

***Modisimus montanus* Petrunkevitch, 1929**

Petrunkevitch, A. 1929. The spiders of Porto Rico. Trans. Connect. Acad. Arts Sci. 30: 1-158.

p. 131

***Modisimus montanus* sp. nov.** (Figures 120 to 126).

At first sight this species reminds one more of a *Linyphia* than a Pholcid because of its comparatively short legs which are also considerably stouter than is usual in representatives of the family Pholcidae. Moreover the typical *M. montanus* does not seem to weave any web, but lives under rocks and when disturbed, tries to escape by running swiftly. I captured seven females and one male under a heap of rocks on the road from Lares to Yauque, some 30 kilometers from the latter place, at an altitude of about 2,000 feet, on January 6, 1926. Another female was captured on October 2, 1925, under a rock in a field at Guainabo.

a) *Female*. Type. Total length with chelicerae 3.2 mm. Carapace 1.18 mm. long, 1.18 mm. wide, with straight posterior margin and obliquely inclined clypeus. The latter is semi-circular in transverse section, has parallel sides and is of the same brown color as the turret, while the rest of the carapace is yellow. Thor-

acic groove longitudinal, deep, extending from base of turret to posterior edge of carapace. Lateral margins of carapace fringed with short, stiff, bristle-like hair which is evenly spaced. Turret comparatively low and so strongly inclined forward that the large

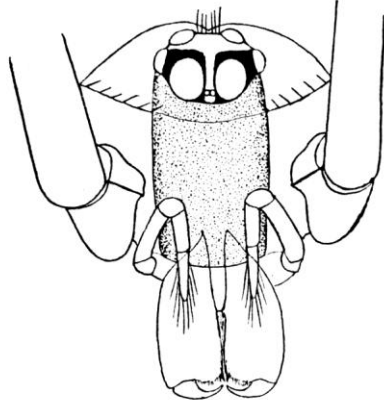


FIGURE 120. *Modisimus montanus* sp. nov. Type. Face of female, showing eyegroup, clypeus and chelicerae.

ALE are directed forward, while the PME look straight up. Eyes 8. AME small. ALE much larger than the other eyes of the triad. Their arrangement is shown in Figure 120. The eyes are so transparent that it is difficult to make exact measurements,

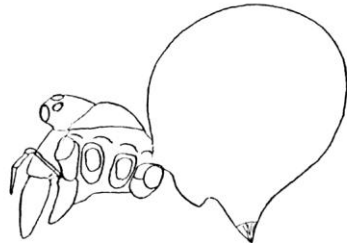


FIGURE 121. *Modisimus montanus* sp. nov. Type. Sideview of female.

but it seems to be certain that none are in contact with their neighbors, that the PME are farther apart than the ALE and that the PME form with the ALE an equilateral rectangle. The black pigment surrounds only two eyes of each triad, as shown in the figure. *Chelicerae* without boss, parallel, soldered in proximal

half, sparsely clothed with hair. Margins short, transverse, with a sharp tooth at their juncture. Fang short and stout. *Maxillae* inclined over lip and meeting in median line in front of it, with

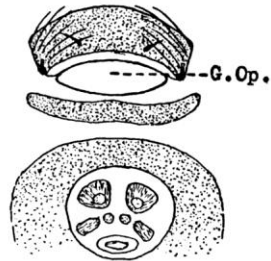


FIGURE 122. *Modisimus montanus* sp. nov. Type. Epigynum and spinnerets. The figure shows also the postgenital ventral sclerite.

short serrula and a very poorly developed scopula. *Lip* wide, immobile, fused with sternum without a trace of a suture. *Sternum* wider than long in ratio 30:25, with anterior emarginations

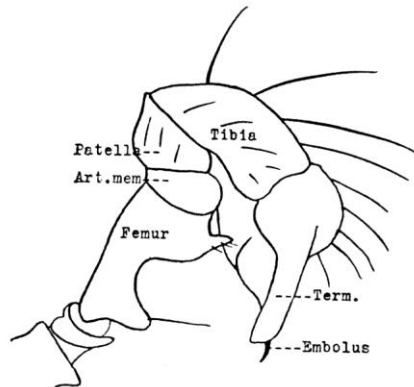


FIGURE 123. *Modisimus montanus* sp. nov. Type. Retrolateral view of right palp of male. Note the shape of the femur with two apophyses.

for the reception of the maxillae and an emarginate posterior edge. All coxae wide apart, those of the fourth pair separated from each other by twice their width, yet not nearly as far apart as the others. All coxae with ventral inflation. Sternum very sparsely clothed with dark hair. *Legs* 1423, a rather unusual arrangement.

	Femur	Pat. + Tib.	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
I	3.60	4.08	5.40	1.28	14.36
II	2.48	2.68	3.12	0.80	8.98
III	2.00	2.16	2.52	0.72	7.40
IV	2.52	2.76	3.12	0.72	9.12

Width of first patella at the "knee" 0.1785 mm. Tibial Index 4.
 Width of fourth patella at the "knee" 0.1666 mm. Tibial Index 6.

No spines on legs. Hair rather long. First, second and third metatarsi and tibiae with several rows of recurved hair evenly spaced. Claws 3, on onychium. Upper claws on first leg with 6

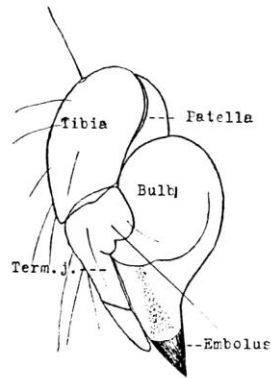


FIGURE 124. *Modisimus montanus* sp. nov. Type. Frontview of the right palp.

long teeth, on fourth leg with 4 short teeth. Third claw with a single tooth. Tarsi multijointed with several rows of spinose setae, especially on the fourth pair of legs. *Abdomen* of the *Theridion* type (Figure 121), very high, with ventral surface very short. Epigynum (Figure 122) in the shape of a rectangular plate bent transversely in front of the elliptic genital opening. Behind the latter a sclerite. Spinnerets of the usual type, but the surrounding chitin is distinctly sclerotized. Abdomen sparsely clothed with brown hair. *Color in alcohol*: Carapace light yellow. Turret and clypeus brown. Legs yellow, darker than carapace, but lighter than clypeus. Chelicerae almost as dark as clypeus. Sternum, lip and maxillae of the same color as chelicerae, but lip

and maxillae with white tip. Abdomen greyish green with indistinct purple spots.

b) *Male*. Type. Total length 2.20 mm. Carapace 0.9044 mm. long, 0.9520 mm. wide, of the same shape as in the female, fringed with somewhat stiffer and longer bristles and slightly emarginate behind. Eyes 8, arranged as in female. *Chelicerae*, *lip*, *maxillae* and *sternum* as in female, but there is a small tooth in front at the end of the basal joint of chelicerae. First and second right legs and first left leg missing, in their place regenerating stumps. Coxae with the same ventral inflation as in the female and as far apart. *Legs* (1)243.

	Femur	Pat. + Tib.	Metatarsus	Tarsus	Total
I
II	2.90	3.32	4.12	0.80	11.14
III	2.48	2.64	3.40	0.68	9.20
IV	2.68	3.04	3.60	0.68	10.00

Width of fourth patella at the "knee" 0.1428 mm. Tibial Index 5.

Abdomen of the same shape and color as in female, but more distinctly and more coarsely spotted with purple. Palp shown in Figures 123 and 124. Femur with two ventral apophysis, one of which is near base, the other near end. Terminal joint slightly shorter than copulatory apparatus. Embolus flat, triangular, curved. Besides the specimens mentioned above, I captured another male and a young on December 10, 1925, in Rio Piedras, under boards covering the mouth of a sink in the ground at the aqueduct. The chelicerae of the male have the same little tooth in front, the palp is typical and there are several rows of recurved hairs on tibiae and metatarsi of the second and third leg (First pair of legs is missing).