



A new genus of hahniid spiders from Far East Asia (Araneae: Hahniidae)

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Abstract

Pacifantistea ovtchinnikovi **gen. n. & sp. n.** belonging to Hahniinae is described on the basis of males and females from Moneron Island, Kuril Islands, the southern part of Maritime Province, the southern part of Kamchatka and Hokkaido. *P. ovtchinnikovi* **sp. n.** is the largest species among Hahniinae. The new species is compared in detail with other large-sized Hahniinae: *Neoantistea magna* (Nearctic) and *N. quelpartensis* (SE Palaearctic). The poorly documented affinities of these additional two species are discussed and illustrated.

Key words: East Palaearctic, Nearctic, *Neoantistea*, new species, Kuril Islands, Moneron, Maritime Province, Japan

Introduction

Hahniidae is a relatively small, globally distributed family with 241 species belonging to 26 genera (Platnick 2010). Members of this family are fairly well studied in the Palaearctic and the former Soviet Union in particular. Up until now, 19 species of Hahniidae belonging to 6 genera are known to occur in Russia, in the Caucasus and in Central Asia (Mikhailov 1997, personal unpublished data). There are few taxonomic papers dealing with Hahniidae in the former USSR. Kulczyński (1926) described *Hahnia rectispina* from Kamchatka. Later this species was synonymised with *H. glacialis* Sørensen, 1898. The subsequent paper by Pichka (1965) dealing with a description of the blind cave dwelling *Iberina ljevuschkini* from Caucasus. Ovtchinnikov (1992) described the new genus *Asiohahnia* with five species from Central Asia. The most recent papers concerning this group include a description of *Hahnia sibirica* Marusik, Hippa & Koponen, 1996 from Siberia east of Yenisei (Marusik *et al.* 1996) and reporting of *Neoantistea quelpartensis* Paik, 1958 and *Neoantistea* sp. from Maritime Province (Marusik & Koponen 2000). Two genera occurring in the former USSR, *Hahnia* C.L. Koch, 1841 and *Cryphoeca* Thorell, 1870, are known across the whole Palaearctic (Mikhailov 1997; Platnick 2010). In Eurasia, *Antistea* Simon, 1898 is restricted to Europe and Western Siberia, *Tuberta* Simon, 1884 was found in several European states and in Azerbaijan. *Neoantistea* is known from the Far East and the Himalayas. *Iberina* Simon, 1881 is known by two species from France and the Caucasus (Platnick 2010), and *Asiohahnia* from Central Asia (Mikhailov 1997; Platnick 2010).

While collecting spiders on the Kuril Islands, Sakhalin and in the Maritime Province, I found numerous specimens of hahniid spiders that were placed in the genus *Neoantistea* Gertsch, 1934. The species was mentioned in Marusik and Koponen (2000: 61) as *Neoantistea* sp. In all places it was collected on sandy or pebbly seashores and sometime in huge quantities.

Detailed comparison of this species with other *Neoantistea* species, such as *N. magna* (Keyserling, 1887) (Nearctic) and *N. quelpartensis* (Far East Asia) and with other large-sized Hahniidae, namely *Antistea* Simon, 1898 revealed that it belonged to an undescribed genus. In addition to the description of a new genus and species, I provide comparative figures of two *Neoantistea* species (*N. magna* and *N. quelpartensis*) to illustrate the differences between the genera and also to depict the peculiar characters of *Neoantistea* which are not well documented in the literature.