



A review of the mygalomorph spiders of the *Raveniola caudata* species-group (Araneae, Nemesiidae)

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Abstract

The *caudata* species-group of the genus *Raveniola* Zonstein 1987 is newly established and reviewed. The group includes *R. redikorzevi* (Spassky 1937) from Turkmenistan and *R. caudata* **sp. n.** from Tajikistan. Both members of the group differ from other congeners by the much longer posterior lateral spinnerets with long-digitiform apical segment, as well as by the characteristic, broadly-tipped and keeled embolus.

Key words: Araneae, spiders, Nemesiidae, *Raveniola*, new species

Introduction

The study is devoted to a small, but well-defined group of cryptozoic Central Asian nemesiids apparently living inside the abandoned burrows of rodents and tortillas. The latter may explain both the rarity of these nemesiids in collections and why the collected specimens are represented mostly by wandering adult males. The group, being the third within the genus *Raveniola* Zonstein 1987, includes two members; one of them is recognized as a new species and is described below. Two other groups within *Raveniola*, viz. *R. pontica* and *R. virgata* species-groups, were separated earlier as components of *Brachythele* Ausserer 1871 *s. lat.* (Zonstein 1985).

Materials and methods

The holotype of *Brachythele redikorzevi* Spassky deposited in Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, St.-Petersburg (ZISP) looked too bad to be used for redescription. Hence, to diagnose the species, I used a conspecific male collected from the type locality and compared directly with the holotype. The holotype of a new congener described here is deposited in the spider collection of Tel-Aviv University, Israel (TAUI).

Terminology and descriptive format follow Raven (1981, 1985), with few exceptions. All measurements are given in millimeters, except eye diameters/interspaces shown as ratio of the microscope scale units.

Abbreviations used are as follows. Eyes: ALE—anterior lateral; AME—anterior median; PLE—posterior lateral; PME—posterior median. Leg and palp segments: Fm—femur; Mt—metatarsus; Pt—patella; Tb—tibia; Tr—tarsus. Spines and their position: d—dorsal; m—megaspine (mating spur; curved stout ventral spine on male tibia I); p—prolateral; pd—prodorsal; pv—proventral; r—retrolateral; rd—retrodorsal; rv—retroventral; v—ventral. Spinnerets: PLS—posterior lateral; PMS—posterior median.