Pholcus leruthi Lessert, 1935

Lessert, R. de. 1935. Description de deux araignées cavernicoles du Congo belge. Rev. zool. bot. afr. 27: 326-332.

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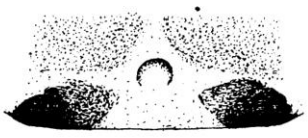
Pholcus leruthi n. sp. (Fig. 4 à 6).

♀ : Céphalothorax testacé ; une tache longitudinale noirâtre en arrière des yeux médians antérieurs ; région thoracique marquée d'une tache antérieure noirâtre, à bords découpés. Pattes-mâchoires, chélicères, pièces buccales fauves, teintées de noir. Sternum fauve, éclairci au milieu. Pattes verdâtres, annelées de noir comme suit : fémurs un anneau subapical, tibias un anneau basal et un subapical, protarses un anneau basal. Patellas noires. Extrémité des fémurs et des tibias annelée de blanc. Abdomen testacé, sa face supérieure tachetée de noir. Filières testacées, tachées de noir.

Céphalothorax arrondi, aussi large que long. Vue de profil, la région thoracique est convexe.

Yeux antérieurs, vus par devant, disposés en ligne droite par leurs centres, les médians deux fois plus petits que les latéraux, deux fois plus



4.

Fig. 4. *Pholcus leruthi* n. sp. ♀.
Epigyne (sous liquide).

rapprochés l'un de l'autre que des latéraux, séparés par un intervalle égal à leur rayon. Yeux latéraux des deux lignes formant avec les médians postérieurs un groupe compact, ces groupes séparés par un intervalle égal à leur largeur. Yeux médians des deux lignes formant un trapèze plus large en arrière que long. Yeux latéraux des deux lignes subcontigus.

Bandeau proclive, convexe, quatre fois plus long que le diamètre des yeux latéraux antérieurs.

Abdomen cylindrique, presque trois fois plus long que large. Epigyne (fig. 4) du même type que chez les *Pholcus phalangioides* (Fuessl.) et *opilionides* (Schr.), présentant au bord du pli épigastrique deux taches brun-rouge transversales, séparées par un intervalle égal à leur largeur et muni en avant d'un tubercule arrondi.

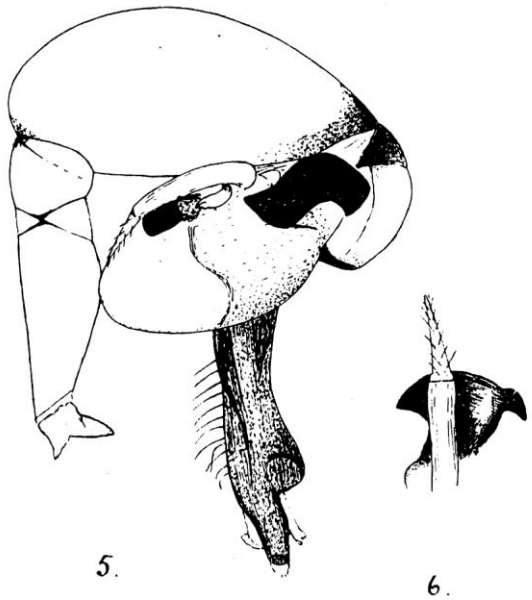
Longueur totale, 6 mm. ; longueur du céphalothorax, 1.7 mm. Tibia I = 9.5 mm.

♂. Coloration et caractères comme chez la ♀.

Chélicères dépourvues de dents basales et subapicales antérieures.

Pattes-mâchoires (fig. 5 et 6) testacées; tibia rayé de noir en dessus (sauf à la base); paracymbium olivâtre et brun-rouge.

Trochanter armé du côté externe d'une apophyse perpendiculaire cônique aussi longue que l'article; fémur rétréci vers la base, deux fois plus court que le tibia; patella aussi haute que longue en dessus; tibia régulièrement convexe en dessus, deux fois plus long que haut au milieu; tarse court, prolongé en paracymbium dirigé en bas, arqué, deux fois plus long que l'article, carèné en dessous, tronqué, avec l'angle postérieur prolongé et accompagné d'expansions membraneuses translucides. Bulbe



Pholcus leruthi n. sp. ♂

Fig. 5. Patte-mâchoire gauche, face interne.

Fig. 6. Apophyses du bulbe vues par derrière.

ovoïde, pourvu sur son bord postérieur de deux petites apophyses juxtaposées, la supérieure testacée, terminée en pointe translucide, garnie de poils, l'inférieure brun-noir recourbée, tronquée, munie d'un petit crochet externe (fig. 6).

Longueur totale, 6 mm.; longueur du céphalothorax, 1.6 mm.

Tibia I = 10.5 mm.

Habitat : Grotte de Tscheko Saka, territoire du Sankuru (♂♀, V) (N. Creppe leg.)

Très voisin, mais différent par la coloration (sternum fauve), et la

structure des pattes-mâchoires (bulbe et apophyses du bulbe) de *P. excavatus* Simon 1877 du Congo (1).

Les *Pholcus,* lucifuges, vivent dans l'intérieur des maisons ou dans les interstices des vieux murs et passent volontiers dans les grottes. *P. leruthi,* qui ne présente aucune modification adaptative, n'est peut-être pas exclusivement cavernicole et doit plutôt être considéré comme troglophile

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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15, 16. *Pholcus leruthi,* male at night (hanging in web) and during the day (pressed against tree bark), Kakamega, Kenya.

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910, 911. *Ph. leruthi*, male, dorsal and lateral views.

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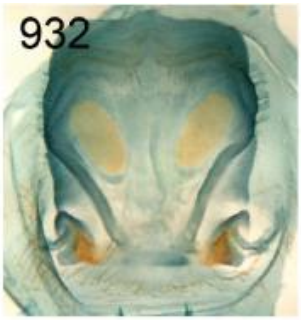

931-933. *Ph. leruthi*, Gangala (931, 932), Kakamega (933).

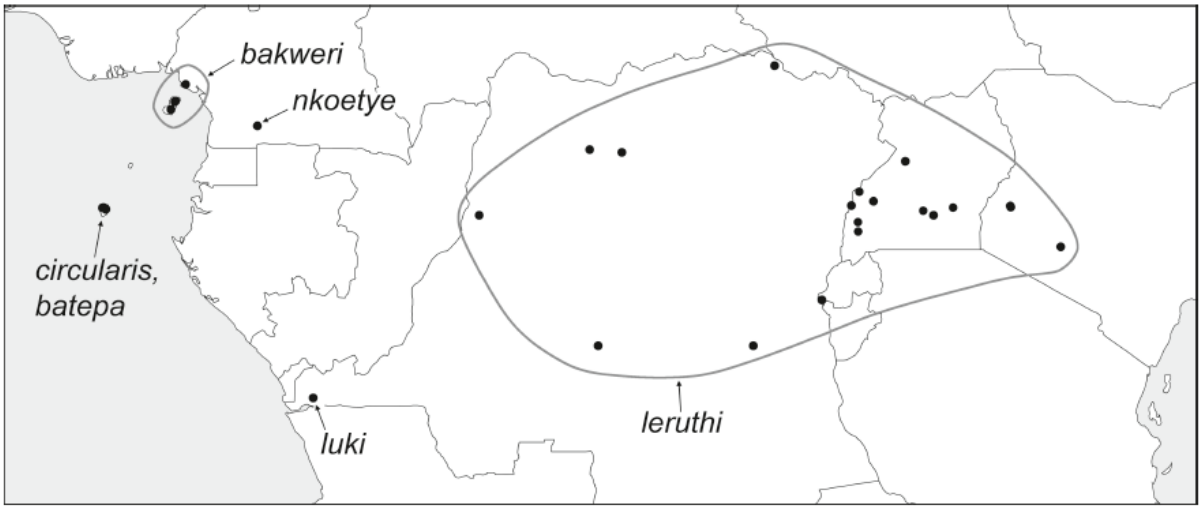

FIG. 987. Known distribution of the *Pholcus circularis* species group.

Pholcus leruthi Lessert, 1935

Figs. 15, 16, 910, 911, 931-933, 999-1016

Pholcus leruthi Lessert 1935: 330-332, figs. 4-6.

Types. Male and female syntypes (number of specimens unknown) from Congo Dem. Rep., Sankuru Prov., "Grotte de Tscheko Saka, territoire du Sankuru" [-4°S, 22°E], date unknown (N. Creppe), depository unknown. One paratype is supposed to be at the MNHN, Paris, but could not be found.

Diagnosis. Distinguished from congeners by shapes of procursus and appendix, by absence of uncus (Fig. 999), male cheliceral armature (Fig. 1001), and female genitalia (Figs. 931, 933); from similar *Ph. luki* by relatively much smaller male palpal femur (Fig. 1000) and absence of hair brush medially on carapace (cf. Fig. 912).

Male (Gangala). Total body length 5.6, carapace width 1.5. Leg 1: 44.2 (10.6 + 0.7 + 10.6 + 19.6 + 2.7), tibia 2: 7.0, tibia 3: 4.8, tibia 4: 6.7; tibia 1 L/d: 68. Habitus as in Figs. 910 and 911. Carapace ochre-yellow with large brown median mark including ocular area but not clypeus, sternum pale ochre-yellow, legs ochre-yellow, femora and tibiae with whitish tips and subdistal brown rings, patellae and tibia-metatarsus joints also darkened, abdomen pale ochre-gray with many indistinct darker spots dorsally and laterally, ventrally without pattern. Distance PME-PME 380 µm, diameter PME 135 µm, distance PME-ALE 45 µm, distance AME-AME 55 µm, diameter AME 95 µm. Ocular area elevated, many stronger hairs on posterior side and anteriorly on carapace near median line (Fig. 1004), each triad on short stalk directed laterally. No thoracic furrow; clypeus unmodified. Chelicerae as in Fig. 1001, distal frontal apophyses with two modified hairs each (Fig. 1005), with proximal lateral apophyses. Sternum wider than long (0.95/0.75), unmodified. Palps as in Figs. 999 and 1000, coxa unmodified, trochanter with short retrolatero-ventral apophysis, femur very slender, barely modified, tibia relatively large, procursus mostly simple, only tip complex (Figs. 1008-1012), tarsal organ capsulate (Fig. 1006), bulb slightly elongate, without uncus, embolus long with distal transparent fringed process, appendix short, with retrolateral hook visible in ventral view (Fig. 1007; see also fig. 6 in Lessert 1935). Legs without spines and curved hairs, few vertical hairs; retrolateral trichobothrium on tibia 1 at 4%; prolateral trichobothrium absent on tibia 1, present on other tibiae; tarsal pseudosegments indistinct, only distally a few visible in dissecting microscope. Gonopore with four epiandrous spigots (Fig. 1014); ALS with only four spigots each (Fig. 1013).

Variation. Tibia 1 in 39 other males: 8.4-12.1 (mean 10.1); tibia 1 in syntype: 10.5 (Lessert 1935); spots on abdomen sometimes distinct (Figs. 910, 911), sometimes indistinct or absent.

Female. In general similar to male but sternum anteriorly with light brown mark, triads closer together (distance PME-PME 230 µm), mark on carapace usually divided into two parts by narrow median light line. Tibia 1 in 37 females: 7.5-9.9 (mean 8.8); tibia

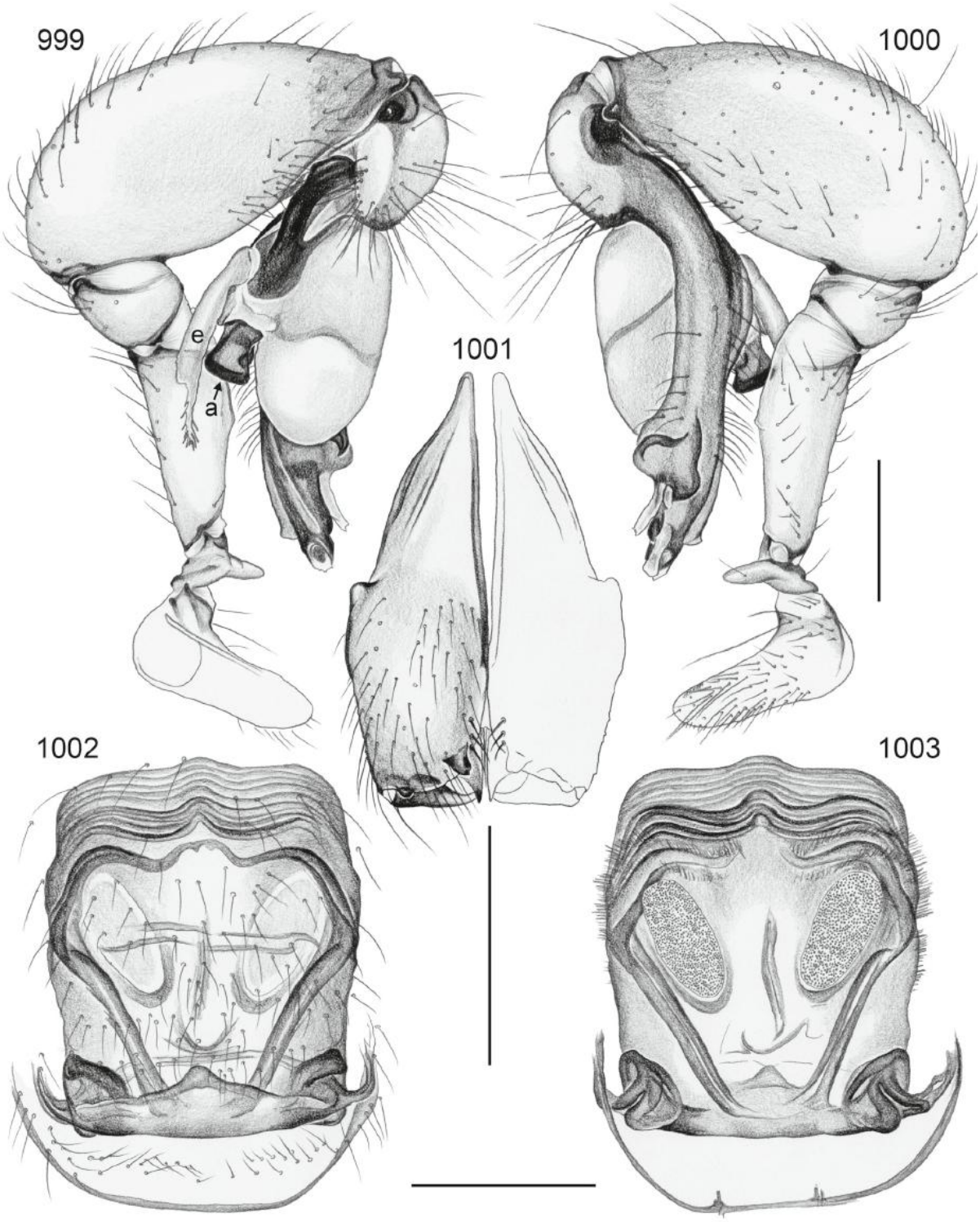

FIG. 999-1003. *Pholcus leruthi*. 999, 1000. Left male palp, prolateral and retrolateral views. 1001. Male chelicerae, frontal view. 1002, 1003. Cleared female genitalia, ventral and dorsal views. Scale lines: 0.5.

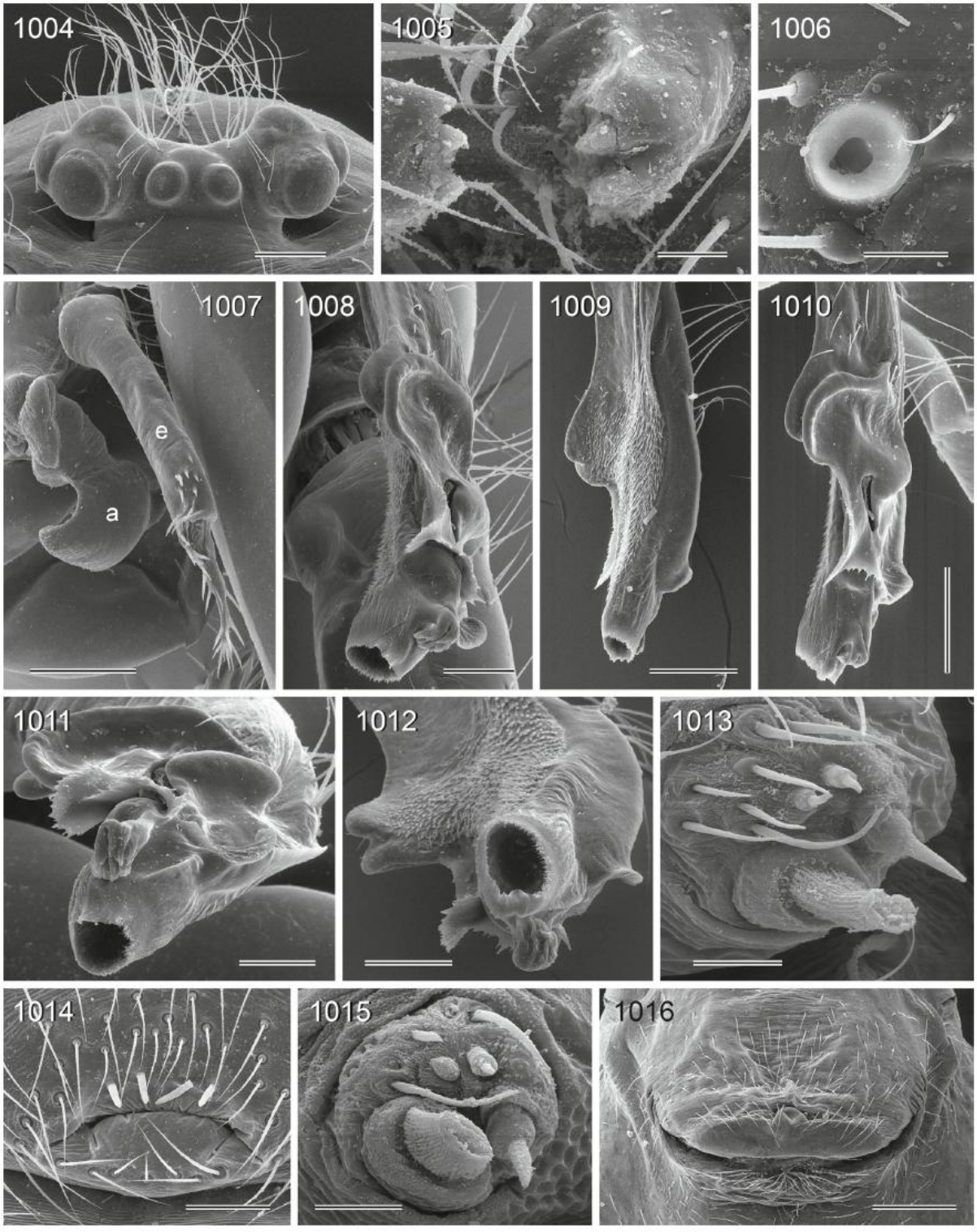

FIG. 1004-1016. *Pholcus leruthi*. 1004. Male ocular area, frontal view. 1005. Male distal cheliceral apophyses. 1006. Male palpal tarsal organ. 1007. Appendix and embolus of right genital bulb. 1008. Left procursus, retrolatero-dorsal view. 1009. Right procursus, prolateral view. 1010. Left procursus, retrolateral view. 1011. Left procursus tip, retrolatero-distal view. 1012. Right procursus, prolatero-distal view. 1013. Male ALS. 1014. Male gonopore. 1015. Female ALS. 1016. Epigynum. Scale lines: 300 µm (1016), 200 µm (1004, 1007, 1009, 1010), 100 µm (1008, 1012), 80 µm (1011, 1014), 40 µm (1006), 20 µm (1005, 1013, 1015).

1 in syntype: 9.5 (Lessert 1935). ALS with only four spigots each (Fig. 1015). Epigynum mostly weakly sclerotized, with narrow plate with pair of sclerotized areas and indistinct 'knob' (Figs. 931, 1002); internal genitalia as in Figs. 932 and 1003. In some females, the sclerotized areas are closer together (Fig. 933). Females from northwestern Congo Dem. Rep. (Eala, Mbangi, Monzé) are assigned tentatively because females of *Ph. luki* are very similar and no males are known from these localities.

Distribution. Known from several localities in Congo Dem. Rep., Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda (Fig. 987).

Material examined. CONGO DEM. REP.: *Haut-Uele Prov.*: "Gangala, à 20 km W Doruma" [4°44'N, 27°30'E], 1959 (D.A. Stam), 3♂4♀ in MRAC (114271). *Maniema Prov.*: "62 mi E of Kibombo" [~4°S, 26°15'E], 14.viii.1957 (E.S. Ross, R.E. Leech), 1♂ in CAS.

UGANDA: *Bundibugyo District*: between Sempaya and Itajo (~0°50.4'N, 30°11.5'E), 1095 m a.s.l., degraded forest, 5.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 8♂9♀ (2 vials) in ZFMK; between Sempaya and Itajo (~0°50.3'N, 30°10.4'E), 800 m a.s.l., roadside forest, 5.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 4♂8♀ in ZFMK. Semuliki N.P., between Sempaya and Bumaga (~0°49.3'N, 30°09.5'E), ~700 m a.s.l., 4.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 6♂3♀ in ZFMK. *Kabarole District*: Kibale Forest N.P., forest near Makerere Univ. Research Station (0°33.2'N, 30°21.4'E), ~1500 m a.s.l., 6.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 6♂3♀ in ZFMK. *Kabarole and Kamwenge Districts*: Kibale Forest N.P., near Kanyanchu (0°27.5-28.0'N, 30°22.3-22.8'E), 1250 m a.s.l., 7.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 3♂1♀ in ZFMK. Kibale Forest, Ngogo Camp (0°30'N, 30°35'E), 1500-1800 m a.s.l., 30.-31.x.1992 (V. & B. Roth), 1♀ in CAS. *Bushenyi District*: Kyambura River Gorge (~0°10.7'S, 30°05.8'E), 900 m a.s.l., 29.xi.2010 (B.A. Huber), 5♂3♀ in ZFMK. Kalinzu Forest Reserve (0°22.5'S, 30°06.9'E), 1500 m a.s.l., 28.xi.2010 (B.A. Huber), 1♂2♀ (plus 2♀ 1 juv. in pure ethanol) in ZFMK. Kasyoha-Kitomi Forest Reserve (0°16.1'S, 30°09.1'E), 1280 m a.s.l., 29.xi.2010 (B.A. Huber), 2♂2♀ (plus 3 juvs. in pure ethanol) in ZFMK. *Kasese District*: Ruwenzori [~0°22'N, 30°E], 1952 (G.O. Evans), 4♂2♀ 1 juv. in BMNH. *Masindi District*: Budongo Forest Reserve (1°42.5-43.5'N, 31°31.6-32.7'E), ~1100 m a.s.l., 9.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 6♂6♀ in ZFMK; Budongo Forest near Sonso (1°45'N, 31°35'E), 1.-10.vii.1995 (T. Wagner), 1♀ in ZFMK. Budongo Forest Reserve, Kaniyo Pabidi (1°55.1'N, 31°43.2'E), ~1000 m a.s.l., 9.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 5♂5♀ (plus 1 juv. in pure ethanol) in ZFMK. *Mpigi District*: Mpanga Forest Reserve (0°12.4'N, 32°18.1'E), 1200 m a.s.l., 22.xi.2010 (B.A. Huber), 8♂2♀ (2 vials) (plus 1♂1♀ in pure ethanol) in ZFMK. *Wakiso District*: Entebbe [~0°04'N, 32°28'E], 6.iii.1928 (E. Degen), 3♂ in BMNH (have been dry); "Bugarios", near Entebbe, 6.iii.1928 (E. Degen), 3♂4♀ in BMNH. *Mukono District*: Mabira Forest Reserve (0°23.6'N, 32°59.4'E), 1200 m a.s.l., 11.xii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 9♂10♀ (2 vials) in ZFMK.

KENYA: *Western Prov.*: Kakamega Forest N.P., along Isiukhu River (0°19.1'-19.7'N, 34°52.5'-52.8'E), ~1550-1580 m a.s.l., 3.ii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 2♂3♀ in ZFMK; Kakamega Forest N.P., Arboretum trail (0°21.3'N, 34°51.5'E), 1620 m a.s.l., 2.-3.ii.2010 (B.A. Huber), 27♂26♀ in ZFMK and NMKE; same data, 3♀ 6 juvs. in pure ethanol, in ZFMK. Kakamega Forest, 12.viii.1972 (J. & F. Murphy), 1♂ in CJFM. Kakamega Forest, "T.N.132", i.-ii.2003 (W. Freund), 1♂ in ZFMK. *Rift Valley*: Mt. Longonot [~0°55'S, 36°26'E], 2500 m a.s.l., ix.1981 (J. & F. Murphy), 1♀ abdomen in CJFM (9656).

RWANDA: Cyamudongo Forest [2°34'S, 28°59'E] nr. Nyakabuye, x.1993 (T. Wagner), 1♀ in ZFMK.

Assigned tentatively. CONGO DEM. REP.: Mbangi (2°07'N, 21°44'E), "FOG06", 25.vi.2009 (MRAC Congostream Expedition), old secondary forest, 2♀ in MRAC. Monzé (Engengele) (2°02'N, 22°44'E), "FOG09", 30.vi.2009 (MRAC Congostream Expedition), old secondary forest (periodically inundated), 1♀ in MRAC. Eala [0°04'N, 18°17'E], xi.1936 (J. Ghesquiere), 2♀ 1 juv. in MRAC (898, 913, 1050).