Description of Histopona kurkai sp. n. with new data for the genus from the Balkan Peninsula (Arachnida, Araneae: Agelenidae)

Authors: Deltshev, Christo, and Indzhov, Simeon

Source: Arachnologische Mitteilungen: Arachnology Letters, 56(1) : 36-39

Published By: Arachnologische Gesellschaft e.V.

URL: https://doi.org/10.30963/aramit5606
Description of *Histopona kurzai* sp. n. with new data for the genus from the Balkan Peninsula (Arachnida, Araneae: Agelenidae)

Christo Deltshev & Simeon Indzhov

Abstract. *Histopona kurzai* sp. nov. (♂♀) is described and illustrated from Albania (Shebenik, Jablanić national park) and RN Macedonia (Shar Mountains), where it was collected in beech forest habitats. The new species has somatic characters that correspond well to those of the genus *Histopona* (torpida group). Also, *Histopona vignai* Brignoli, 1980 is newly established for the spider fauna of Albania (Hotova national park) and RN Macedonia (Shar Mountains).

Keywords: Albania, faunistics, *Histopona*, Macedonia, taxonomy

Currently, the genus *Histopona* Thorell, 1869 includes 21 valid species (van Helsdingen 2018, WSC 2018). Most of them inhabit south-eastern Europe and 13 species are presently known only from the Balkan Peninsula, primarily in caves (Deeleman-Reinhold 1983, Deltshev 1978, Deltshev & Petrov 2008, Gasparo 2005). In the present paper, *Histopona kurzai* sp. nov. is described and illustrated from the Shebenik-Jablanić national park of Albania and the Shar Mountains of RN Macedonia, where it was collected in beech forest habitats. The new species has somatic characters that correspond well to those of the genus *Histopona*. The descriptions are based on detailed examination of morphological characters of the genital structures which were found to be discrete, allowing a clear separation of the species. Also, *Histopona vignai* Brignoli, 1980 is newly established for the spider fauna of Albania (Hotova national park) and RN Macedonia (Shar Mountains).

Material and methods

Specimens from Albania were collected by hand and these from RN Macedonia using pitfall traps. Coloration is described from 80% alcohol preserved specimens. Male palps were examined and illustrated after they were dissected from the spiders’ bodies. Photos were taken with a Lumix digital camera mounted on a Wild M5A stereomicroscope. Measurements of the legs were taken from the dorsal side. Total length of the body includes the chelicerae. All measurements used in the description are in millimeters.

Abbreviations used in the text and figure legends include:

- **C** = conductor;
- **CO** = copulatory opening;
- **E** = embolus;
- **RBP** = retrolateral basal process;
- **RTA** = retrolateral tibial apophysis;
- **S** = spermatheca.

The material is deposited in the collection of National Museum – Natural History Museum, Praha (NMP) (holotype, paratypes, Albania), National Museum of Natural History, Sofia (NMNHS) (male and female paratypes, Albania and all three paratypes from RN Macedonia), Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ZMB) (male and female paratypes, Albania) and Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt am Main (SMF) (male and female paratypes, Albania), Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (NMW) (male and female paratypes, Albania).

*Agelenidae C. L. Koch, 1837*

*Histopona* Thorell, 1869

*Histopona kurzai* sp. n. (Figs 1–7, 11–17)

**Type material.** Holotype ♂, ALBANIA, Shebenik – Jablanić NP, beech forest (N 41.3166, E 20.4191, 1300 m a.s.l.), 1.07.2017, leg. A. Kůrka (NMP: P6A-6896). Paratypes: 41 ♂, 13 ♀, (NMP: P6A-6897), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (NMNHS), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (NMW), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (SMF), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMB), same data as holotype; 3 ♂, RN MACEDONIA, Shar Mt., Jelak hut, 1850 m, 10.–19.07.1995 (pitfall traps) (NMNHS); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Shar Mt., Studena place, 1730 m, 10.–19.07.1995 (pitfall traps) (NMNHS), leg. G. Blagoev.

**Etymology.** The species is dedicated to the Czech arachnologist Antonín Kůrka, collector of type material from Albania.

**Diagnosis.** The new species has somatic characters (notched trochanters, patellae with dorsal spines only) that correspond well to those of the genus *Histopona*, and belongs to *torpida* species group according to Deeleman-Reinhold (1983) and Bolzern et al. (2013). Among species of this group, it bears close resemblance to *H. vignai* Brignoli, 1980, but the male of *Histopona kurzai* sp. n. can be easily separated by the thinner conductor, narrowing apically and almost merging with the embolus (Figs 6, 14), while in *H. vignai*, it is rounded and protruding above the embolus (Fig. 9). A significant difference is the presence of a thumb-like process (RBP) retrolaterally-basally on the palpal tibia in *H. kurzai* sp. n. (Figs 6–7, 14–15) which is absent in *Histopona vignai* (Figs 9–10). Also, the distal RTA in both species are different: in *Histopona kurzai* sp. n., the two sclerites of the distal RTA are rectangular and the base of the RTA does not protrude ventrally (Figs 6–7, 14–15), while in *Histopona vignai*, the inner sclerite has...
a convex margin, being distinctly smaller than the outer, and
the base of the whole distal RTA-complex protrudes sig-
ificantly ventrally (Figs 9–10). The female epigyne also re-
sembles that of *H. vignai* (based on Brignoli’s drawings) but
has a greater distance between the copulatory duct coils (Figs
11–12, 16–17).

**Description.** Measurements of male (n = 2, holotype male
and paratype male from Albania): total length, 5.63–6.38;
carapace: length, 2.65–2.93, width, 1.80–2.10; clypeus: width,
0.15–0.23; chelicerae: length, 1.13–1.50, width, 0.38–0.60;
stemum: length, 1.35–1.50, width, 1.20–1.35; opisthosoma,
length, 3.00–4.18.

Measurements of female (n = 2, paratypes from Albania):
total length, 6.75–9.75; carapace: length, 2.40–2.78, width,
1.73–1.88; clypeus: width, 0.15–0.23; chelicerae: length,
1.13–1.28, width, 0.38–0.60; stemum: length, 1.35–1.65,
width, 0.90–1.13; opisthosoma, length, 3.75–4.88.

Eyes: Both eye rows straight in dorsal view. Anterior lateral
eyes larger than anterior median eyes. Posterior eyes equal in
size.

Chelicerae: with three teeth on promargin and four teeth on
retromargin.

Legs: All trochanters notched, patellae with dorsal spines
only, measurements as in Tabs. 1 and 2. Chaetotaxy see Tab. 3.

Coloration (Figs 1–4): Carapace brown with yellow median
band. Sternum brown, without pattern. Abdomen dark-grey,
dorsally with lighter stripes, venter grey. Legs: yellow to yel-
low-brown.
Malepalps(holotype)(Figs5–7,13–15).Tibiawithtworetro-lateralapophyses.RTA,consistingoftwotwotworetical sclerites, the outer partially covering the inner, situated distally-retrolaterally on the tibia. Retrolaterally-basally, a further thumb-shaped projection (RBP) is present. Bulbus: Embolus very long and connected to the radix by a peculiar knot. Con-ductor, narrowing apically and almost merging with embolus. Femalegenitalia(aparatype)(Figs11–12,16–17). The

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legs</th>
<th>Femur</th>
<th>Patella</th>
<th>Tibia</th>
<th>Metatarsus</th>
<th>Tarsus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>2.63–3.00</td>
<td>0.90–0.98</td>
<td>2.56–2.85</td>
<td>2.26–2.70</td>
<td>1.73–1.95</td>
<td>10.08–11.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>2.40–2.63</td>
<td>0.83–0.90</td>
<td>2.10–2.55</td>
<td>2.10–2.55</td>
<td>1.50–1.65</td>
<td>8.93–10.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>2.26–2.63</td>
<td>0.75–0.83</td>
<td>2.03–2.33</td>
<td>2.26–2.63</td>
<td>1.50–1.58</td>
<td>8.80–10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>2.93–3.38</td>
<td>0.90–0.98</td>
<td>2.85–3.38</td>
<td>3.60–4.13</td>
<td>1.73–1.88</td>
<td>12.01–13.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legs</th>
<th>Femur</th>
<th>Patella</th>
<th>Tibia</th>
<th>Metatarsus</th>
<th>Tarsus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>2.10–2.40</td>
<td>0.83–0.98</td>
<td>1.95–2.40</td>
<td>1.88–2.18</td>
<td>1.35–1.65</td>
<td>8.26–9.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>1.88–2.25</td>
<td>0.75–0.90</td>
<td>1.73–2.18</td>
<td>1.73–2.18</td>
<td>1.50–1.73</td>
<td>8.93–9.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>1.88–2.25</td>
<td>0.68–0.83</td>
<td>1.65–2.03</td>
<td>1.88–2.25</td>
<td>1.05–1.36</td>
<td>7.29–8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>2.10–2.50</td>
<td>0.83–0.98</td>
<td>2.20–2.60</td>
<td>1.98–2.38</td>
<td>1.35–1.88</td>
<td>9.46–10.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Histopona on the Balkan Peninsula

epigyne has the heart-shaped central sclerite typical for the torpida group, with a more strongly sclerotized posterior margin. The copulatory openings are situated just in front of it, well separated. Epigynal plate, nearly hemicircular. Copulatory ducts long, with three large coils, one transparent and two sclerotized. Sclerotized 'heads' situated anteriorly at the transparent entrance coil. Spermathecae small, nearly globular, set apart from each other.

**Distribution.** Albania, RN Macedonia.

**Histopona vignai Brignoli, 1980** (Figs 8–10)


**Distribution.** Albania, Greece, RN Macedonia.

**Acknowledgements.** We are much obliged to Antonín Kürka and Petr Dolejš (National Museum – Natural History Museum, Praha) who provided us with spider material from Albania, to Gergin Blagoev (University of Guelp) for the collection of RN Macedonian material and to Angelo Bolzern (Naturhistorisches Museum Basel) and Fulvio Gasparo (Trieste, Italy) for helpful remarks on the manuscript.

**References.**


Deeleman-Reinhold CL 1983 The genus *Histopona* Thorell (Araneae, Agelenidae) with description of two new cave-dwelling species. – Mémoires de Biospéologie 10: 325-337


Deltshev C & Petrov B 2008 The spiders (Araneae) in the caves of the western Rhodope Mountains (Bulgaria). – Acta Zoologica Bulgarica 60: 41-50

