

A New Species of the Genus *Wendilgarda* from China (Araneae: Theridiosomatidae)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the family Theridiosomatidae, *Wendilgarda coddingtoni* sp. nov., collected from the Maolan National Nature Reserve, Libo, Guizhou, China, is described and illustrated.

Key words: Theridiosomatidae, *Wendilgarda*, New species, Guizhou, China.

INTRODUCTION

The spiders of the family Theridiosomatidae are all very small (< 3 mm), with an abdomen usually higher than long or wide. They can easily be distinguished from all other spiders by the presence of pits on the prolateral margins of the sternum in both sexes. Theridiosomatids live almost exclusively in wet or humid, shaded forest habitats, constructing webs of various shapes.

The Theridiosomatidae is a small family comprising 10 genera in four subfamilies: Platoninae Coddington, Epeirotypinae Archer, Ogulninae Coddington, and Theridiosomatinae Simon (Coddington, 1986; Platnick, 1997), which are distributed chiefly in the cosmotropics. To the present, only two species, *Wendilgarda assamensis* Fage, 1924 (incertae sedis, Brignoli, 1981; Coddington, 1986) and *W. sinensis* Zhu et Wang, 1992 are recorded from China, which belong to the subfamily Theridiosomatinae (Song *et al.*, 1999).

During expeditions to the Maolan Karst Forest, a new species of the genus *Wendilgarda*

was collected. It is included in this genus because the structures of its genitalia conform to the genus diagnosis: an embolic apophysis with a mesal bristle protruding beneath the conductor and a complex looping of the copulatory ducts at the junction with the spermathecae (Coddington, 1986). But it is necessary to point out that some characters of the new species, such as PME separation of less than 1 diameter, a cymbium with an extra process in addition to the paracymbium and cymbial lamella, and the scape not protruding from beneath the posterior epigynal margin, are not related with other species of this genus. Rather than creating a new genus for it, it seems sensible to let the problem lie until more specimens are available.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Type specimens are deposited in the College of Life Sciences, Hebei Univ., Baoding, China. All measurements are given in millimeters (mm), except for leg formulae. The abbreviations used in this paper are as follows: ALE, anterior lateral

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eye(s); AME, anterior median eye(s); PLE, posterior lateral eye(s); PME, posterior median eye(s); MOA, median ocular area. Leg measurements are shown as: total length (femur, patella+tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). The measurements described in this study are based on the female holotype and 1 male paratype.

Wendilgarda coddingtoni sp. nov.

Figs. 1-7

Types: holotype: ♀, Liangxi Cave, Dongtang Village (25.7°N, 108.0°E), Libo County, Guizhou Prov., China, 4 Nov. 1999, H. M. Chen leg.; paratypes: 15 ♀♀, 1 ♂, same data as for holotype (GZ-CHM-991103); 2 ♀♀, same locality and collector as for holotype, 3 Nov. 1999 (GZ-CHM-991104).

Etymology: The specific name is a patronym in honor of Dr. J. A. Coddington.

Diagnosis: This species is similar to

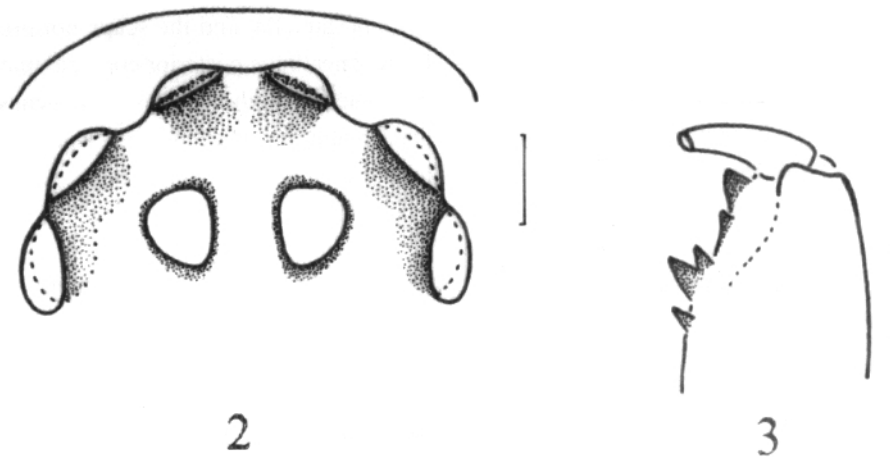
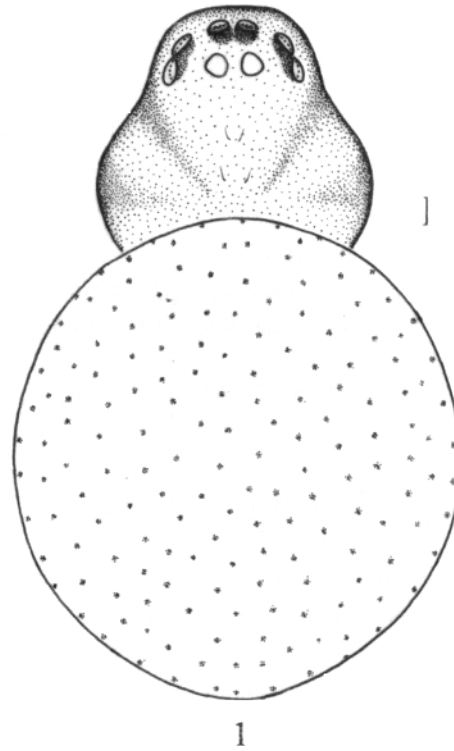


Fig. 1-3 Female: 1, body, dorsal view; 2, eyes and clypeus; 3, left chelicera, ventral view. (Scale bars = 0.1 mm)

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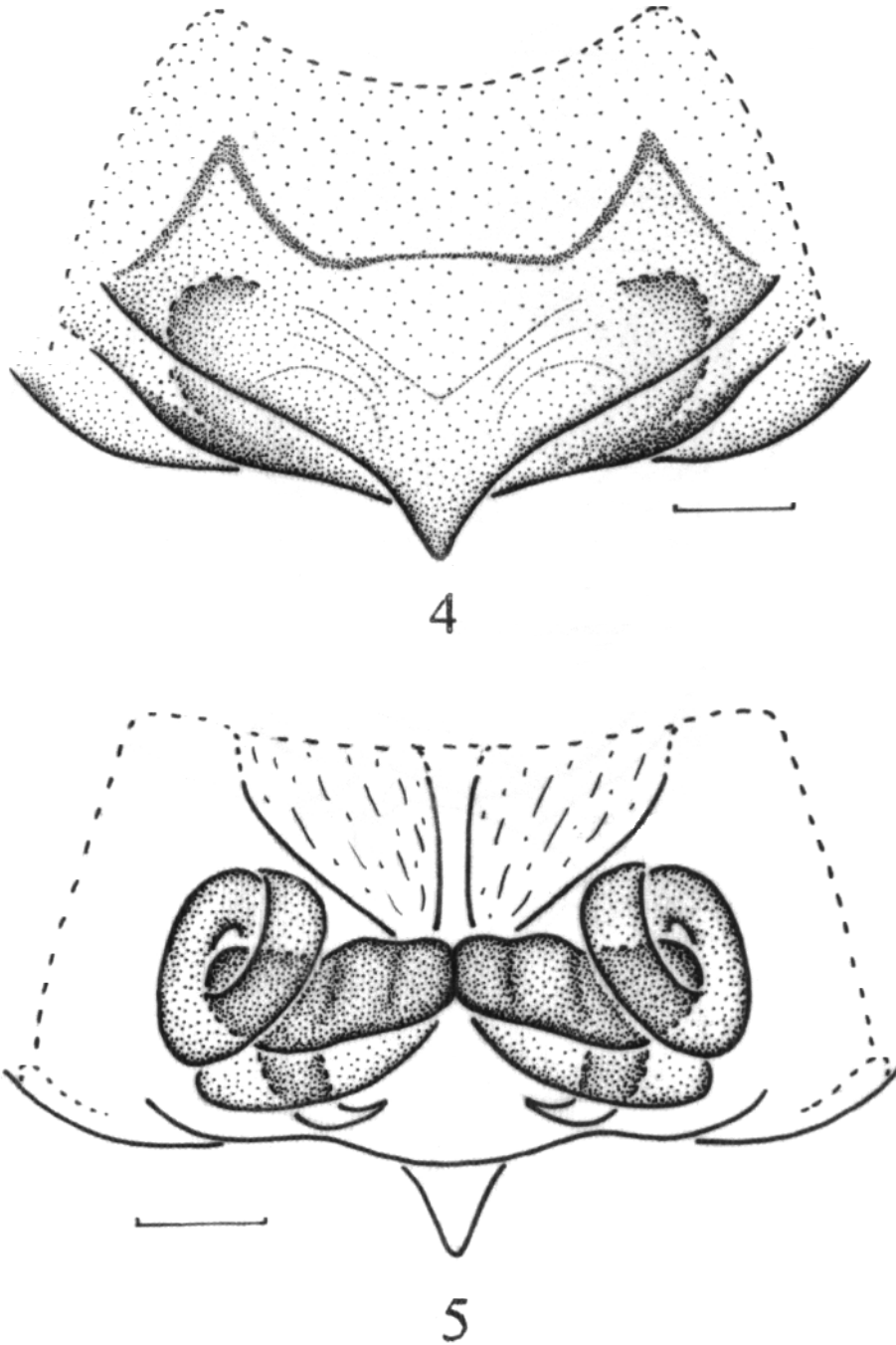


Fig. 4-5 Female: 4, epigynum, dorsal view; 5, epigynum, vulva. (Scale bars = 0.1 mm)

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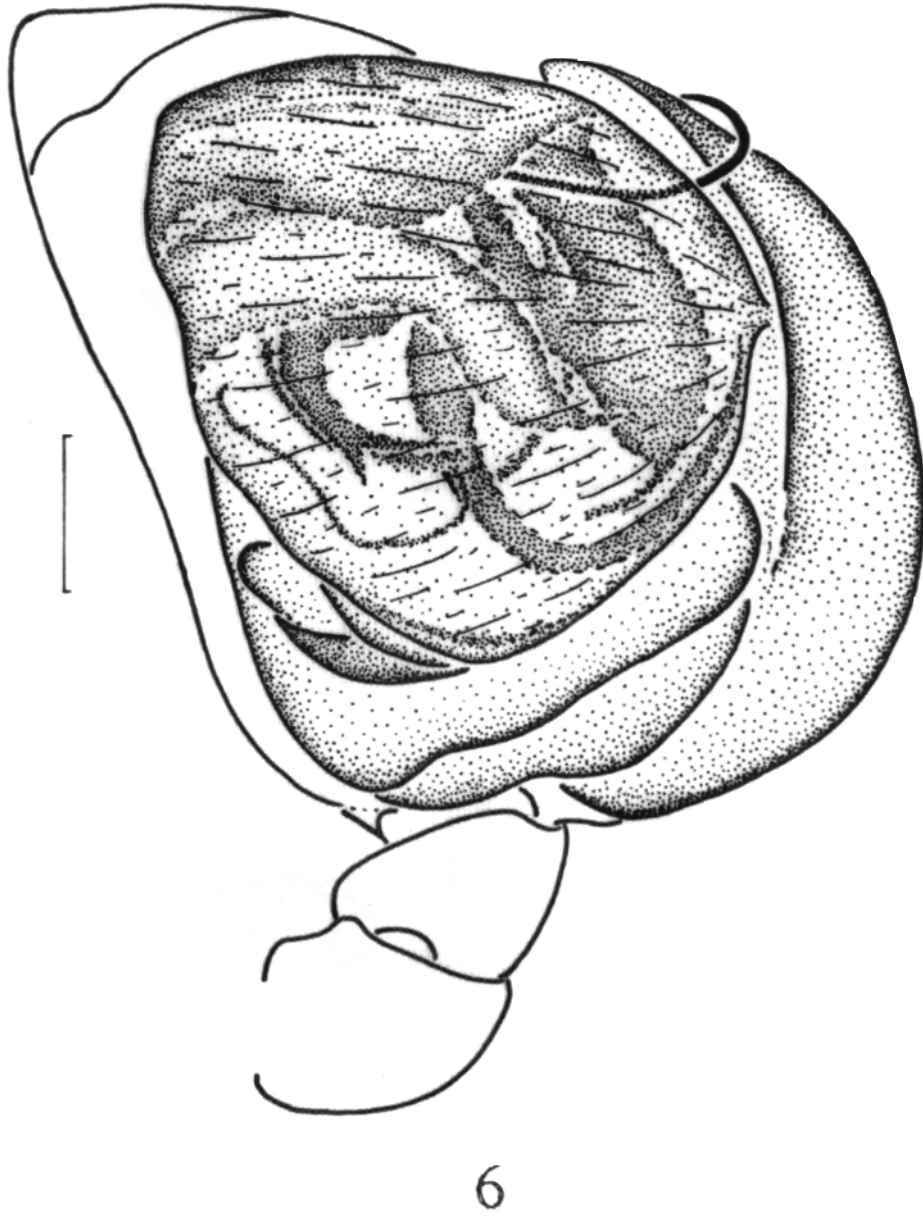


Fig. 6 Male: 6, left palp, ventral view. (Scale bars = 0.1 mm)

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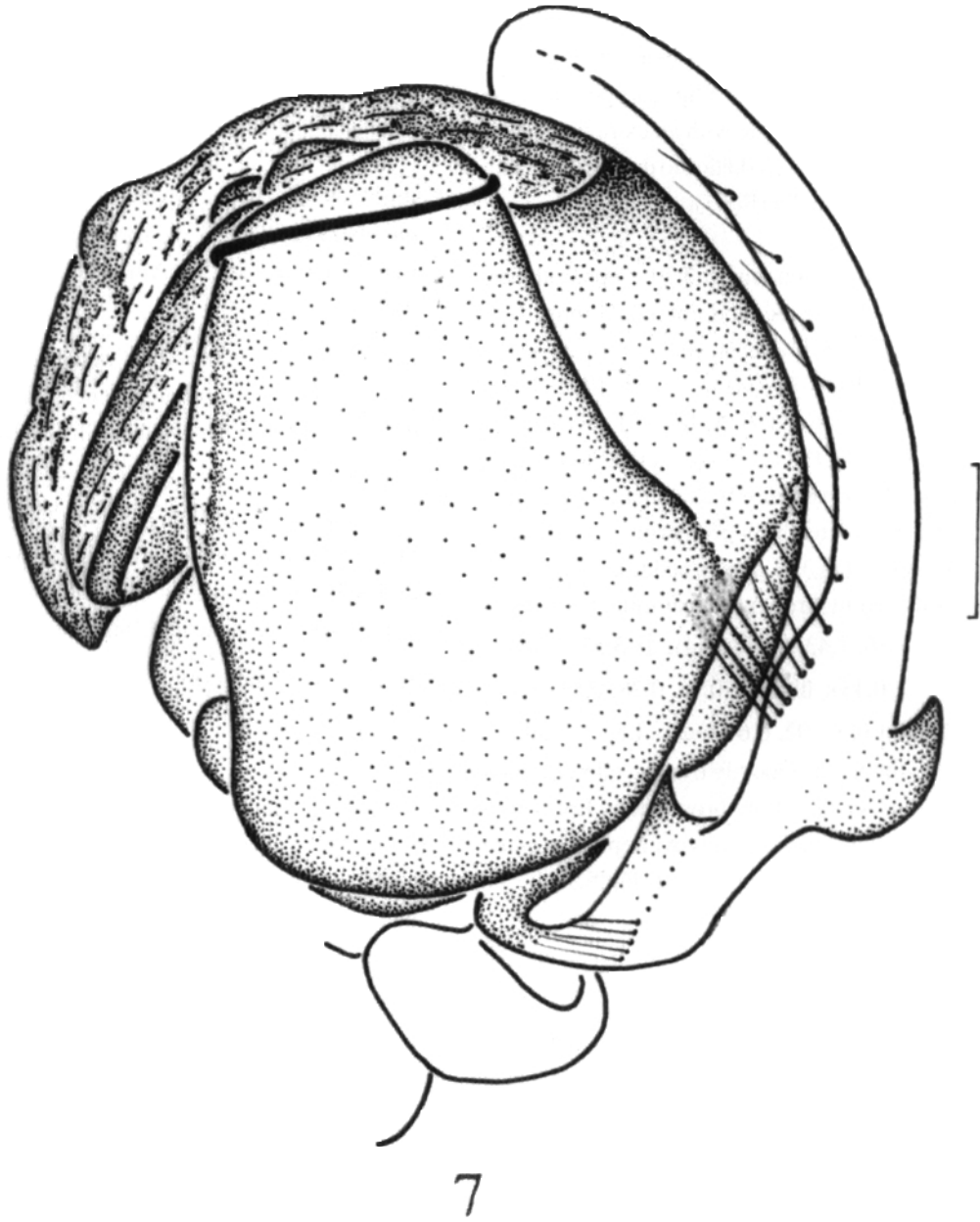


Fig. 7 Male: 7, left palp, retrolateral view. (Scale bars = 0.1 mm)

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Wendilgarda sinensis Zhu et Wang, 1992, but can be easily distinguished from the latter by the female with scape protruding from over the epigynal plate (Fig. 4), and by the elliptical spermathecae (Fig.5); and by the male with an extra process on the palpal cymbium in addition to the paracymbium and cymbial lamella (Fig.7).

Female: Total length 2.70. Cephalothorax 1.19 long, 1.26 wide; abdomen 2.04 long, 1.53 wide, 2.07 high. Carapace yellow brown. AME-AME<AME-ALE (0.03 : 0.05), PME-PME<PME-PLA (0.06 : 0.09). AME<ALE=PME=PLA (0.09 : 0.10 : 0.10 : 0.10). MOA 0.23 long, front width 0.21, back width 0.23. Chelicerae yellow brown, with 5 teeth on promargin and none on retromargin (Fig.3). Labium, endites, sternum and legs all yellow brown. Measurements of legs: c4.10 (1.36, 1.43, 0.87, 0.44); II 3.57 (1.16, 1.21, 0.77, 0.43); III 2.37 (0.75, 0.78, 0.53, 0.31); IV 2.97 (1.05, 1.02, 0.61, 0.29). Leg formula 1-2-4-3. Abdomen smoothly ovoid, yellowish with numerous small yellow-brown dots. Epigynum with scape protruding from over epigynal plate (Fig.4). Spermathecae elliptical (Fig.5).

Male: Total length 1.71. Cephalothorax 0.73 long, 0.78 wide; abdomen 1.21 long, 1.19 wide, 1.36 high. Other characters as in female. Measurements of legs: I 3.37 (1.11, 1.21, 0.71, 0.34); II 2.78 (0.92, 0.99, 0.61, 0.26); III 1.92 (0.60, 0.60, 0.46, 0.26); IV 2.31 (0.80, 0.80, 0.44, 0.27). Leg formula 1-2-4-3. Palp with complex embolic division, a mesal bristle protruding beneath the conductor, and cymbium with an extra process in addition to the paracymbium and cymbial lamella (Figs. 6-7).

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中國納爾蛛屬蜘蛛一新種 (蜘蛛目：球體蛛科)

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摘 要

本文報導了採自貴州茂蘭縣洞塘鄉的球體蛛科蜘蛛一新種：科氏納爾蛛 *Wendilgarda coddingtoni* sp. nov.。模式標本均保存在河北大學生命科學學院。

關鍵詞：球體蛛科、納爾蛛屬、新種、貴州、中國