Pholcus mecheria Huber, 2011

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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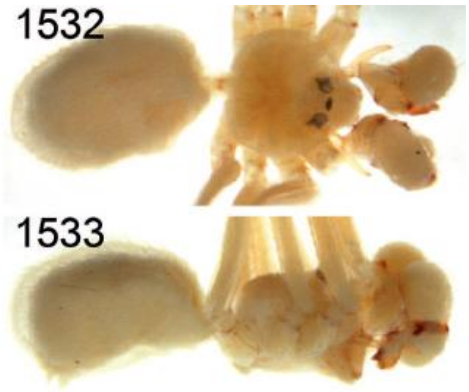

1532, 1533. *Ph. mecheria*, male, dorsal and lateral views.

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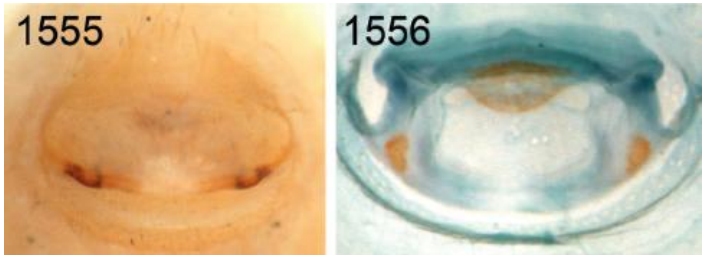

1555, 1556. *Ph. mecheria*.

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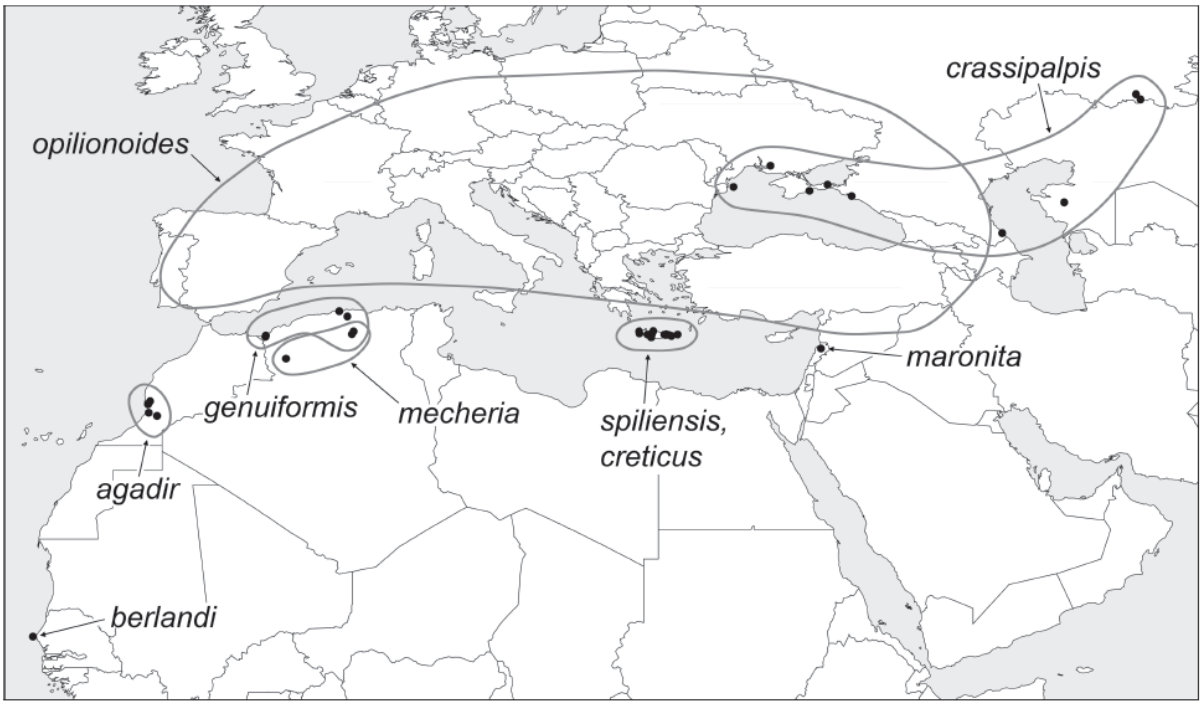

FIG. 1585. Known distribution of the *Pholcus opilionoides* species group; for *Ph. opilionoides*, only a rough estimate of its geographic range is shown.

Pholcus mecheria n. sp.

Figs. 1532, 1533, 1555, 1556, 1612-1616

Type. Male holotype from Algeria, Wilaya Naâma, Mécheria [33°33'N, 0°17'W], with E. Simon's original label "6292 Ph. Mecheria!", no further information, in MNHN (AR 10218).

Etymology. The specific name is a noun in apposition, derived from the type locality.

Diagnosis. Very small species, easily distinguished from congeners by distinctive procursus, shape of uncus, and absence of appendix (Figs. 1612, 1613); also by unmodified male chelicerae (Fig. 1614) and female genitalia (Figs. 1555, 1615, 1616; small pore plates).

Male (holotype). Total body length 2.3, carapace width 0.9. Leg 1: 17.1 (4.5 + 0.4 + 4.5 + 6.7 + 1.0), tibia 2: 3.1, tibia 3: 2.0, tibia 4: 2.4; tibia 1 L/d: 51. Habitus as in Figs. 1532 and 1533. Entire spider mostly pale ochre-yellow, only carapace with indistinct median mark, sternum and abdomen pale-gray. Distance PME-PME 170 µm, diameter PME 90 µm, distance PME-ALE 25 µm, distance AME-AME 25 µm, diameter AME 30 µm. Ocular area slightly elevated, few stronger hairs posteriorly. No thoracic furrow; clypeus unmodified. Chelicerae as in Fig. 1614, with slight elevation proximally frontally, otherwise unmodified. Sternum wider than long (0.65/0.55), unmodified. Palps as in Figs. 1612 and 1613, coxa unmodified, trochanter with long retrolatero-ventral apophysis with modified hair distally, femur with indistinct ventral ridge, procursus distally complex, without spines, bulb with triangular uncus, short transparent embolus, without appendix. Legs without spines and curved hairs, few vertical hairs; retrolateral trichobothrium on tibia 1 at 12%; prolateral trichobothrium absent on tibia 1, present on other tibiae; tarsus 1 with ~15 pseudosegments, barely visible in dissecting microscope.

Variation. In the other male the tip of the uncus has a slightly different shape; tibia 1: 4.6.

Female. In general similar to male, triads slightly closer together (PME-PME distance 150 µm). Tibia 1 in 6 females: 4.1-4.7 (mean 4.4). Epigynum large weakly sclerotized area, narrow posterior plate without 'knob' (Figs. 1555, 1615); internal genitalia as in Figs. 1556 and 1616.

Distribution. Known from northern Algeria only (Fig. 1585).

Material examined. ALGERIA: *Wilaya Naâma*: Mécheria: ♂ holotype above, together with 6♀. *Wilaya M'Sila*: "B. Sauda" [Beni Sauda = Bou Saâda, 35°12'N, 4°11'E], with Simon's original label "12327 Ph - B. Sauda!", no further information, 1♂ in MNHN (AR 10209).

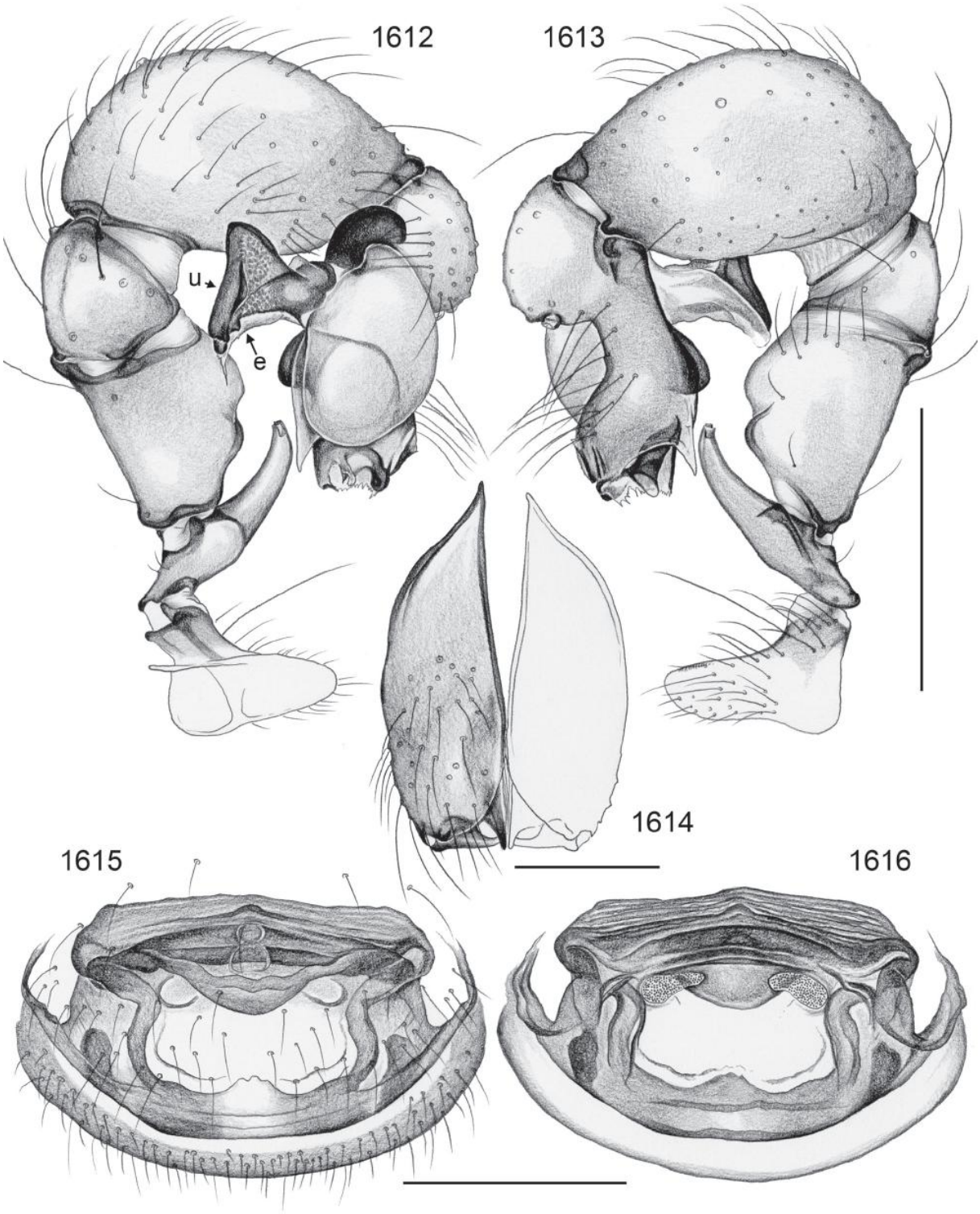

FIG. 1612-1616. *Pholcus mecheria*. 1612, 1613. Left male palp, prolateral and retrolateral views. 1614. Male chelicerae, frontal view. 1615, 1616. Cleared female genitalia, ventral and dorsal views. Scale lines: 0.5 (1612, 1613), 0.3 (1615, 1616), 0.2 (1614).