Leptopholcus guineensis Millot, 1941

Millot, J. 1941. Les araignées de l'Afrique occidentale Francaise. Sicariides et pholcides. Mémoires, Acad. Sci. Inst. France 64: 1-30.

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Leptopholcus guineensis n. sp.

(*fig.* 6).

♀. Coloration jaunâtre très pâle, sauf : 1° le pourtour des yeux noir, ainsi qu'un fin liséré autour du sternum et des hanches; 2° la face dorsale du pédicule, des hanches et du tiers basal des fémurs, la patelle, l'articulation tibio-métatarsienne enfumées; 3° les crochets des chélicères et l'aire génitale brun roussâtre pâle; 4° enfin, dans la région médio-thoracique, un dessin grisâtre en forme d'A majuscule (*fig.* 6 A).

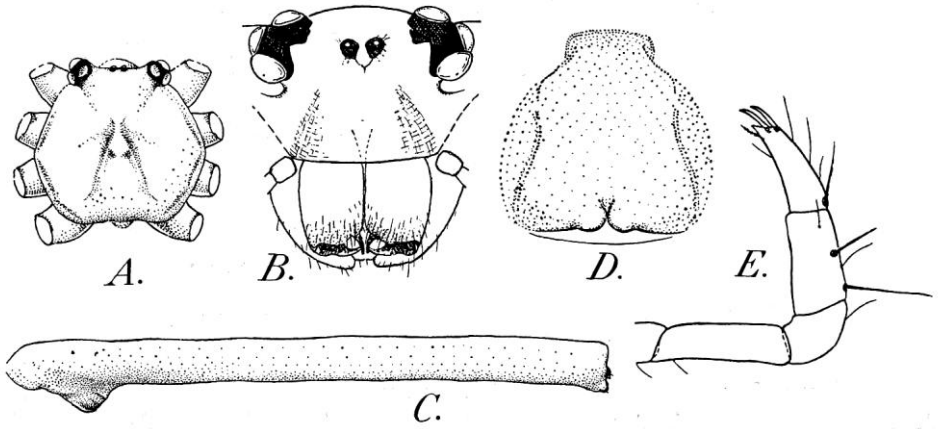

Fig. 6. — *Leptopholcus guineensis* n. sp. : ♀, A, céphalothorax, vue dorsale. B, *id.*, vue antérieure. C, abdomen, vue latérale. D, région génitale. E, palpe.

Corps très allongé. Abdomen environ dix fois plus long que large, cylindrique, tronqué en arrière, un peu élargi dans la région génitale, qui forme une saillie inférieure nette (*fig.* 6 C). Céphalothorax convexe en dessus,

aussi large que long, tronqué en avant, presque hexagonal chez un exemplaire (Dalaba, *fig.* 6 A), sub-arrondi latéralement chez l'autre (Kindia); partie céphalique mal distincte, un peu déclive en avant. Sternum en écusson, approximativement aussi large que haut. Clypeus et chélicères relativement très courts.

Yeux médians très petits. Triades latérales écartées, un peu surélevées, séparées par un espace nettement plus grand que la largeur des chélicères.

Tarse du palpe à peine aussi long que le tibia; son extrémité, terminée par un petit cône clair, porte deux griffes recourbées au-dessous desquelles on remarque deux soies pectinées (*fig.* 6 E).

Aire génitale très pâle, sauf le bord inférieur, incisé en son milieu (*fig.* 6 D), qui forme une ligne brun rougeâtre assez nette.

Longueur totale, $7^{mm},7$. Céphalothorax : longueur, 1^{mm}; largeur, 1^{mm}. Abdomen, $6^{mm},7$; largeur, $0^{mm},7$. Pattes grêles. Longueur (en millimètres) :

	I	>	II	>	IV	>	III
Fémur.....	9,5		8,0		8,5		5,5
Patelle + tibia	9,0		7,0		6,0		4,5
Protarse + tarse	16,5		12,5		10,5		6,5
Total	36,0		27,5		25,0		16,5

Guinée française. — Dalaba : 1 ♀, type. Kindia : 1 ♀, cotype.

On ne connaissait jusqu'ici de ce curieux genre que deux espèces africaines : l'une du Congo, *L. signifer* ♂ et ♀ (E. Simon 1893), l'autre d'Afrique orientale, *L. gracilis* ♀ (Berland 1920). *L. guineensis* diffère du premier par le céphalothorax plus arrondi latéralement — par l'abdomen moins long, tronqué en arrière et non atténué en cône —, par l'aire génitale beaucoup plus turgescente [1] (cf. *fig.* 459 et 460 de Simon, I, 1892). Il se distingue du deuxième par le céphalothorax plus élargi (cf. *fig.* 151 de Berland) et marqué de noir dans la région médio-thoracique — par l'abdomen plus grêle —, par l'absence de taches olivâtres sur les fémurs et le sternum, enfin par la plaque génitale toute différente.

Il est à remarquer que l'allongement du corps et la gracilité des appendices, fréquente, comme on le sait, dans les espèces troglobies, et que l'on se plait souvent à interpréter comme une conséquence de la vie cavernicole, se retrouvent ici, à un haut degré, dans un genre dont aucune espèce ne fréquente normalement les grottes ou les cavernes.

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[1] « Rimam vix superans », écrit Simon 1893, p. 319.

Brignoli, P. M. 1980. Sur le genre *Leptopholcus* Simon, 1893 (Araneae, Pholcidae). Rev. Zool. afr. 94(3): 649-655.

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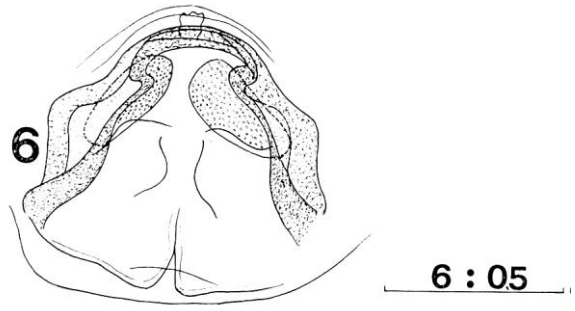

Leptopholcus guineensis Millot, 1941 - 6. vulve de l'extérieur.

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Leptopholcus guineensis Millot, 1941 (Fig. 6)

Guinée (ex française), Kindia, VII.1937, J. Millot, 1 ♀ (Holotype: MHNP).

Remarques: espèce très semblable à la précédente d'après la morphologie générale; aussi la vulve est plus ou moins du même type.

Huber, B. A. 2009. Life on leaves: leaf-dwelling pholcids of Guinea, with emphasis on *Crossopriza cylindrogaster*, a spider with inverted resting position, pseudo-eyes, lampshade web, and tetrahedral egg-sac (Araneae: Pholcidae). J. Nat. Hist. 43: 2491-2523.

p. 2496

Figures 7–14. Further Guinean leaf-dwelling pholcids. (7) *Leptopholcus guineensis*, male, as seen against the light, without flash;

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views of *L. guineensis* (24, 25) males in dorsal and lateral
sal views of *L. guineensis* (28, 29) epigyna in ventral and cleared dor-
pocket; pe, "pseudo-eye"; r, retina;

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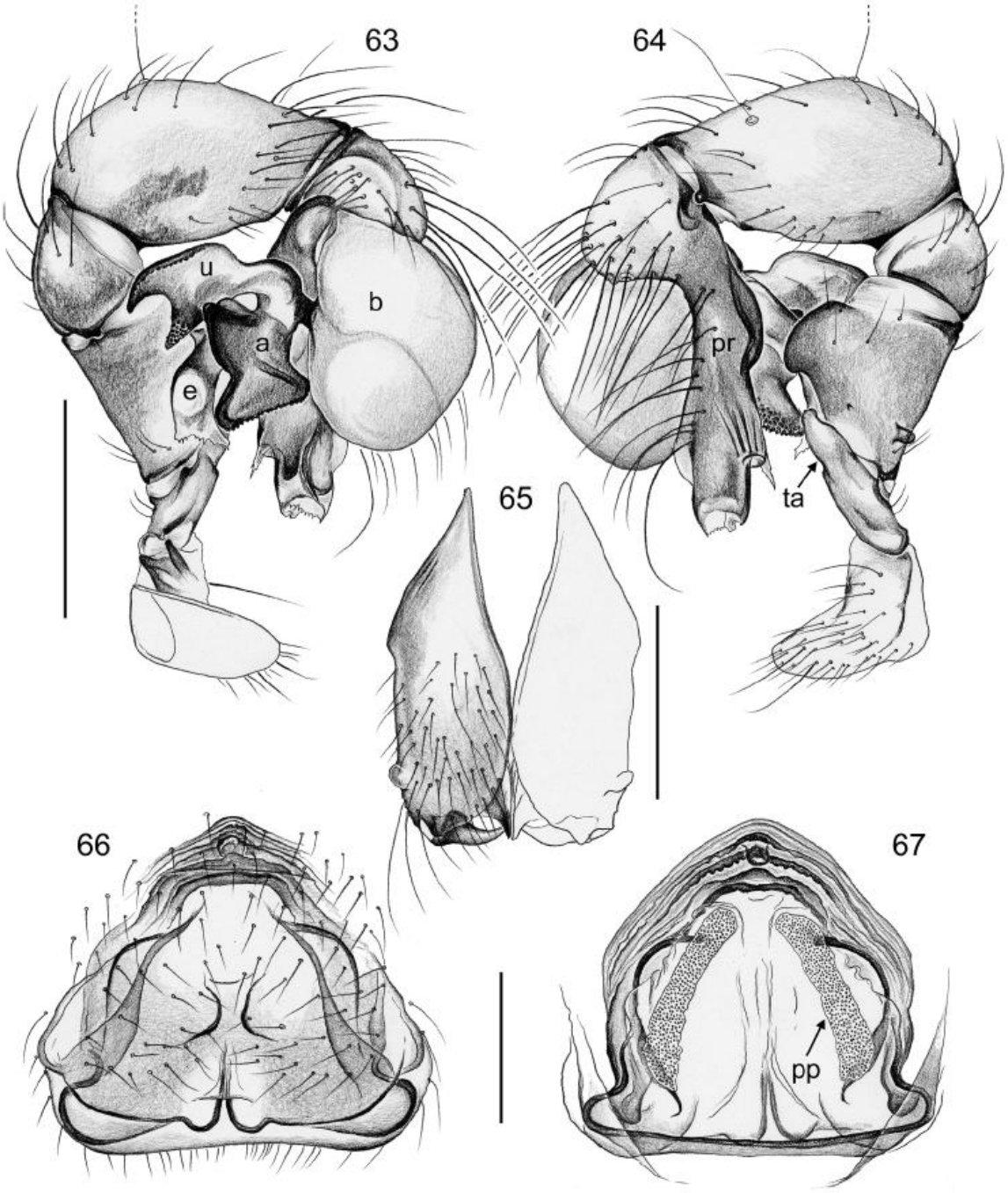
Leptopholcus guineensis Millot, 1941
(Figures 7, 24, 25, 28, 29, 63–81, 149)

Leptopholcus guineensis Millot 1941, p. 16–17, figs 6a–e. Brignoli 1980, p. 650, fig. 6.

Types

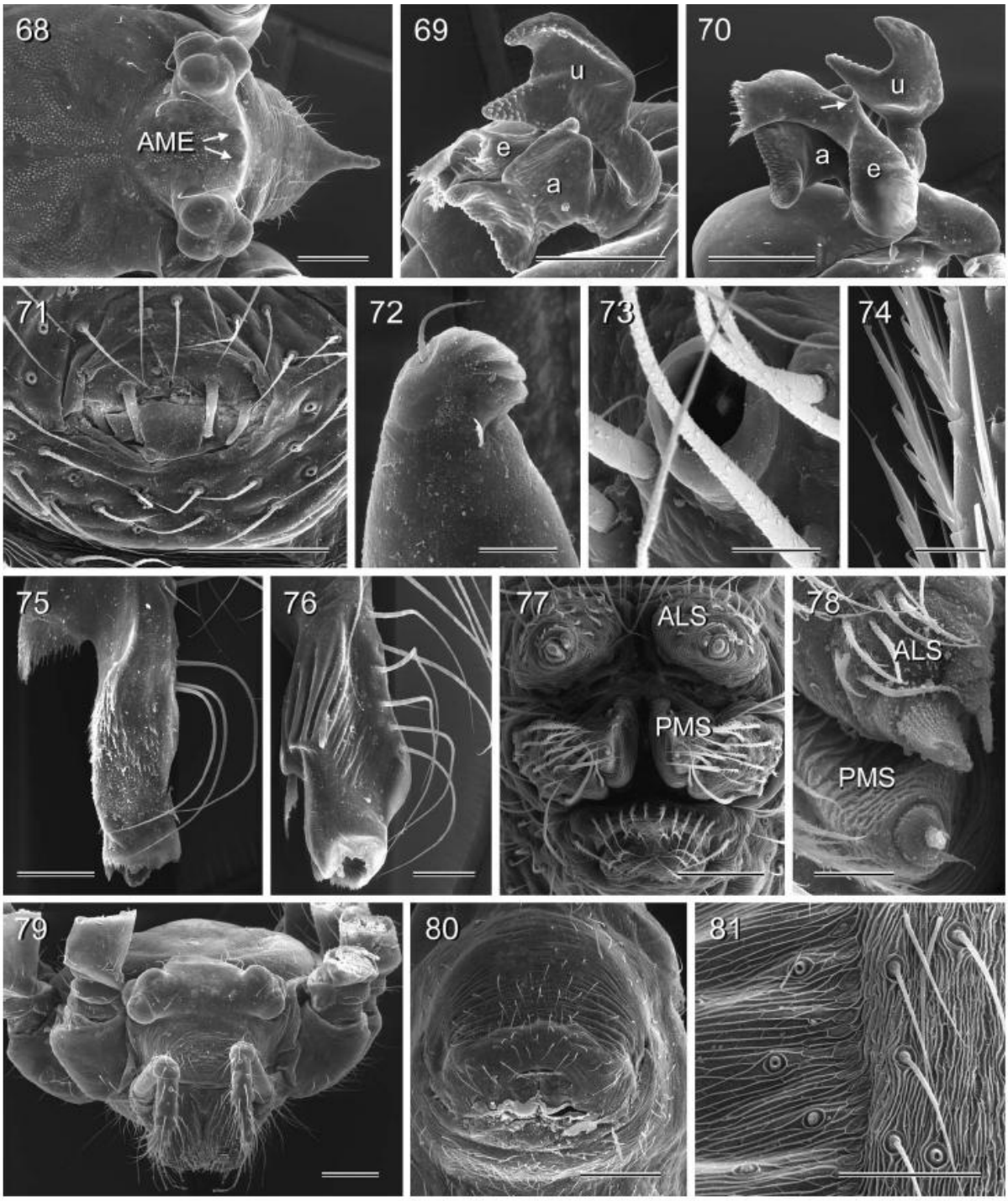
Female holotype from Dalaba [~10°41′N, 12°15′W], Moyenne-Guinée, Guinea; viii.1937 (J. Millot), in MNHN, examined. Female "cotype" from Kindia [~10°03′N, 12°51′W], Basse-Guinée, Guinea; vii.1937 (J. Millot), in MNHN, examined.



Figures 63–67. *Leptopholcus guineensis*. (63, 64) Left palp, prolateral and retrolateral views; (65) male chelicerae, frontal view; (66, 67) cleared female genitalia, ventral and dorsal views. Notes: a, appendix; b, bulb; e, embolus; pp, pore plate; pr, procursus; ta, trochanter apophysis; u, uncus. Scale lines: 0.5 mm (63, 64), 0.3 mm (65–67).

Diagnosis

Easily distinguished from most known *Leptopholcus* species by median horn on male clypeus (Figure 68; *L. signifer* Simon and *L. gracilis* Berland share such a horn); also by shapes of male bulbal apophyses (Figures 63, 69, 70).



Figures 68–81. *Leptopholcus guineensis*. (68) Male carapace, eyes and clypeus with horn; (69) left bulbal projections, prolateral view; (70) right bulbal projections, retrolateral view (arrow points to dorsal cone-shaped apophysis on embolus); (71) male gonopore with epiandrous spigots; (72) tip of right male palpal trochanter apophysis; (73) male palpal tarsal organ; (74) comb hairs on male right tarsus 4, prolateral view; (75) left procursus, prolateral (slightly dorsal) view; (76) right procursus, retrolateral view; (77) male spinnerets and anal cone; (78) female ALS and PMS; (79) female prosoma, frontal view; (80) epigynum; (81) cuticular sculpturing on male abdomen, showing difference in ventral (left) and lateral (right) pattern (frontal side on top). Notes: a, appendix; e, embolus; u, uncus. Scale lines: 20 μm (72–74, 78), 80 μm (71, 75–77, 81), 200 μm (68–70, 79, 80).

Male (Dalaba)

Total body length 7.5, carapace width 1.2. Leg 1: 35.8 (8.9 + 0.5 + 8.4 + 14.9 + 3.1), tibia 2: 6.4, tibia 3: 4.3, tibia 4: 6.3, tibia 1 L/d: 86. Habitus as in Figures 24 and 25; carapace mostly dark brown including ocular area and clypeus, only frontally-laterally pale whitish area, sternum dark with many small light spots, lighter around labium, with darker (black) margins, legs pale ochre, patella area and tibia–metatarsus joints black, femora proximally dorsally slightly darkened, abdomen pale ochre-grey, with several dark marks dorsally. Distance PME–PME 390 µm, diameter PME 125 µm, distance PME–ALE 45 µm, distance AME–AME 55 µm, diameter AME 30 µm. Ocular area elevated, each triad on low stalk directed laterally. No thoracic furrow; clypeus with distinct median projection, ~0.2 long (Figure 68). Chelicerae as in Figure 65, with light lateral apophyses distally. Sternum wider than long (0.75/0.65), unmodified. Palps as in Figures 63 and 64, coxa with low retrolateral bulge, trochanter with strong retrolatero-ventral apophysis with serrated tip (Figure 72), femur with large ventral protrusion and two small apophyses retrolaterally (the more ventral one barely visible), tarsal organ capsulate (Figure 73), procursus rather simple, with retrolateral ridges and subdistal transparent projection ventrally (Figures 64, 75, 76), bulb with large bifid uncus (Figures 63, 69), large appendix, embolus proximally weakly sclerotized with small conical projection dorsally (Figure 70), distally whitish. Legs without spines and curved hairs, few vertical hairs; retrolateral trichobothrium on tibia 1 at 3.5%; prolateral trichobothrium missing on tibia 1, present on other tibiae; many tarsal pseudosegments (> 30 on tarsus 1), but poorly visible in dissecting microscope; tarsus 4 with ventral row of comb-hairs (Figure 74). Spinnerets as in Figure 77, ALS with one widened and one pointed spigot; PMS with two small spigots. Gonopore with four epiandrous spigots (Figure 71).

Variation

The extent of black pigment varies considerably: in some males the light areas on the carapace extend further back; some males with light sternum or only margins darkened; some males with fewer and/or smaller marks on abdomen; the tiny (more ventral) retrolateral apophysis on the male palpal femur is missing in some males. Tibia 1 in nine other males: 8.1–10.0 (mean 8.9).

Female

In general similar to male but lighter, prosoma either without dark pattern or with pair of small spots on carapace, abdomen mostly monochromous, but in few females with marks as in males; clypeus unmodified; triads closer together (distance PME–PME 275 µm), AME pigment always present, but apparently sometimes without lenses. Tibia 1 in 13 females: 5.3–7.9 (mean 6.9). Epigynum light brown plate, sometimes protruding, frontal internal arch visible through cuticle, posteriorly with pair of distinctive median whitish bulges (Figure 28, 66); internal genitalia as in Figures 29 and 67. The females from The Gambia and Senegal are assigned tentatively because females of different species are difficult to distinguish and no males have been collected in these countries.

Distribution

Known from Guinea, and possibly also from The Gambia and Senegal (Figure 149).

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Material examined

GUINEA: *Moyenne-Guinée*: Dalaba: 1♀ holotype above; Dalaba (10°40.7′N, 12°15.7′W), along brook in forest, 920 m a.s.l., 21.xi.2008 (B.A. Huber), 1♂ in ZFMK; same data, 1♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK; canyon near Doucki (10°59.6′N, 12°35.3′W), 1020 m a.s.l., 24.xi.2008 (B.A. Huber), 1♂1♀ in ZFMK; same data, 1♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK; SE Mamou (10°17.6′N, 11°56.5′W), forest along brook, 460 m a.s.l., 4.xii.2008 (B.A. Huber), 3♂6♀ in ZFMK; same data, 2♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK; NW Mamou (10°30.5′N, 12°11.6′W), 890 m a.s.l., 25.xi.2008 (B.A. Huber), 1♂ in ZFMK; same data, 1♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK. *Basse-Guinée*: Kindia: 1♀ "cotype" above; near Kindia (10°00.8′N, 12°48.6′W), along brook in plantation forest, 540 m a.s.l., 5.xii.2008 (B.A. Huber), 3♂2♀ in ZFMK. Conakry, in park (9°32.0′N, 13°41.2′W), 40 m a.s.l., 18.xi.2008 (B.A. Huber), 2♂1♀ in ZFMK; same data, 3♀ in pure ethanol, in ZFMK.

Assigned tentatively

SENEGAL: *Ziguinchor*: Parc National de Basse Casamance [~12°23′N, 16°38′W], 11.viii.1982 (collector not given), 1♀ 1 juv. in IRSB. THE GAMBIA: *Banjul*: Abuko Nature Reserve (13°23.5′N, 16°39.0′W), primary gallery forest, "shaking branches and varia", 17.x.2008 (Yu.M. Marusik), 1♀ in ZFMK.

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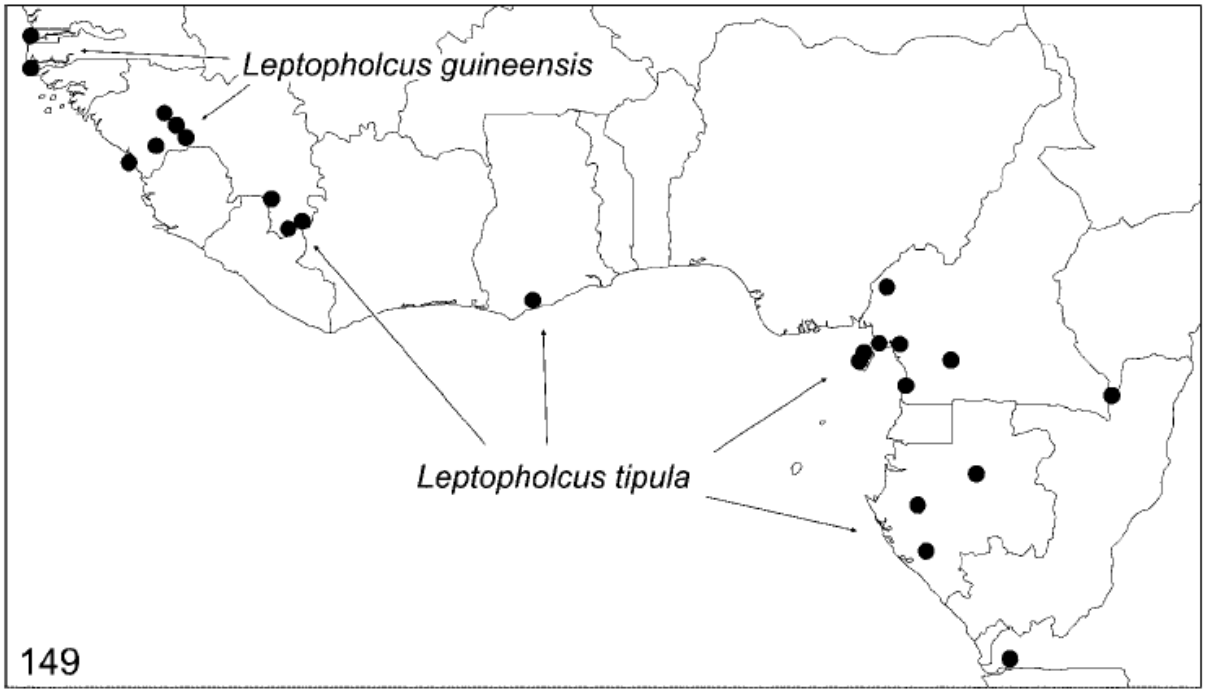

Figures 148–149. Known distributions of *Crossopriza cylindrogaster* and the two *Leptopholcus* species treated herein.

Huber, B. A. 2011. Revision and cladistic analysis of *Pholcus* and closely related taxa (Araneae, Pholcidae). Bonner zool. Monographien 58: 1-510.

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5. *Leptopholcus guineensis*, male, Kindia, Guinea.