

Two new harvestman species from Lenkoran, Azerbaijan (Arachnida: Opiliones: Phalangiidae)

Nataly Y. Snegovaya

Institute of Zoology, NAS of Azerbaijan,
proezd 1128, kvartal 504,
Baku, AZE1073, Azerbaijan

Summary

Two new opilionid species of the family Phalangiidae, *Metaplatybonus talyschicus* sp. n. (♂) and *Rilaena lenkoranica* sp. n. (♂), are diagnosed, illustrated and described from the Lenkoran Zone of Azerbaijan.

Introduction

The Lenkoran Zone is situated in the south-east part of Azerbaijan, adjoining NW Iran. The Opiliones fauna of this region has been inadequately investigated, with the first data being published by Morin (1937) who recorded 7 species: *Acropsolio talischensis* Morin, 1937, *Opilio coxipunctus* (Sørensen, 1912), *O. ejuncidus* Thorell, 1876, *O. lepidus* L. Koch, 1878, *O. consputus* (Simon, 1895), *O. pallens* Kulczyński, 1901 and *Zacheus bispinifrons* Roewer, 1911. Further data on the fauna of the region can be found in Roewer (1919, 1923, 1951), Redikorzev (1936), Bogachev (1951) and Staręga (1978). According to recent surveys (Snegovaya, 1999, 2004a, b, 2005) and literature-derived data, the opilionid fauna of Lenkoran numbers 18 valid species in 4 families. In the present paper, two new species of the family Phalangiidae are described from this territory.

Type specimens are shared among the following institutions: ZIN=Zoological Institute RAN, St Petersburg, Russia (Dr V. A. Krivokhatski); IZB=Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, Baku (Dr N. Y. Snegovaya); ISEA=Siberian Zoological Museum, Institute for Systematics and Ecology of Animals, Novosibirsk, Russia (Dr G. N. Azarkina).

Names of collectors are abbreviated as follows: Drs Halid Aliyev (HA), Elchin Guseinov (EG), Yuri Marusik (YM), Selvin Dashdamirov (SD) and the author (NS). Other abbreviations used in the text and tables: Fm=femur, Pt=patella, Tb=tibia, Mt=metatarsus, Ta=tarsus. All measurements are in mm.

Descriptions

Metaplatybonus Roewer, 1911

The genus *Metaplatybonus* Roewer, 1911 currently includes 9 species: *M. grandissimus* C. L. Koch, 1839, *M. carneluttii* Hadži, 1973, *M. creticus* Roewer, 1923, *M. filipes* Roewer, 1956, *M. petrophilus* Martens, 1965, *M. rhodiensis* Roewer, 1924, *M. salfi* Lerma, 1952, *M. denticulatus* Marcellino, 1972 and *M. hypanicus* Šilhavý, 1966, of which only *M. hypanicus* has been reported from the Caucasus (Šilhavý, 1966; Staręga, 1978). Here a new species of *Metaplatybonus* is described.

Metaplatybonus talyschicus sp. n. (Figs. 1–9)

Types: Holotype ♂ (ZIN) from Azerbaijan, Talysh, Yardimli Distr., Avash, 15–18 June 1996, SD. Paratype: 1♂ (IZB 66), same locality.

Etymology: The species is named after the type locality, Talysh, the mountainous part of Lenkoran (Azerbaijan).

Diagnosis: The new species is closest to *M. hypanicus*, but differs from it by the characters given in Table 1.

Distribution: Azerbaijan: Lenkoran.

Habitat: This species was collected in forest litter.

Description: Male: Measurements: Body length 4.5, width 2.3. Chelicera: basal segment 1.25, distal segment 1.6. Penis: length 2.55, width at base 0.4; length of glans 0.45, stylus 0.2. Lengths of palp and leg segments:

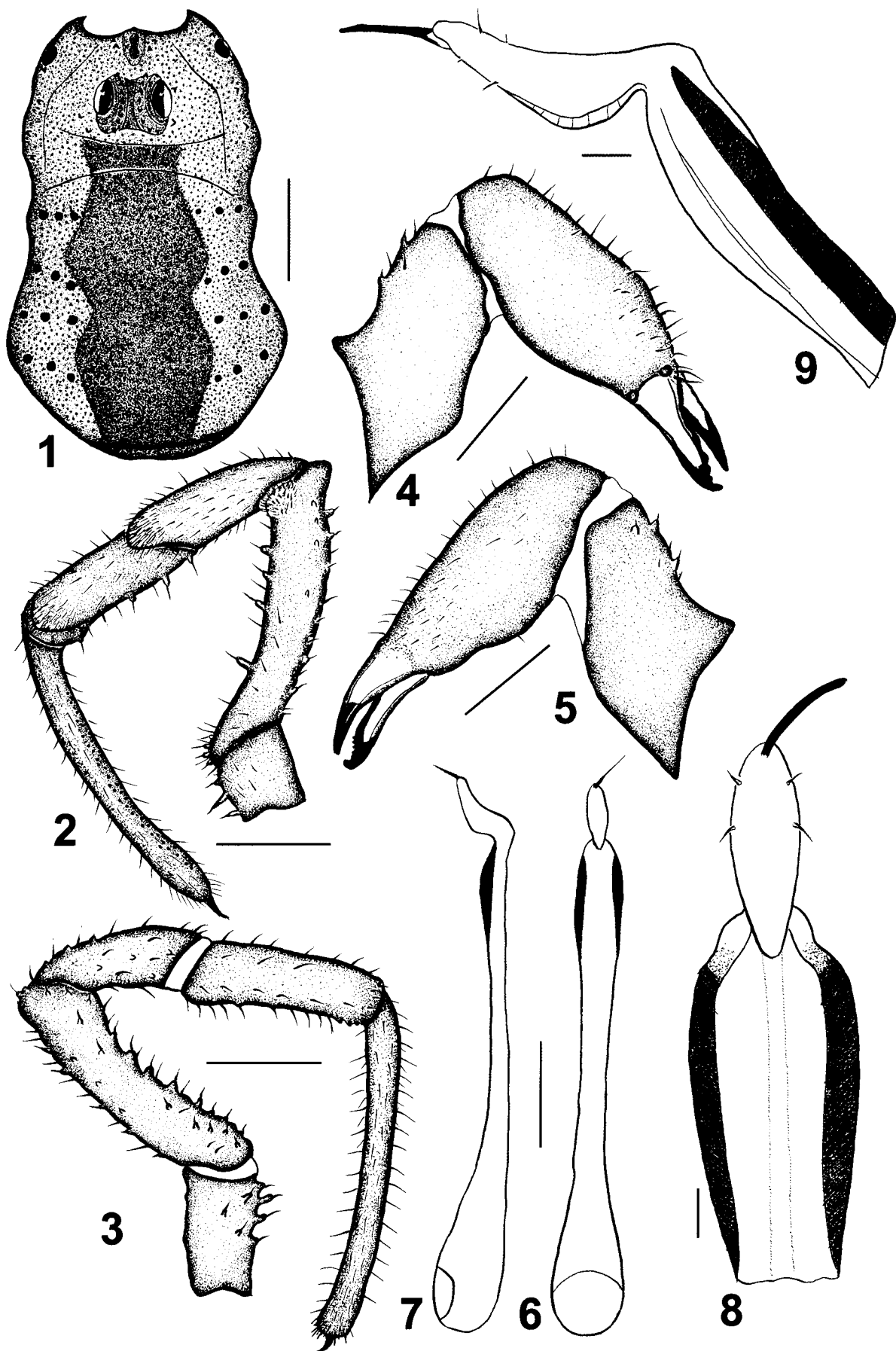
	Fm	Pt	Tb	Mt	Ta	Total
Palp	1.45	0.9	0.8	—	1.6	4.75
I	4.75	1.1	3.25	4.0	8.5	21.6
II	8.75	1.25	6.6	6.75	16.4	39.75
III	5.3	1.0	3.6	5.1	9.8	24.8
IV	7.9	1.25	4.4	6.8	14.6	34.95

Body: Lengthened and ovoid, covered with small granulations (Fig. 1). Both sides of each odoriferous gland with a pair of inclined tubercles. Some inclined tubercles also in front of ocularium. Eye tubercle wide, with a group of 9 denticles on both sides. Venter covered with setae. *Legs:* Long; femora II and IV longer than others; all femora covered with longitudinal rows of small denticles. All patellae also with denticles. Tibiae ventrally with denticles, other segments with setae. *Palp* (Figs. 2–3): Femur ventrally with long spine-tipped tubercles; laterally and dorsally with small tubercles and setae. Femur with small disto-mesal apophyses, densely covered with hairs. Patella with disto-mesal apophysis, densely covered with hairs; laterally covered with hairs. Tibia also with small disto-mesal apophysis, densely covered with hairs; ventrally with some small denticles and some long denticles; laterally with hairs. Tarsus ventrally with micro-denticles, other parts of tarsus covered with hairs. *Chelicera* (Figs. 4–5): Basal segment dorsally with some inclined tubercles and setae. Distal segment dorsally with setae and some small denticles. *Coloration:* Body dark brown, with numerous dark and light rounded patches and spots; saddle-shaped marking clearly visible. Venter light brown, with dark margins. Legs brown. Palpal femur and patella dark brown, with light sides; tibia and tarsus light brown. Chelicera dark brown, with light sides. *Penis* (Figs. 6–9): Light brown, with small black wings; stylus with 2 pairs of setae.

Female: Unknown.

Rilaena Šilhavý, 1965

The genus *Rilaena* Šilhavý, 1965 currently includes 11 species, of which the following have been recorded from Azerbaijan and neighbouring territories: *R. atrolutea* (Roewer, 1915) from the Caucasus (Roewer, 1915, 1923, 1956; Redikorzev, 1936; Mcheidze, 1952, 1959, 1964; Staręga, 1978); *R. gruberi* Staręga, 1973 from Turkey



Figs. 1-9: *Metaplathybunus talyshicus* sp. n. **1** Male body, dorsal view; **2** Male palp, prolateral view; **3** Ditto, retrolateral view; **4** Male chelicera, retrolateral view; **5** Ditto, prolateral view; **6** Penis, dorsal view; **7** Ditto, lateral view; **8** Glans of penis, dorsal view; **9** Ditto, lateral view. Scale lines = 1 mm (1), 0.5 mm (2-7), 0.1 mm (8-9).

M. talyschicus sp. n.

Chelicera	Basal segment without apophyses (Figs. 4–5).
Penis	Length 2.55 mm; base rounded, corpus of penis without constriction in middle (Figs. 6–9).

M. hypanicus Šilhavý, 1966

Basal segment with apophyses (Šilhavý, 1966: fig. 3; Chevrizov, 1979: fig. 139).
Length 4 mm; base triangular and wide; corpus of penis with constriction in middle (Šilhavý, 1966: figs. 6–9; Chevrizov, 1979: fig. 140).

Table 1: Diagnostic characters of two species of *Metaplatybunus*.

and Iraq (Starega, 1973); *R. hyrcana* (Thorell, 1876) from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan (Thorell, 1876; Roewer, 1912; Šilhavý, 1968; Starega, 1973); *R. pusilla* (Roewer, 1952) from Iran and Azerbaijan (Redikorzev, 1936; Roewer, 1952, 1956; Starega, 1973); *R. zakatalica* Snegovaya & Chemeris, 2004 from Azerbaijan (Snegovaya & Chemeris, 2004); *R. triangularis* (Herbst, 1799) from Europe and Azerbaijan (Martens, 1978; Starega, 1978; Snegovaya, 2002, 2004a); and *R. picta* (Mcheidze, 1952) from Georgia (Mcheidze, 1952, 1959, 1964; Starega, 1966, 1978). Here a new species of *Rilaena* is described.

Rilaena lenkoranica sp. n. (Figs. 10–18)

Rilaena pusilla (nec Roewer, 1952; misidentified): Snegovaya 1999: 455, 457, figs. 29–33; 2004: 317–318, figs. 36–41.

Types: Holotype ♂ (ZIN) from Azerbaijan, Lenkoran, near Siöv, 1000 m a.s.l., 19–20 April 2004, EG. Paratypes: 1♂ 1juv. (IZB 21), Lenkoran (no exact locality), under bark, 29 September 1994, EG; 5♂ 1juv. (IZB 48, 57), Lenkoran, Hyrkan, near Apo, 8–9 June 1996, NS; 2♂ (IZB 110), same locality, 25 May 2003, NS; 2♂ (IZB 113), Lenkoran, Hyrkan, near Parakend, 23 May 2003, NS; 2♂ (IZB 116), Lenkoran, Moscow forest, 27 May 2003, NS; 3♂ (IZB 210), 2♂ (ISEA), Lenkoran, Hyrkan State Reserve, near Khanbulanchay water reservoir, 11 May 2004, NS; 1♂ (IZB 218), Lenkoran, near Azfilial, 7 May 2004, NS; 3♂ 2juv. (IZB 235), 2♂ (ZIN), Lenkoran, Azfilial, 19–20 April 2004, NS; 3♂ (IZB 265), Lenkoran, April 2001, YM.

Etymology: The species is named after the type locality, the Lenkoran Zone of Azerbaijan.

Diagnosis: The new species is closest to *R. triangularis*, but differs from it by the characters given in Table 2.

Distribution: The Lenkoran Zone of Azerbaijan.

Habitat: This species was collected on trunks of trees and on brushwood in the forest.

Description: **Male:** Measurements: Body length 5.5, width 3.5. Chelicera: basal segment 1.6, distal segment

2.0. Penis: length 6.5, width at base 0.5, length of glans 0.4, length of stylus 0.175. Lengths of palp and leg segments:

	Fm	Pt	Tb	Mt	Ta	Total
Palp	1.75	1.0	1.2	—	1.8	5.75
I	4.0	1.25	3.25	3.3	8.6	20.4
II	7.5	1.6	5.8	3.5	10.1	28.5
III	4.5	1.5	3.25	4.0	17.1	30.35
IV	6.8	1.5	4.5	5.8	15.2	33.8

Body (Fig. 10): With constriction between cephalothorax and abdomen. All tergite margins covered with rows of setae. Eye tubercle wide, with 9–10 denticles in front of eye tubercle and on each side. Both sides of each odoriferous gland with a group of denticles. **Legs:** Relatively long; femora I and III thicker and markedly shorter than others; all femora covered with longitudinal rows of setae. Patellae and tibiae ventrally with small denticles and setae. **Palp** (Figs. 11–12): Femur with small disto-mesal apophysis armed with scattered spines, ventrally with large spine-tipped tubercles and small tubercles and setae; laterally covered with setae. Patella with disto-mesal apophysis, densely covered with setae; other parts of patella covered with setae. Tibia with small disto-mesal apophysis, densely covered with setae; ventrally covered with micro-denticles; other parts of tibia covered with setae. Tarsus ventrally with micro-denticles, other parts of tarsus covered with setae. **Chelicera** (Figs. 13–14): Basal segment dorsally with 2–3 tubercles and setae. Distal segment dorsally and laterally with setae. **Coloration:** Body dark brown, but saddle marking even darker (almost black); with dark rounded spots on tergite margins; also numerous light rounded spots scattered along tergite margins. Legs light brown, with dark brown spots. Palpal femur and patella dark brown; tibia and tarsus light brown, with dark brown spots. Chelicera light brown, with dark brown spots. **Penis** (Figs. 15–18): Corpus of penis wide at base, becoming narrow in middle, then widening at glans, forming small wings. Base of penis dark brown, wings

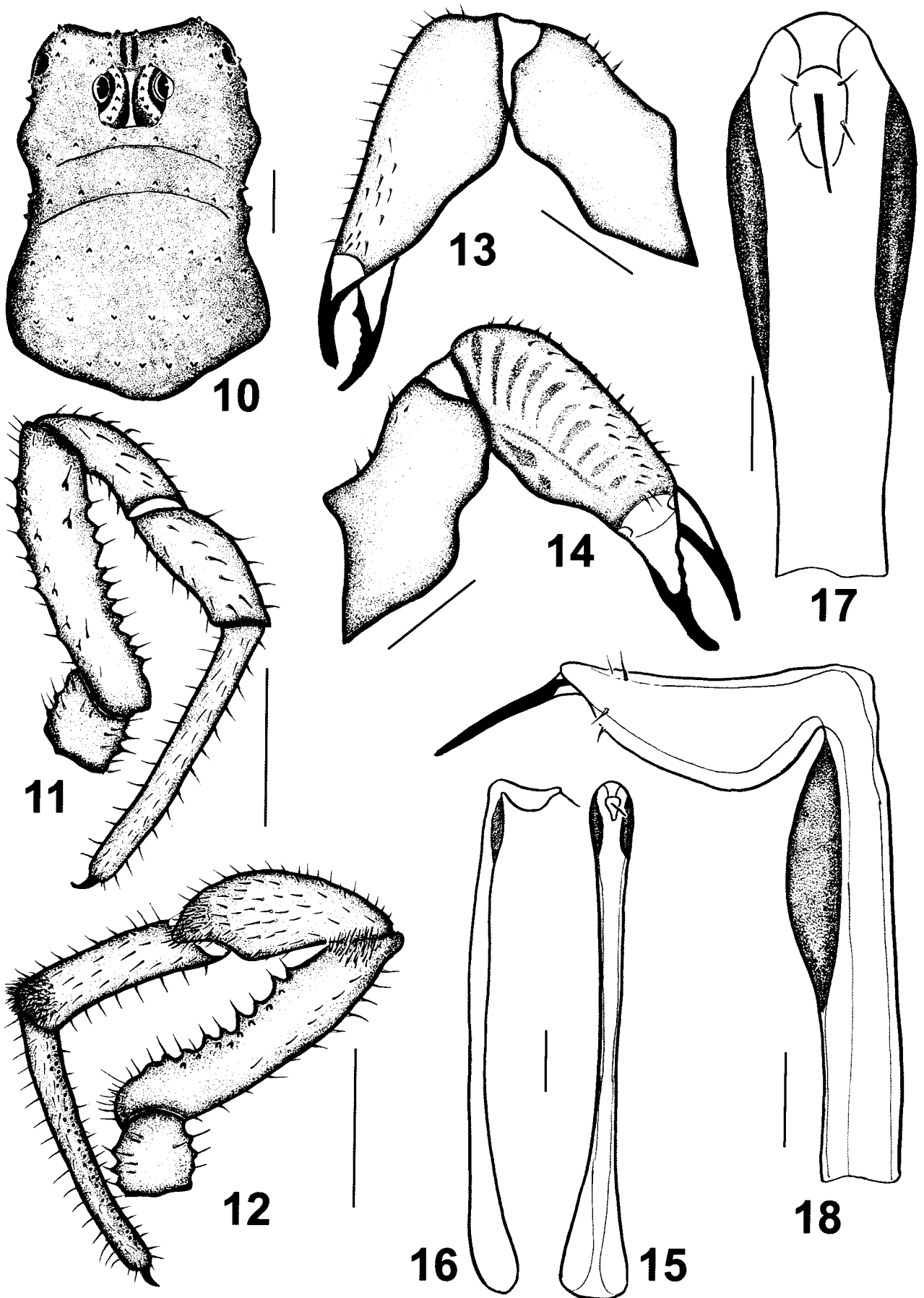
R. lenkoranica sp. n.

Body	Dark brown, 5.5 mm long (Fig. 10)
Chelicera	Without outgrowth or apophysis (Figs. 13–14).
Legs	Relatively long, femur I wider and shorter than other femora.
Penis	Length 6.5 mm (Figs. 15–18).

R. triangularis (Herbst, 1799)

Grey, 6.5 mm long (Snegovaya, 2004a: fig. 32).
With outgrowth on distal segment (Chevrizov, 1979: fig. 103; Martens, 1978: fig. 533).
Femora II and III shorter than others, of approximately same thickness.
Length 2.57 mm (Chevrizov, 1979: figs. 104–105; Martens, 1978: figs. 531–532; Starega, 1976: figs. 81–82).

Table 2: Diagnostic characters of two species of *Rilaena*.



Figs. 10-18: *Rilaena lenkoranica* sp. n. 10 Male body, dorsal view; 11 Male palp, retrolateral view; 12 Ditto, prolatral view; 13 Male chelicera, prolatral view; 14 Ditto, retrolateral view; 15 Penis, dorsal view; 16 Ditto, lateral view; 17 Glans of penis, dorsal view; 18 Ditto, lateral view. Scale lines=1 mm (10-12, 15, 16); 0.5 mm (13, 14); 0.1 mm (17-18).

almost black, corpus closer to glans and glans itself light brown.

Female: Unknown.

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