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On the widespread species *Zelotes schmitzi* (Araneae: Gnaphosidae)

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Summary

Zelotes schmitzi (Kulczyński), originally described on the basis of a single female from Madeira, is newly recorded from Spain, the Canary Islands, and California; the male is described for the first time.

Introduction

When the American spiders of the genus *Zelotes* were revised by Platnick & Shadab (1983), a few species were found that did not seem to have any close relatives in the New World and were judged instead to be introductions from the Mediterranean region. Among these was *Zelotes nilicola* (O.P.-Cambridge), a species found from the Canary Islands to Egypt and also in California and Arizona. At the time, a single female was also found of a species that seemed closely related to *Z. nilicola*. A search for specimens conspecific with this female, also from California, turned up only a single female (from Spain). A search of the literature turned up only one likely candidate for an existing name for this species: *Zelotes schmitzi* (Kulczyński), originally described on the basis of a single female from Madeira.

Unfortunately, none of the modern workers who have dealt with the taxa that Kulczyński (1899) described from Madeira seem ever to have succeeded in locating the type material of any of those taxa, and we had no greater luck in attempting to find the holotype of *Z. schmitzi*. Over the intervening years, we have searched new collections for additional material of this species from Madeira or nearby islands, to no avail. In a recent

collection from the Canary Islands made by M. Askins, however, we finally found a female that matches the two previously known specimens, accords well with Kulczyński's description of *Z. schmitzi*, and was taken with a male that seems closely related to that of *Z. nilicola*. We therefore present here the first reconsideration of *Z. schmitzi* since its original description nearly a century ago.

We thank M. Askins for making these specimens available for study, C. Griswold of the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) for lending material, and M. U. Shadab of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) for help with illustrations. The format of the description follows that of Platnick & Shadab (1983). All measurements are in mm.

Zelotes schmitzi (Kulczyński) (Figs. 1–4)

Prosthesima schmitzii Kulczyński, 1899: 359, pl. 6, fig. 32 (female holotype from Madeira, no specific locality, depository unknown).

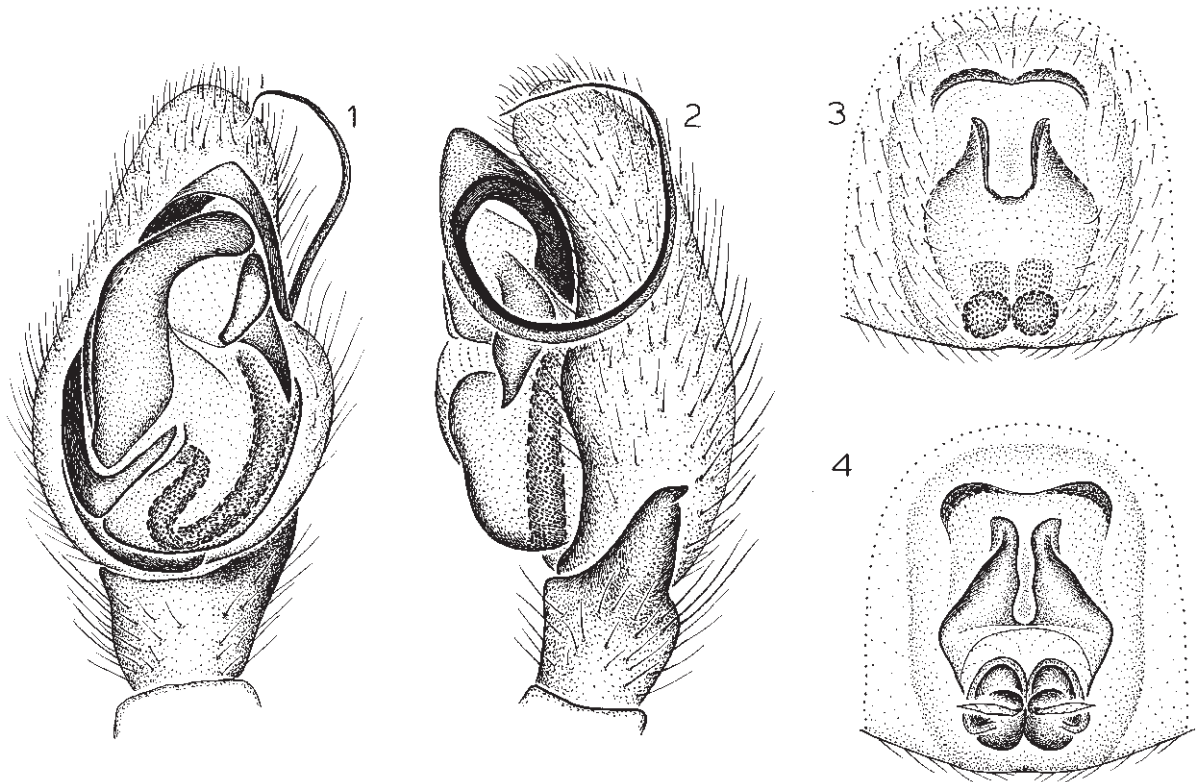
Zelotes schmitzi: Reimoser, 1919: 204. Bonnet, 1959: 4949.

Zelotes schmitzii: Roewer, 1955: 458.

Diagnosis: The only species likely to be confused with this taxon is *Z. nilicola*, which has a similarly coiled embolar tip and a similarly shaped epigynum (see Platnick & Shadab, 1983: figs. 263–268). Males of *Z. schmitzi* can be distinguished by the basally thicker embolus (Fig. 1) and distally wider retrolateral tibial apophysis (Fig. 2), females by the more rectangular epigynal septum (Fig. 3) and distally recurved anterior epigynal ducts (Fig. 4).

Male: Total length 2.57. Carapace 1.10 long, 0.76 wide. Femur II 0.59 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.02, ALE 0.04, PME 0.04, PLE 0.04; AME-AME 0.03, AME-ALE 0.01, PME-PME 0.02, PME-PLE 0.02, ALE-PLE 0.05; MOQ length 0.12, front width 0.07, back width 0.11. Palp with intercalary sclerite v-shaped, embolus long, distally coiled, with translucent portion broadest at base (Fig. 1); retrolateral tibial apophysis relatively short, wide (Fig. 2). Leg spination: femora: I, II p0-0-0; IV p0-0-0, r0-0-0; metatarsi: I, II v0-0-0; III v2-1p-0.

Female (from Grand Canary): Total length 3.10. Carapace 1.36 long, 0.95 wide. Femur II 0.69 long. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.02, ALE 0.04, PME 0.04, PLE 0.04; AME-AME 0.06, AME-ALE 0.01,



Figs. 1–4: *Zelotes schmitzi* (Kulczyński). **1** Left male palp, ventral view; **2** Same, retrolateral view; **3** Epigynum, ventral view (specimen from Grand Canary); **4** Same, dorsal view.

PME-PME 0.04, PME-PLE 0.03, ALE-PLE 0.03; MOQ length 0.12, front width 0.10, back width 0.12. Epigynal septum small, rectangular (Fig. 3); anterior epigynal ducts distally recurved (Fig. 4). Leg spination: femora: I, II p0-0-0; IV p0-0-1, r0-0-1; tibiae: III v1p-2-2; IV p1-0-1; metatarsi: I v0-0-0; III v2-0-0.

Material examined: SPAIN: *Almería*: Agua Dulce, 20 May 1924 (M. D. Leonard, AMNH), 1♀. CANARY ISLANDS: *Grand Canary*: Llano de Juan Grande, 27 March 1997, stony area, sea level (M. Askins, AMNH), 1♂ 1♀. USA: *California*: Alameda Co.: Alviso, July 1980, pitfall trap, mud slough (L. J. Rogers, CAS), 1♀.

Distribution: Known only from Spain, Madeira, the Canary Islands, and (probably introduced into) California.

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