

## The genus *Aperittochelifer* BEIER, 1955, with description of a new species from South Africa (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones)

By WOJCIECH B. JĘDRYCKOWSKI<sup>1)</sup>

(With 11 Figures)

Manuscript submitted July, 7th 1990

### Zusammenfassung

*Aperittochelifer beieri* n. sp. wird nach einem Exemplar aus Südafrika beschrieben und ein Bestimmungsschlüssel der bekannten Arten der Gattung gegeben.

### Summary

*Aperittochelifer beieri* n. sp. is described based on a specimen from South Africa; a key to the known species of the genus is presented.

### Introduction

While studying a collection of pseudoscorpions from the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna, I found a specimen which appears to represent a new species belonging to *Aperittochelifer* BEIER, 1955. Since a general description of this genus has been given by BEIER (1955), only a description of the new species and a key to the species of *Aperittochelifer* is presented. All known species of *Aperittochelifer* are distributed in South Africa (BEIER 1955, 1958, 1964, 1966) and this group seems to be an endemic element in this region.

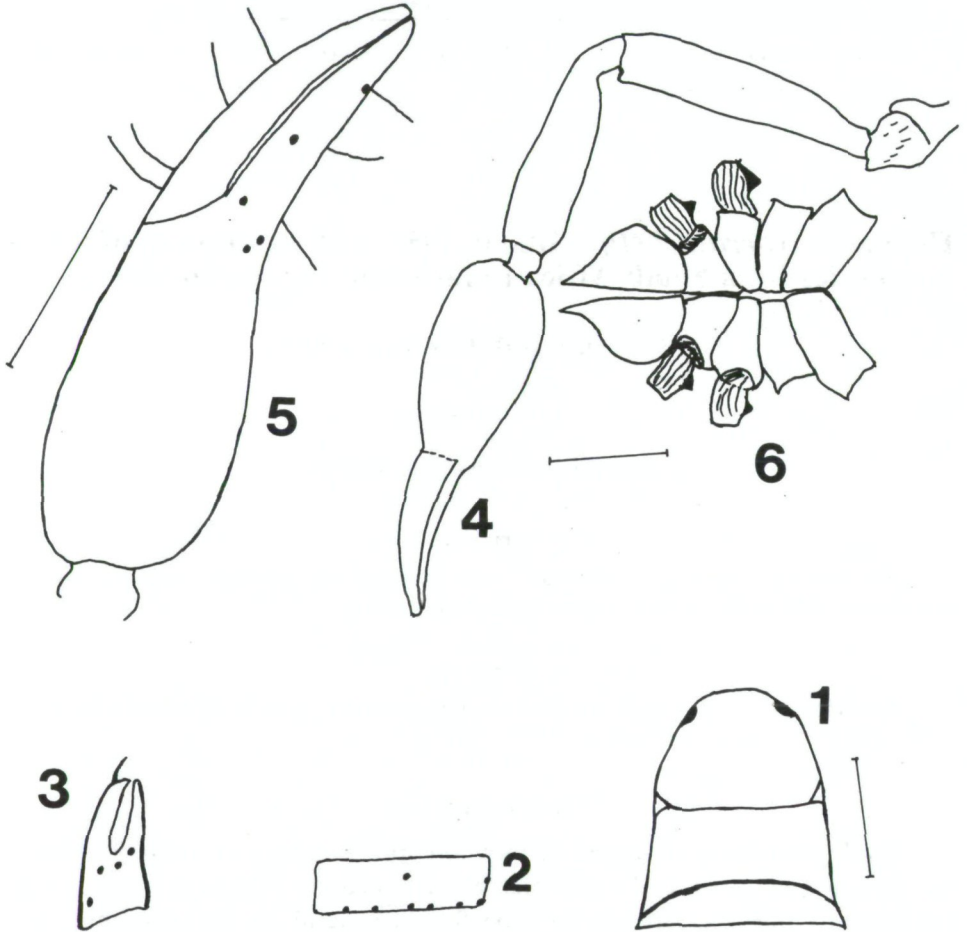
### *Aperittochelifer beieri* sp. n. (Figs. 1-6)

Material examined: 1 female (holotype): South Africa, Cape Province, Colga; in nest of *Cynictis penicillata* (Cuv.); VI. 1966, F. ZUMPT leg. Deposited in: Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Arachn. Coll. Inv. No. 15.001.

Description of the holotype: Adult female. Carapace and pedipalps bright reddish brown. Carapace about 1.3 times as long as broad, densely granulate, with two well-developed transverse furrows (Fig. 1); two eye spots; setae of carapace and tergites short and clavate, 4 on the anterior margin of carapace, 12 on the posterior margin. 7 setae on half-tergite margin plus one in a

---

<sup>1)</sup> Author's address: Dr. WOJCIECH B. JĘDRYCKOWSKI, Instytut Zoologii, Polska Akademia Nauk, 00-679 Warszawa, ul. Wilcza 64. - Poland.



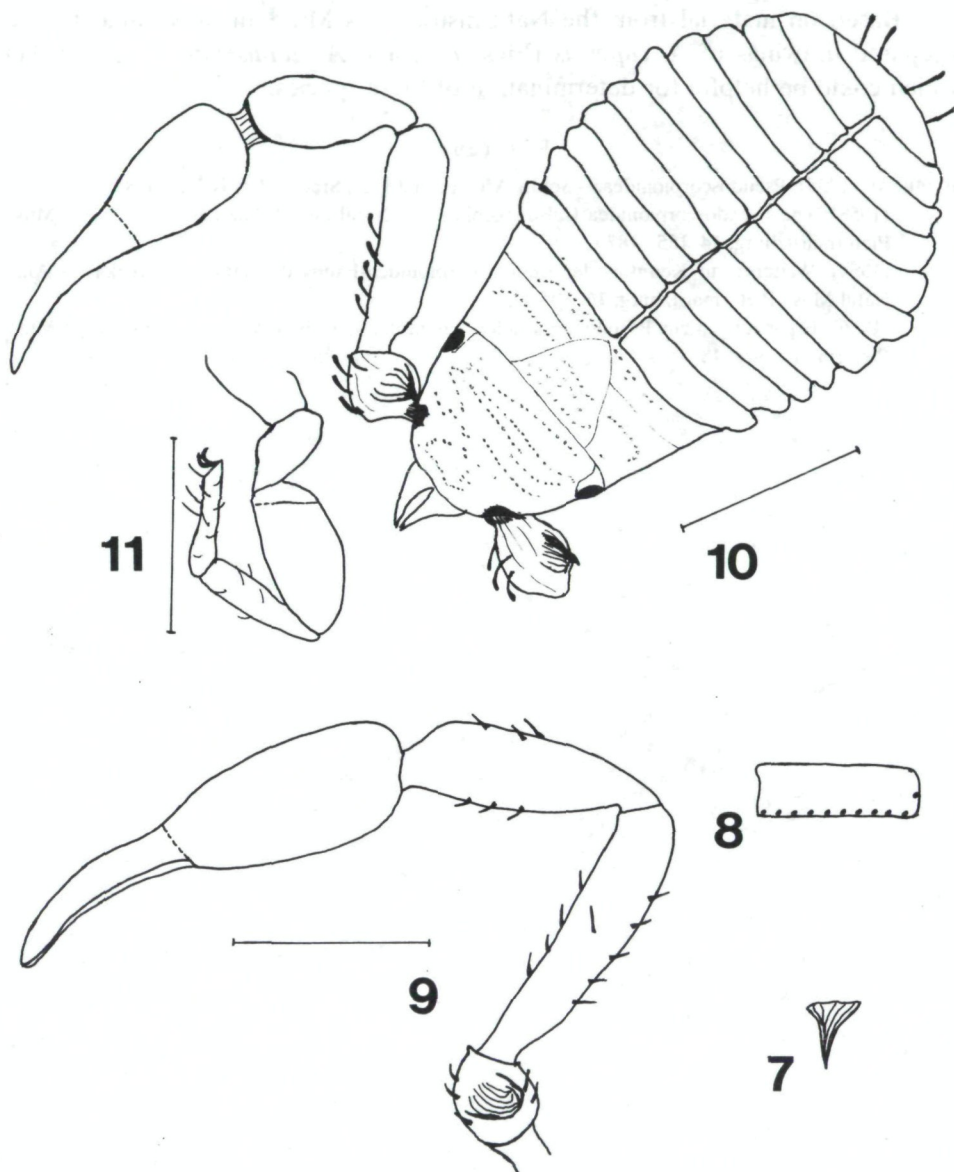
Figs. 1–6: *Aperittochelifer beieri* (scale unit = 0.5 mm; figs. 2 and 3 without scale). 1 – carapace; 2 – right half-tergite; 3 – chelicera; 4 – right pedipalp; 5 – palm of right pedipalp; 6 – cephalothorax.

central part of it (Fig. 2). Length of carapace = 0.87 mm, breadth = 0.65 mm. Chelicera: 5 setae on palm, with single galea (Fig. 3). Palps smooth, thin, with short clavate and sharp-ended setae. Trochanteral hump big and rounded (Fig. 4). Trichobothrial pattern as shown in Fig. 5. Trochanters of the first and second pair of legs with distinguishable sharp spurs (Fig. 6). Tarsus IV without tactile seta.

Measurements (in mm): body L = 3.89; carapace L = 0.87, W = 0.65; palp trochanter L = 0.40, W = 0.25; femur L = 1.00, W = 0.22; tibia L = 0.83, W = 0.25; hand L = 1.38, W = 0.38; fingers L = 0.64.

#### Key to the species of the genus *Aperittochelifer*

1. Large species, length of palpal femur more than 0.9 mm . . . . . 2
- Small species, length of palpal femur less than 0.9 mm . . . . . 3
2. Hand 2.1 times as long as fingers . . . . . *beieri* sp. n.
- Hand 1.2–1.3 times as long as fingers . . . . . *protractus* (HEW. & GODFR.)



Figs. 7-11: *Aperittochelifer* species. 7-9 *A. capensis* (scale unit = 0.5 mm; figs. 7 and 8 without scale). 7 - seta on the last segment; 8 - right half - tergite; 9 - right pedipalp. 10-11 - *A. minusculus* (scale unit = 0.1 mm). 10 - body with right pedipalp; 11 - fourth leg.

3. Setae on tergite and sternite X flat (Fig. 7) . . . . . *capensis* (HEW. & GODFR.)  
 - Setae on tergite and sternite X acuminate or clavate . . . . . 4  
 4. Trochanter hump small and rounded . . . . . 5  
 - Trochanter hump big and sharp-ended (Fig. 9) . . . . . *minusculus* (ELL.)  
 5. Length of palpal femur more than 0.8 mm . . . . . *transvaalensis* BEIER  
 - Length of palpal femur less than 0.8 mm . . . . . *zumpti* BEIER

Based on material from the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna, I have prepared drawings of *A. capensis* (Figs. 7–9) and *A. minusculus* (Figs. 10–11) which could be helpful for determination of these species.

#### References

- BEIER, M. (1955): Pseudoscorpionidea. – South Afr. Animal Life, Stockholm; **1**: 263–328.
- (1958): The Pseudoscorpionidea (false-scorpions) of Natal and Zululand. – Ann. Natal Mus., Pietermaritzburg; **14**: 155–187.
- (1964): Weiteres zur Kenntnis der Pseudoscorpioniden-Fauna des südlichen Afrikas. – Ann. Natal Mus., Pietermaritzburg; **16**: 30–90.
- (1966): Ergänzungen zur Pseudoscorpioniden-Fauna des südlichen Afrikas. – Ann. Natal Mus., Pietermaritzburg; **18**: 455–470.