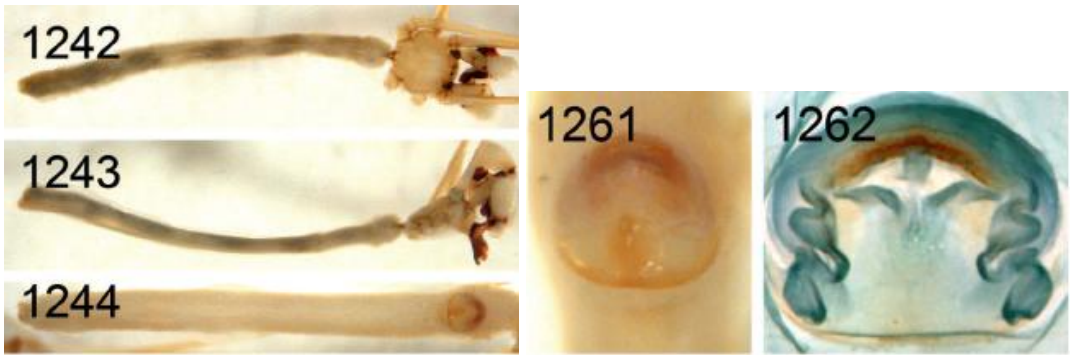
***Pholcus taarab* Huber, 2011**

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

p. 261



1242-1244. *Ph. taarab*, male, dorsal and lateral views; female abdomen, ventral view.
1261, 1262. *Ph. taarab*.

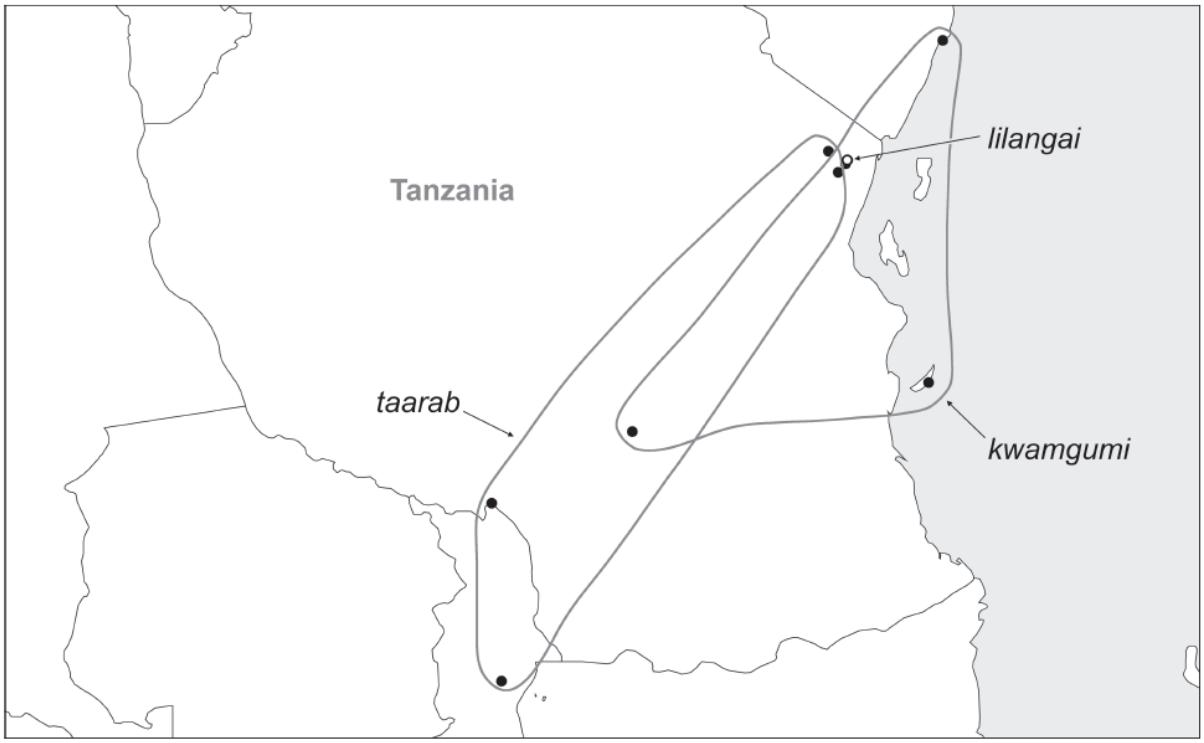


FIG. 1275. Known distribution of the *Pholcus taarab* species group.

Pholcus taarab n. sp.

Figs. 1242-1244, 1261, 1262, 1276-1281

Type. Male holotype from Tanzania, Tanga Region, West Usambara Mts., Mazumbai (4°49'S, 38°30'E), forest, 1400-1800 m a.s.l., 10.-20.xi.1995 (C.E. Griswold, N. Scharff, D. Ubick), in CAS.

Etymology. The Taarab is a music genre popular in Tanzania and Kenya; noun in apposition.

Diagnosis. Distinguished from similar species (*Ph. kwamgumi*, *Ph. lilangai*) by morphology of male palp (Figs. 1276, 1277; shapes of procursus, uncus, and appendix); from *Ph. lilangai* also by absence of black band anteriorly between eye triads.

Male (holotype). Total body length 6.3, carapace width 0.9. Leg 1: 34.1 (8.8 + 0.4 + 7.9 + 11.1 + 2.9), tibia 2: 5.9, tibia 3: 3.9, tibia 4: 5.7; tibia 1 L/d: 99. Habitus as in Figs. 1242 and 1243. Carapace pale ochre-yellow, ocular area and clypeus partly light brown, chelicerae with light brown bands, sternum whitish, legs ochre-yellow, patellae and tibia-metatarsus joints light brown, abdomen gray with very indistinct darker marks dorsally and laterally, ventrally monochromous (cf. female, Fig. 1244). Distance PME-PME 335 µm, diameter PME 90 µm, distance PME-ALE 25 µm, distance AME-AME 60 µm, diameter AME ~25 µm (lenses not clearly visible).

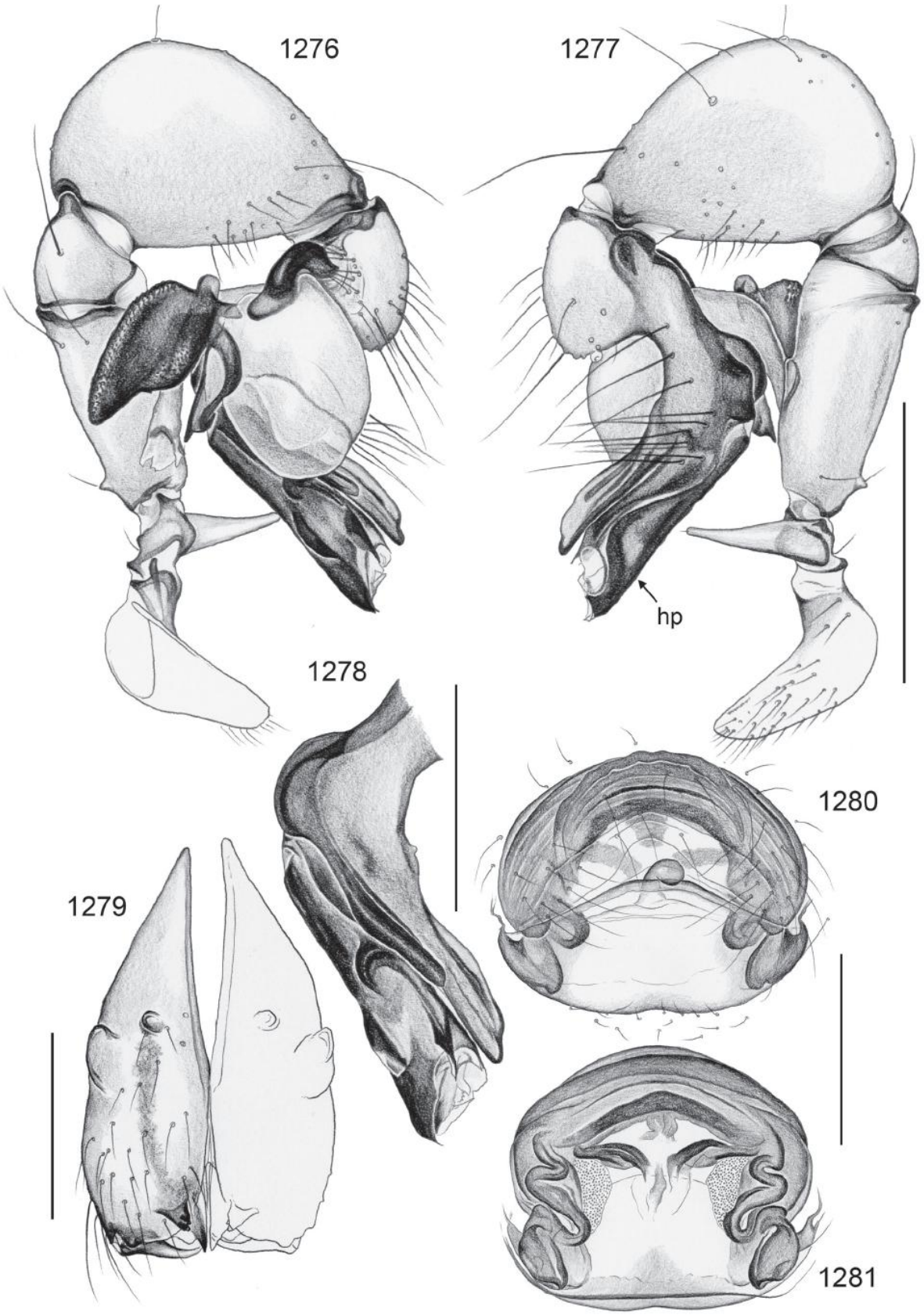


FIG. 1276-1281. *Pholcus taarab*. 1276, 1277. Left male palp, prolateral and retrolateral views. 1278. Left procursus, prolateral view. 1279. Male chelicerae, frontal view. 1280, 1281. Cleared female genitalia, ventral and dorsal views. Scale lines: 0.5 (1276, 1277), 0.3 (1278, 1280, 1281), 0.2 (1279).

Ocular area medially not elevated but triads on short stalks directed laterally, few stronger hairs on posterior side. No thoracic furrow; clypeus unmodified. Chelicerae as in Fig. 1279, simple distal apophyses with modified hairs and frontal and lateral apophyses proximally. Sternum wider than long (0.65/0.55), unmodified. Palps as in Figs. 1276 and 1277, coxa unmodified, trochanter with tapering straight retro-latero-ventral apophysis, femur with small apophysis dorso-proximally, ventrally with sclerotized ridge, procursus very complex distally (Fig. 1278), with large hinged structure ventrally, bulb with uncus, weakly sclerotized distally widened embolus, T-shaped appendix. Legs without spines and curved hairs, few vertical hairs (many hairs missing); retro-lateral trichobothrium on tibia 1 at 4%; prolateral trichobothrium absent on tibia 1, present on other tibiae; tarsal pseudosegments not visible in dissecting microscope.

Variation. In some males the dorso-distal procursus apophysis is slightly more bifid; the appendix may be larger and set with more and stronger short spine-like processes; the abdomen may be entirely monochromous, the ocular area more generally brown, the brown bands on the chelicerae may be absent. Tibia 1 in 4 other males: 7.0, 7.8, 8.7, 8.7.

Female. In general similar to male but triads not on stalks and closer together (distance PME-PME 250 µm), ocular area and clypeus not darkened. Tibia 1 in 5 females: 5.7-6.6 (mean 6.2). Epigynum mostly weakly sclerotized, internal arc visible through cuticle anteriorly, posterior plate with 'knob' (Figs. 1261, 1280); internal genitalia as in Figs. 1262 and 1281.

Distribution. Apparently widely distributed in Tanzania and northern Malawi (Fig. 1275).

Material examined. TANZANIA: *Tanga Region*: West Usambara Mts., Mazumbai: ♂ holotype above; Mazumbai Forest Reserve (4°49'S, 38°31'E), 1370-1435 m a.s.l., 4.xii.1995 ("Fog 31"), 2♂2♀ (4 vials) in ZMUC. East Usambara Mts., Amani (5°05.7'S, 38°38'E), forest, 950 m a.s.l., 27.x.-9.xi.1995 (C.E. Griswold, N. Scharff, D. Ubick), 1♂1♀ 1 juv. in CAS. *Iringa Region*: Mufindi Distr., Uzungwa Scarp Forest Reserve (8°31.6'S, 35°54'E), 750 m a.s.l., "canopy fog 37-CG", 8.iii.1996 (Mc Kamey *et al.*), 1♂ in ZMUC; same data but "canopy fog 38-FJ" and "canopy fog 38-AI", 12.iii.1996, 2♀ (2 vials) in ZMUC. *Mbeya Region*: 1 km N Matema [9°29'S, 34°02'E], forest at foot of Livingstone Mts., 26.xi.1991 (R. Jocqué), 1♂ in MRAC (173225).

MALAWI: *Northern Region*: Chintheche [11°50'S, 34°13'E], 1.-20.xi.1977 (R. Jocqué), 3♂2♀ in MRAC (153181).