

***Pholcus debilis* (Thorell, 1899)**

**Thorell, T. 1899.** Araneae camerunenses. Bihang Till Svenska Vet. Akad. Handl. 25: 1-105.

p. 22

Gen. *Micromerys*, BRADL., 1877.

22. *M. debilis*, n., cephalothorace deplanato, antice sat late truncato, testaceo, inter oculos transversim depresso et

p. 23

fusco-testaceo, sterno, clypeo et mandibulis testaceis; oculis sex, in duos triangulos sat late inter se separatos dispositis; palpis albicanti-testaceis, pedibus pallide testaceis, femoribus et tibiis apice cum patellis nigris; abdomine cylindrato, circa 5:plo longiore quam latiore, postice breviter et oblique truncato-acuminato, paullo longiore subter (apice) quam supra, supra albicanti-testaceo, immaculato; vulva transversa, circa triplo latiore quam longiore, in medio longiore quam versus extremitates, et rubra, ventre magis versus apicem plaga magna rufescente notato. — ♀ *ad.* Long. corp. 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> millim., long. et lat. cephaloth. pæne 1 millim., lg. abd. 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, lat. ej. pæne 1 millim.; ped. circa 18—20 mill. longi.

Exemplum femineum adultum, cum alio exemplo abdomine et pedibus plerisque carens examinavi, in Camerun a SJÖSTEDT inventum.

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

p. 653

a les yeux moyens antérieurs atrophiés. Il est donc très vraisemblable que les *Micromerys* décrits d'Afrique ne soient que des *Leptopholcus* senoculés: j'écris donc *L. debilis* (Thorell, 1899) comb. nov. et *L. tipula* (Simon, 1907) comb. nov. Les différences entre ces deux espèces se limitent à des particularités de la coloration; l'une est du Cameroun, l'autre du Gabon et de Fernando Po.

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

p. 261



1250-1252. *Ph. debilis*, male, dorsal and lateral views; female abdomen, ventral view.  
1267, 1268. *Ph. debilis*.

1250-1252. *Ph. debilis*, male, dorsal and lateral views;

p. 269

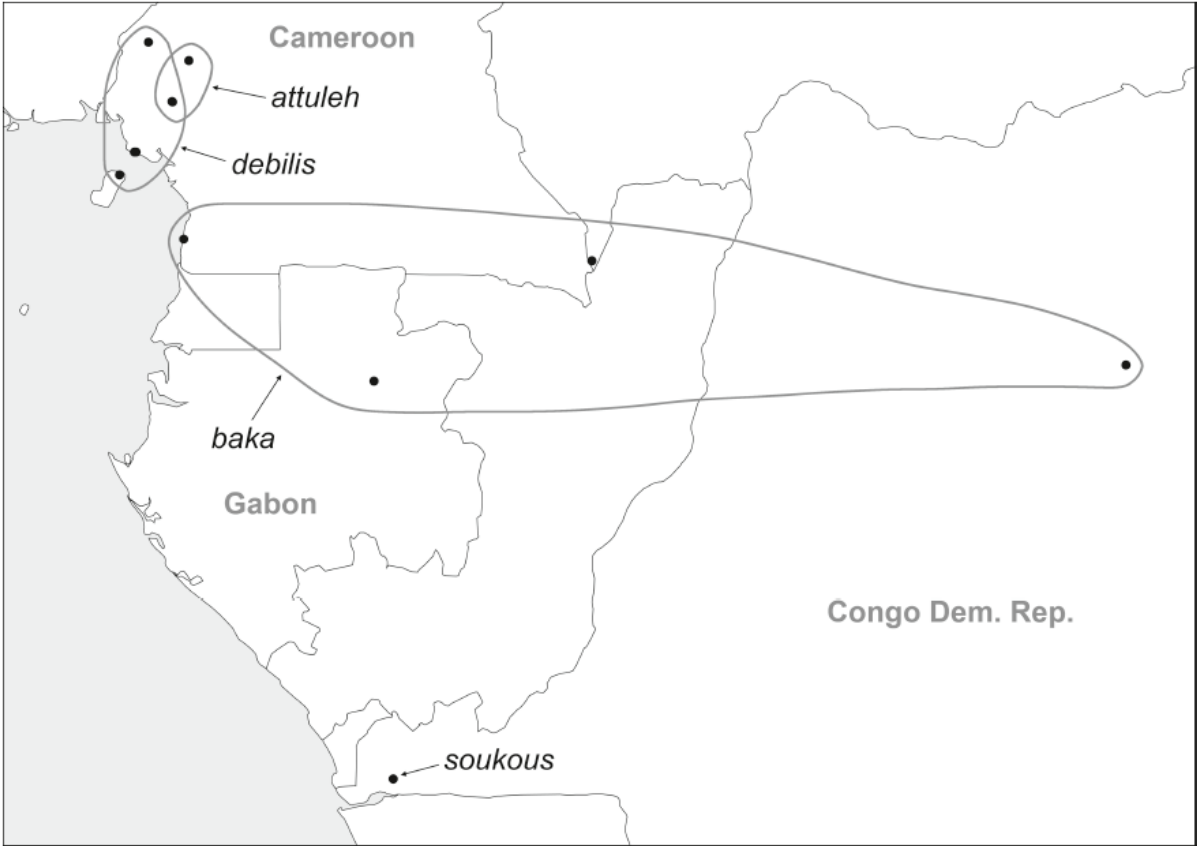


FIG. 1302. Known distribution of the *Pholcus debilis* species group.

*Pholcus debilis* (Thorell, 1899), n. comb.

Figs. 1250-1252, 1267, 1268, 1303-1321

*Micromerys debilis* Thorell 1899: 22-23.

*Leptopholcus debilis*: Brignoli 1980: 653.

*Types*. Two female syntypes, one of them without abdomen, from unspecified locality in Cameroon, with label "Collectio T. Thorell, *Micromerys debilis* Thor., Camerun (Sjösted 1891) No 280a", in NHRS, examined.

*Note*. The Thorell collection also contains a male with almost identical collection data (see below), but Thorell never described this male and in the original description he explicitly refers only to the two (female) specimens above.

*Diagnosis*. Distinguished from similar species (*Ph. atuleh*, *Ph. baka*, *Ph. soukous*) by modified male clypeus (Figs. 1307, 1310), morphology of male palp (Figs. 1303, 1304; shapes of procurus, uncus, and appendix), and female genitalia (Figs. 1267, 1308, 1309; shapes of pore plates and other internal structures).

*Male* (NE Etome). Total body length 4.8, carapace width 1.2. Leg 1: 44.7 (10.0 + 0.5 + 10.6 + 20.6 + 3.0), tibia 2: 6.9, tibia 3: 4.2, tibia 4: 6.0; tibia 1 L/d: 92. Habitus as in Figs. 1250 and 1251. Carapace pale ochre-yellow, ocular area and clypeus brown, sternum whitish, legs ochre-yellow, patellae and tibia-metatarsus joints brown, abdomen ochre-gray with some indistinct dorsal spots on posterior half (unlike specimen shown in Figs. 1250, 1251), ventrally monochromous (cf. female, Fig. 1252). Distance PME-PME 630  $\mu$ m, diameter PME 105  $\mu$ m, distance PME-ALE 25  $\mu$ m, no trace of AME. Ocular area elevated, each triad on distinct stalk directed slightly laterally (Figs. 1307, 1310). No thoracic furrow, clypeus with pair of humps at rim. Chelicerae as in Fig. 1307, distal frontal apophyses with two modified hairs each (Fig. 1313), with large proximal frontal and smaller lateral apophyses. Sternum wider than long (0.80/0.65), unmodified. Palps as in Figs. 1303 and 1304, coxa unmodified, trochanter with short rounded retrolateral apophysis, femur with low dorsal hump and distinct retrolateral apophysis proximally and distinct ventral projection distally, procurus complex distally (Figs. 1305, 1316, 1317), without prolatero-dorsal spines, bulb with large uncus, weakly sclerotized embolus fringed at tip, distally curved appendix (Figs. 1314, 1315). Legs without spines and curved hairs, few vertical hairs; retrolateral trichobothrium on tibia 1 at 5%; prolateral trichobothrium absent on tibia 1, present on other tibiae; many tarsal pseudosegments, but only

distally a few visible in dissecting microscope. Gonopore with four epiandrous spigots (Fig. 1318); ALS with only two spigots each (Fig. 1319).

*Variation*. Tibia 1 in 27 other males: 8.1-10.2 (mean 9.4); spots on abdomen often indistinct or absent, some males with white spots. Males from Mamfe are assigned tentatively because they have a slightly different procurus (Fig. 1306), the trochanter apophysis is slightly shorter and more pointed, the clypeus is only weakly modified, and the uncus differs slightly in size and shape; tibia 1: 8.5, 9.7.

*Female*. In general similar to male but ocular area weakly elevated, lighter brown, triads not on stalks, closer together (Fig. 1312; distance PME-PME 285  $\mu$ m). Tibia 1 in 34 females: 6.4-8.1 (mean 7.4); in females from Mamfe: 7.1, 7.2, 7.4; tarsus 4 with single row of comb-hairs (Fig. 1321). Syntypes in fair condition, tibiae missing, femora 1: 7.5, 7.6. Epigynum with orange-brown plate, small anterior 'knob' (Figs. 1267, 1308, 1320); internal genitalia as in Figs. 1268 and 1309. ALS as in male (only two spigots each).

*Distribution*. Known from southwestern Cameroon and Bioko, Equatorial Guinea (Fig. 1302).

*Material examined*. CAMEROON: unspecified locality: 2♀ syntypes above; same data, but "No 280b", 1♂ in NHRS. *Southwest Region*: Fako Div., Limbe Subdiv.: 1.4 km NE of Etome (4°03.0'N, 9°07.5'E), ca. 400 m a.s.l., 13.-19.i.1992 (S. Larcher, G. Hormiga, J. Coddington, C.E. Griswold, C. Wanzie), 9♂23♀ in CAS; same data, -45♂98♀ (4 vials) in USNM; south slope of Mt. Etinde nr. Batoke (4°03'N, 9°06'E), 300-1000 m a.s.l., 10.i.1992 (C.E. Griswold, J. Coddington, S. Larcher, G. Hormiga), 2♀ in USNM; Mt. Etinde, 700 m a.s.l., sweeping, 2.iii.1981 (R. Bosmans), 1♀ in MRAC (167981). Mt. Koupé above Nyasoso (4°49.6'N, 9°41.1'E), -1600 m a.s.l., underside of leaves, 22.-23.iv.2009 (B.A. Huber), 7♂10♀ (2 vials) in ZFMK; same locality ["Meme Div., Mt. Kupe above Nyassosso (4°50'N, 9°41'E)"], forest, 800-1200 m a.s.l., arboreal, 16.-19.ii.1992 (C.E. Griswold, N. Scharff, C. Wanzie, S. Larcher, Masongo), 1♂3♀ in USNM; same data but "terrestrial", 3♀ (2 vials) in USNM.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Bioko: Pico Basilé (3°41.7'N, 8°52.3'E), ca. 700 m a.s.l., at night, 17.x.1998 (D.K. Dabney, D. Ubick), 1♂1♀ 1 juv. in CAS; same data but collected by M. Boko, D.K. Dabney, L. Henwood, R.W. Tomos, D. Ubick, J.V. Vindum, 1♂1♀ in CAS.

*Assigned tentatively*. CAMEROON: *Southwest Prov.*: Mamfe [5°45'N, 9°19'E], 7.-11.i.1949 (B. Malkin), 2♂3♀ in CAS.

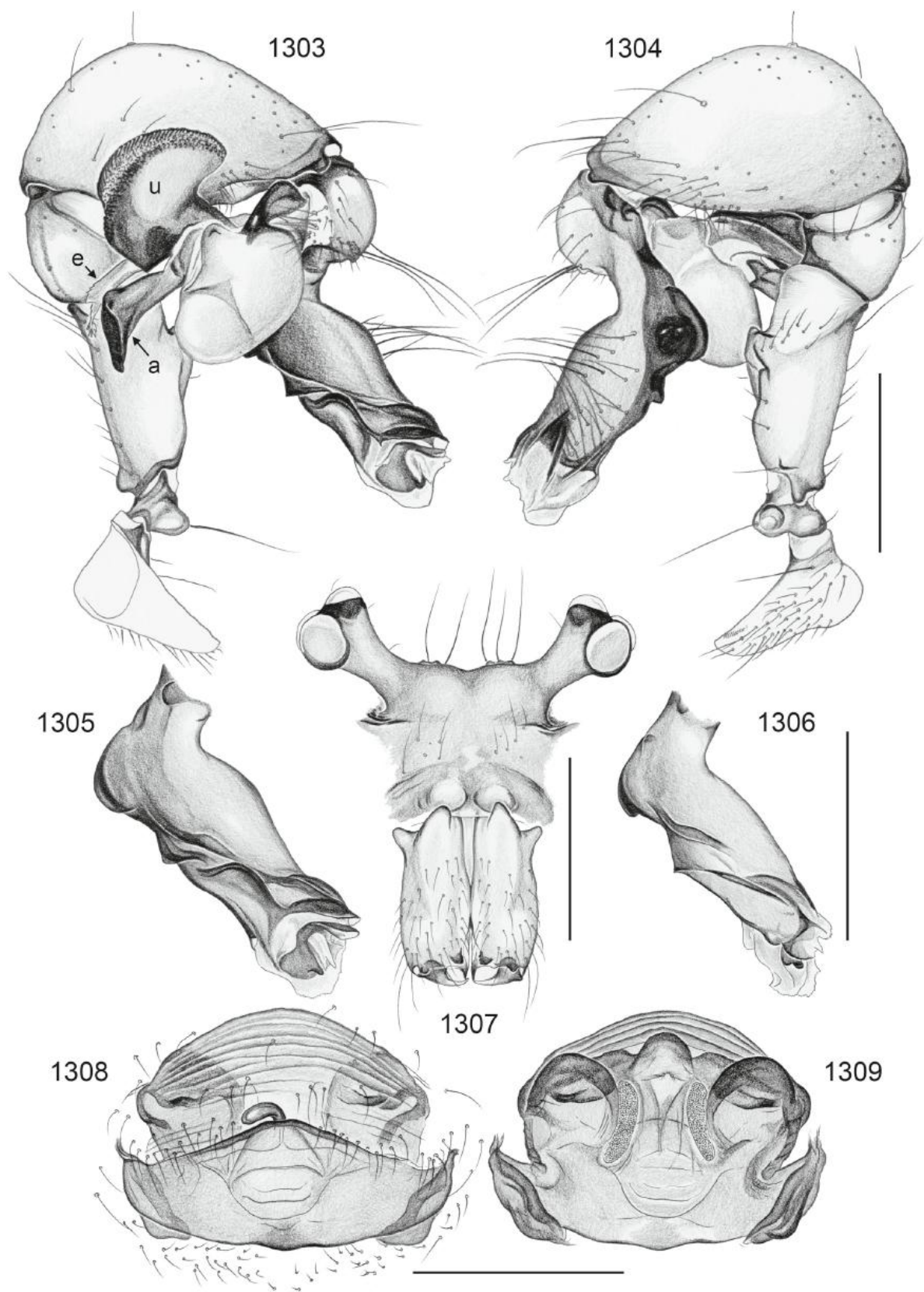


FIG. 1303-1309. *Pholcus debilis*, specimens from NE Etome (except Fig. 1306). 1303, 1304. Left male palp, prolateral and retrolateral views. 1305, 1306. Left procursi, prolateral views, males from NE Etome (1305) and Mamfe (1306). 1307. Male prosoma, frontal view. 1308, 1309. Cleared female genitalia, ventral and dorsal views. Scale lines: 0.5.

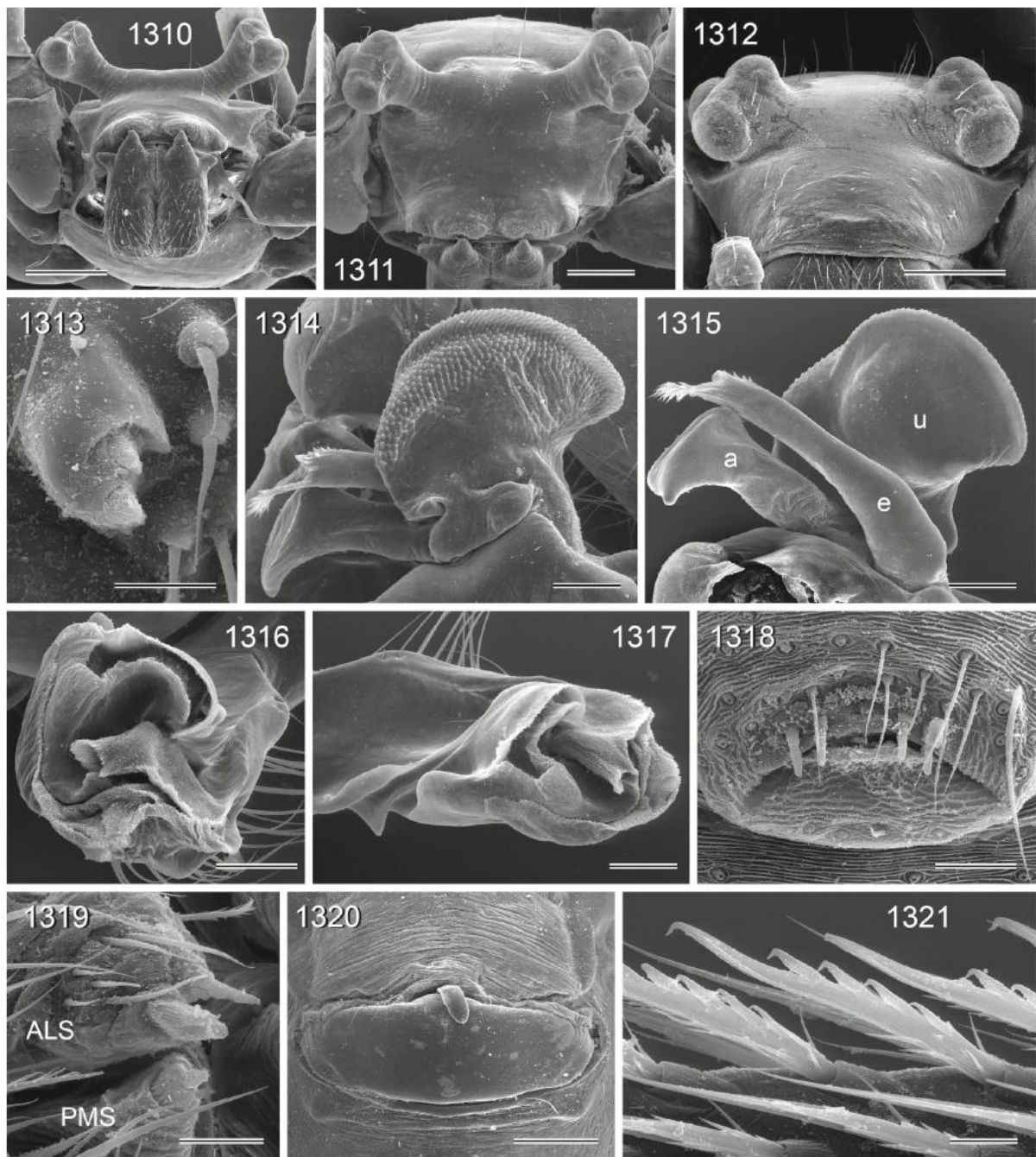


FIG. 1310-1321. *Pholcus debilis*. 1310, 1311. Male prosoma, frontal and fronto-dorsal views. 1312. Female prosoma, frontal view. 1313. Distal male cheliceral apophysis. 1314, 1315. Left and right bulbular processes, prolateral and retrolateral views. 1316, 1317. Left procurus, distal and prolateral views. 1318. Male gonopore. 1319. Male ALS and PMS. 1320. Epigynum. 1321. Comb-hairs on left female tarsus 4. Scale lines: 300  $\mu\text{m}$  (1310), 200  $\mu\text{m}$  (1311, 1312, 1320), 100  $\mu\text{m}$  (1314, 1315, 1317), 80  $\mu\text{m}$  (1316), 40  $\mu\text{m}$  (1318), 20  $\mu\text{m}$  (1313, 1319), 10  $\mu\text{m}$  (1321).