansas and extends the known range of the species approximately 427 km northnorthwest of the nearest reported locality in southern Arkansas (Platnick and Shadab 1974a).

![Figure 1. Photograph of Trachelas similis female. Photographed by the author in Gainesville, Florida.](image-url)