

A new species of *Asemonea* from equatorial Africa
(Araneae: Salticidae: Lyssomaninae)*

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Abstract: Description of *Asemonea virgea* sp. n., a new lyssomanine salticid from Congo is given. With seven original drawings.

Key words: Araneae, Salticidae, *Asemonea*, new species, Afrotropical region

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Asemonea*, established by O. P.-Cambridge (1869), is found both in the Afrotropical and Oriental Region. Lately one species was also recorded in Australia (Szűts 2000). *Asemonea* was revised by Wanless (1980). Subsequently Wesolowska (2001) described three new species and the genus comprises at the moment sixteen species. The biology of *Asemonea* species is poorly studied, but it is known that they live among leaves of trees and bushes in tropical zones and use a sheet web to capture prey (Wanless 1980, Hallas & Jackson 1986). The majority of species are known only from the type locality, so their distribution is almost unexplored.

The paper presents description of a new species from Congo.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All the measurements are given in millimetres. The type specimen is deposited in the Arachnoidea Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

Abbreviations: d = dorsal, pl = prolateral, rl = retrolateral, v = ventral.

Drawings were prepared by the first author.

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TAXONOMICAL SURVEY

***Asemonea virgea* sp. n.**

(Figs 1–7)

Diagnosis – The species is closely related to *A. cristata* Thorell, 1895, but can be separated by the shape of the femoral apophysis; short in *A. virgea*, whereas *A. cristata* has a larger, two-branched apophysis (cf. Figs 3, 4 herein with Fig. 19C in Wanless 1980). Both species have two rod-like spines on the palpal tibia dorsally, but *A. virgea* possesses an additional spine on patella (cf. Figs 3, 5, 7 herein with Figs 19B, C in Wanless 1980).

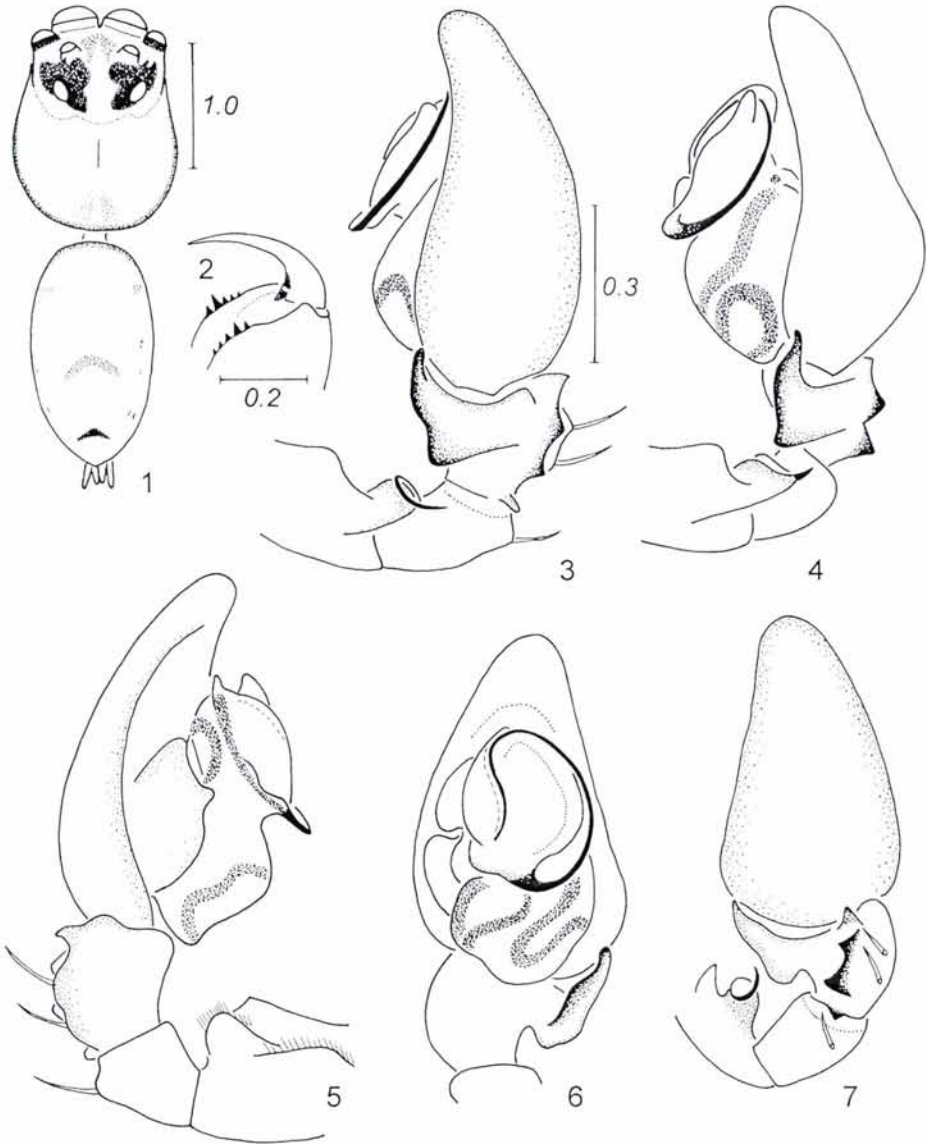
Etymology – The specific name is derived from the Latin word “virga” meaning “rod” and refers to the presence of distinctive spines on the palpal tibia and patella.

Description – Holotype male: General appearance as in Fig. 1. Carapace moderately high, pear-shaped, widest at femora III. Coloration of carapace dark yellow, its edge bordered by thin brown line. Eye field yellowish, slightly lighter than thoracic part of carapace. Eyes arranged in four rows, situated on distinct tubercles. Eyes of III row relatively large (almost equal in size to posterior ones), close to each other, situated centrally in ocular area. All eyes, except anterior median, surrounded by black area. Few light bristles near anterior eyes. Fovea distinct. Clypeus whitish. Chelicerae orange, with five small teeth on each edge (Fig. 2). Sternum wide, heart-shaped. Abdomen oval, narrower than carapace. Its coloration pale yellow with brownish band extending along anterior edge and small dark dots laterally. Two arrow-shaped blackish patches on dorsum; first of them placed centrally on abdomen, second at its posterior edge. Venter whitish. Spinnerets light, long. Legs thin and very long, generally whitish yellow. First pair with narrow dark lines on lateral surfaces of femora and dots at distal ends of metatarsi. Small dark spots on retrolateral surfaces of patellae and tibiae IV, at their distal ends. Leg hairs light; spines numerous, long and slender, very pale. Spination of legs I: femur d 1–1–1, pr 0–0–2; tibia d 0–1, pr and rl 1, v 2–2–2–2; metatarsus pl and rl 1–1–1, v 2–2–2.

Measurements – Carapace length 1.6, width 1.2, height 0.7. Abdomen length 1.8, width 1.0. Eye field length 0.6, anterior width 1.1, posterior width 0.8.

Pedipalps light brown. Palpal femur with large furrow on ventral surface, prolaretal edge of this furrow fringed by dense bristles (Fig. 5). Terminal femoral apophysis short with pointed appendix (Figs 3, 4). Retrolateral tibial apophysis large, anvil-shaped (Figs 3, 4). Triangular outgrowths on dorsal surface of palpal

tibia (Figs 3, 7). Three strong rod-like spines on palpal dorsum, two of them on tibia, third on patella (Figs 3, 5, 7). Embolus long and thin, its end placed in tegular groove (Fig. 6).



Figs 1–7. The male holotype of *Asemonea virgea* sp. n. – 1: general appearance, dorsal view; 2: cheliceral dentition; 3, 4: palpal organ, retrolateral views; 5: palpal organ, prolateral view; 6: palpal organ, ventral view; 7: palpal organ, dorsal view

Female: unknown.

Natural history/Habitat – unknown.

Distribution – Only known from the type locality.

Remark – *A. virgea* resembles more *A. cristata* Thorell, 1895, a species known only from Burma, than any African *Asemonea* species.

Material examined – Type material: Holotype male from Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazzaville, Orstom Park, Hung. Soil Zool. Exp. No. 11, 19.X.1963, leg. J. Balogh & A. Zicsi, beaten from trees and shrubs.

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