

Redescription of the holotype of *Larinia vara* Kauri, 1950 (Aranei: Araneidae) from South Africa, with establishing of a new combination

Переописание голотипа *Larinia vara* Kauri, 1950 (Aranei: Araneidae) из ЮАР, с установлением новой комбинации

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: *Larinia*, Mangorini, Araneini, Araneae, новая комбинация, Южная Африка, Трансвааль, Квазулу-Наталь.

ABSTRACT. The holotype male of *Larinia vara* Kauri, 1950 known only from Kwazulu-Natal is re-described. It was found that species does not belong to *Larinia* Simon, 1874 or any other genera of Mangorini. Judging from the somatic characters it is most close to *Atea* C.L. Koch, 1837, a genus currently considered as junior synonym of *Araneus* Clerk, 1757 *sensu lato*. Because of this a new combination *Araneus varus* (Kauri, 1950) **comb.n.** is suggested.

РЕЗЮМЕ. Переописан голотип *Larinia vara* Kauri, 1950, вида известного из Квазулу-Наталь. Было установлено, что вид не принадлежит роду *Larinia* Simon, 1874 и ни к одному из родов Mangorini. Судя по соматическим признакам вид наиболее близок к *Atea* C.L. Koch, 1837, роду считающимся младшим синонимом *Araneus* Clerk, 1757 *sensu lato*. Предложена новая комбинация *Araneus varus* (Kauri, 1950) **comb.n.**

Introduction

Larinia Simon, 1874 and related genera are relatively well studied in the Old World and particularly in Africa due to series of revisions made by Grasshoff [1970a–c, 1971]. He examined all species listed in *Larinia* in catalogues written by Bonnet [1957] and Roewer [1942]. Most of species were transferred to other genera of the tribe Mangorini Simon, 1895. One species, *Larinia vara* Kauri, 1950 from South Africa, described in the period not surveyed in the catalogues was overlooked by Grasshoff [1970]. Recently I had an opportunity to study the holotype of this species and recognized that it does not belong to *Larinia* or Mangorini at whole, but being a member of Araneini. Search

of literature for Araneini occurring in South Africa reveals only two genera, *Araneus* Clerck, 1757 and *Pararaneus* Caporiacco, 1940. The latter one is well studied due to the revision of Grasshoff [1968] but *Araneus* was found to be very poorly studied in South Africa. Of 12 species of *Araneus* reported from South Africa [Platnick, 2014], all are known by single sex, seven by females, two by males and two by juveniles. Only one species description, *Araneus coccinella* Pocock, 1898, has any illustration. Because of this I was unable to check if *Larinia vara* can be conspecific with any species considered in *Araneus* from South Africa. The goal of this paper is to re-described the holotype of *Larinia vara* and establish new combination.

Material and methods

Specimens were photographed using an Olympus Camedia E-520 camera attached to an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope at the Zoological Museum, University of Turku. Abbreviations used for spination and leg segments are as follows: d — dorsal, Fe — femur, Me — metatarsus, Pa — patella, p — prolateral, r — retrolateral, Ta — tarsus, Ti — tibia, v — ventral. All measurements are given in millimeters. Leg measurements is given in the following sequence: total (femur + patella + tibia + metatarsus + tarsus).

Taxonomy

Araneus varus (Kauri, 1950) **comb.n.**
Figs 1–7.

Larinia vara Kauri, 1950: 9, f. 7 (♂).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Holotype ♂ (type No 199:1, Reg. no L948/3296), South Africa, Transvaal: Pietermaritzburg, Town Bush, 27.10.1948 (Bertil Hanström).

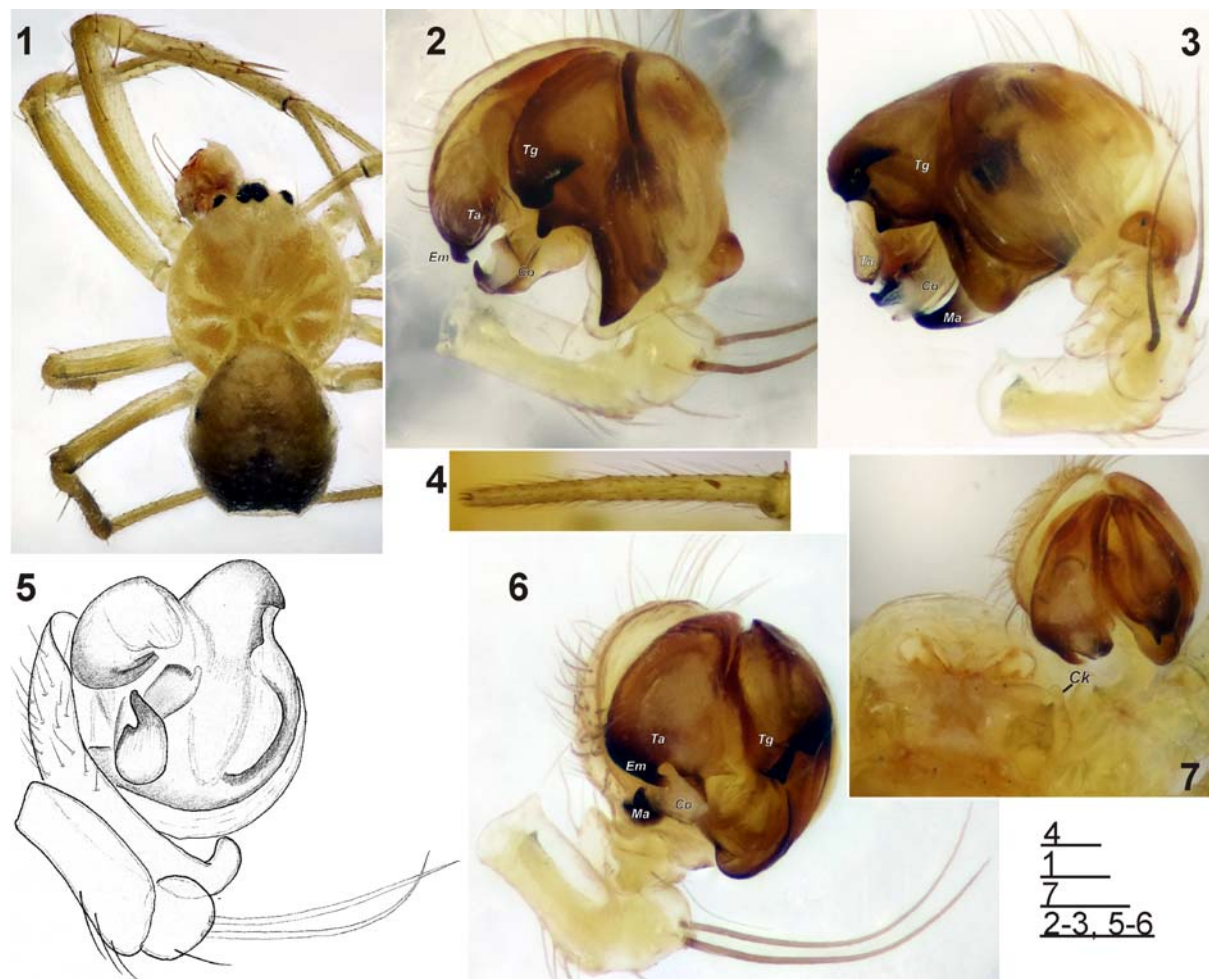


Fig. 1–7. Habitus and palp of the holotype male of *Larinia vara*. 1 — habitus, dorsal; 2–3 — palp, retrolateral and ventro-retrolateral; 4 — metatarsus and tarsus III, dorsal; 5–6 — palp, ventral and anterior-ventral; 7 — mouth parts and palp, ventral. Scale: 1 — 0.5 mm, 2–7 — 0.2 mm. Abbreviations: *Ck* — coxal knob, *Co* — conductor, *Em* — embolus, *Ma* — median apophysis, *Ta* — terminal apophysis, *Tg* — tegulum.

Рис. 1–7. Внешний вид и пальпа самца голотипа *Larinia vara*. 1 — габитус, сверху; 2–3 — пальпа, ретролатерально и вентро-ретролатерально; 4 — предлапка и лапка III, сверху; 5–6 — пальпа, снизу и спереди-снизу; 7 — ротовой аппарат и пальпа, снизу. Масштаб: 1 — 0,5 мм, 2–7 — 0,2 мм. Сокращения: *Ck* — выступ тазика, *Co* — кондуктор, *Em* — эмболос, *Ma* — медальный апофиз, *Ta* — терминальный апофиз, *Tg* — тегулум.

NOTE. While describing in detail this species, Kauri [1950] did not provide the size of the holotype. Currently Town Bush is suburb of Pietermaritzburg and belongs to Kwazulu-Natal Province.

DESCRIPTION. Total length 2.75. Carapace 1.5 long, 1.35 wide. Carapace, sternum and legs without pattern (Fig. 1), probably due to bleaching. Palpal coxa with small lateral knob (*Ck*) directed anteriorly (Fig. 7). Coxa I and II not modified. Leg I modified (Fig. 1): tibia with 8 strong spines on prolateral side, proventral spines arranged in one row. Metatarsus III with short and strong dorsal subapical spine (Fig. 4) Spines on metatarsus IV weakly developed. Leg measurements: I 5.31 (1.63 + 0.58 + 1.35 + 1.15 + 0.6), II 4.84 (1.53 + 0.5 + 1.2 + 1.03 + 0.58), III 3.21 (1.1 + 0.35 + 0.65 + 0.68 + 0.43), IV 4.51 (1.5 + 0.43 + 1.05 + 1.0 + 0.53).

Legs spination: I: Fe 1d 2p 1r, Pt 1d 1r, Ti 1d 2p 1r 6pv 3pv; II: Fe 1d 1p, Pt 1d, Ti 1d 3pv 2rv; III: Fe 1p, Pa 1d, Ti 2d or 3d 2p 2pv 1rv, Mt 1d 2p 1r; IV: Fe 1p, Pt 1d, Ti 1d 1p 2pv 1rv, Mt 1p 1pv.

Palp as in Figs 2–3, 5–7. Patella with 2 very long macrosetae, macrosetae longer than cymbium and femur; tegulum (*Tg*) large and complex, with 3 processes and strong ridge; median apophysis (*Ma*) longitudinal, with 2 anterior tips; conductor (*Co*) weakly sclerotized with finger-shaped process (Fig. 5); terminal apophysis (*Ta*) membranous, wide; embolus (*Em*) massif, its free part short.

COMMENTS. Leg I modification this species is similar to *Atea* C.L. Koch, 1837, a genus currently considered as a junior synonym of *Araneus*. In males of *Araneus s.str.*, leg II is modified and bears strong

spines. Coxal modification (hook on coxa I and depression on coxa II) known in most of *Araneus* s.str. (cf. Levi, 1971; Šestaková et al., 2009) is absent in *A. varus*, like in all members of *Atea*.

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