

Moss- and litter-dwelling linyphiid spiders from the Mount Elbrus region, northern Caucasus, Russia (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

Почвенно-подстилочные пауки-линифииды из Приэльбрусья (Северный Кавказ, Россия) (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: фаунистика, паукообразные, Araneae, Палеарктика, горная фауна.

ABSTRACT. New faunistic information is provided on the linyphiid spiders from the Mount Elbrus region, northern Caucasus. Both *Porrhomma pallidum* Jackson, 1913 and *Walckenaeria incisa* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871) are new to the fauna of the Caucasus. Photographs of the epigynes of a closer unidentified *Centromerus* sp. and *W. incisa* are given. Considering the new data, the fauna of linyphiid spiders of the Caucasus presently consists of at least 216 species.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Приведены новые фаунистические данные по паукам семейства Linyphiidae северного Кавказа. Виды *Porrhomma pallidum* Jackson, 1913 и *Walckenaeria incisa* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871) впервые отмечены в фауне Кавказа. Приведены фотографии эпигин ближе не определённой самки *Centromerus* sp., а также *W. incisa*. С учётом новых данных фауна пауков-линифиид Кавказа в настоящее время насчитывает не менее 216 видов.

Introduction

A brief history of the study of the Caucasian linyphiids has recently been reiterated, fauna of the Caucasus presently totaling 212 species [Tanasevitch, 2023]. The Caucasian list has since been replenished with two further species: *Centromerus georgicus* Deltshv, 2023, described from caves of Georgia [Deltshv *et al.*, 2023] and *Gonyldiellum arkhyz* Tanasevitch, 2024, from the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Russia [Tanasevitch, 2024].

Tanasevitch's [2023] recent paper was devoted to the fauna of litter-dwelling linyphiids in the forests on the northern macro slope of the Caucasus Major, namely, the Arkhyz River Valley, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria. As a result, 17 linyphiid species were collected in the

valley's woodlands using sifting the mosses and litter. Among them, one species, *Crosbyarachne bukovskiyi* Charitonov, 1937, appeared to be new to the Caucasian fauna [Tanasevitch, 2023], whereas another one, *Gonyldiellum arkhyz* Tanasevitch, 2024, new to science [Tanasevitch, 2024].

The present paper focuses on litter-dwelling linyphiid spiders in the forests of the Baksan River Valley, Mount Elbrus region, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria. This valley located ca. 100 km S-E of Arkhyz Valley. Vegetation of the both valleys are different. The woods in the Baksan Valley are represented by pine (*Pinus*) forests with a well-developed layer of green mosses, and with only minor admixtures of *Betula*, *Acer* and other leaved trees, these admixtures being mainly confined to forest edges or clearings (see Figs 1–6, 9–12). Broad-leaved forests are absent. On the contrary, the woods of the Arkhyz Valley are represented by fir (*Abies*) stands with sparse and thin clumps of green mosses, with admixtures of *Betula*, *Sorbus*, etc. Broad-leaved forests of *Fagus* and *Quercus*, with *Acer*, *Betula*, *Sorbus*, *Corylus*, etc. and a thick layer of leaf litter are widespread in the lower parts of the valley.

A list of the linyphiid fauna distributed between the different forest habitats, supplied with short remarks and chorotypes, is proposed below.

Material, methods and sampling

This paper is based on material collected by the author on June 12–21, 2024 in the Baksan Valley, Mount Elbrus region, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Caucasus, Russia. All samples are deposited in the collections of the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University (ZMMU), Moscow, Russia. Spiders were collected by sifting mosses and litter, preserved in 70% ethanol and studied using an MBS-9 stereo microscope. A Levenhuk C-800 digital camera was applied for taking photographs.

Altogether, seven sites in different forest habitats were selected in the Baksan Valley at altitudes ranging from 1495 to 1975 m a.s.l. Sifting mosses and litter was carried out at each site. Each site is marked in the text in square brackets [S1, etc.]. Photographs of the sites are shown in Figs 1–22.



Figs 1–8. Habitats of sites #1 & #2. 1–6 — site #1; 7, 8 — site #2.

Рис. 1–8. Биотопы на участках № 1 и № 2. 1–6 — участок № 1; 7, 8 — участок № 2.

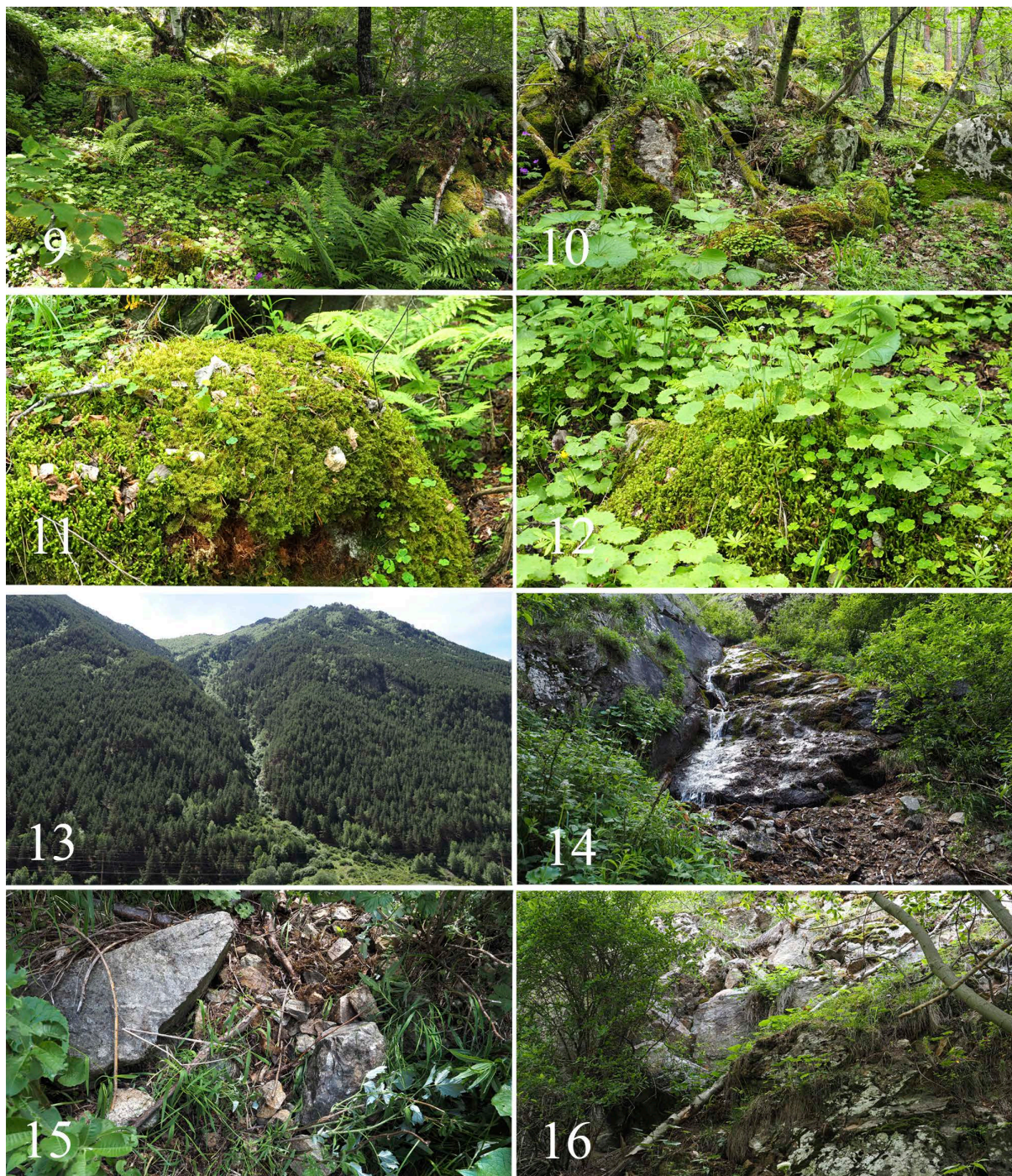
Results

Class Arachnida Cuvier, 1812
Order Araneae Clerck, 1758
Family Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859

Agynera ramosa Jackson, 1912

MATERIAL. 5 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley,

environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12–20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Verkhniy Baksan and Neitrino, right side of Baksan River, 43.29676°N 42.73689°E, 1675–1680 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest with *Betula*, wet stony bank of spring, among stones and vegetation, 17.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S4]; 4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.233088°N 42.648150°E, 1940–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc., fern, green



Figs 9–16. Habitats of sites #3 & #4. 9–12 — site #3; 13–16 — site #4.

Рис. 9–16. Биотопы на участках № 3 и № 4. 9–12 — участок № 3; 13–16 — участок № 4.

mosses, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and leaf litter, 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.
CHOROTYPE. European–West Siberian.

Agyneta conigera (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1863)

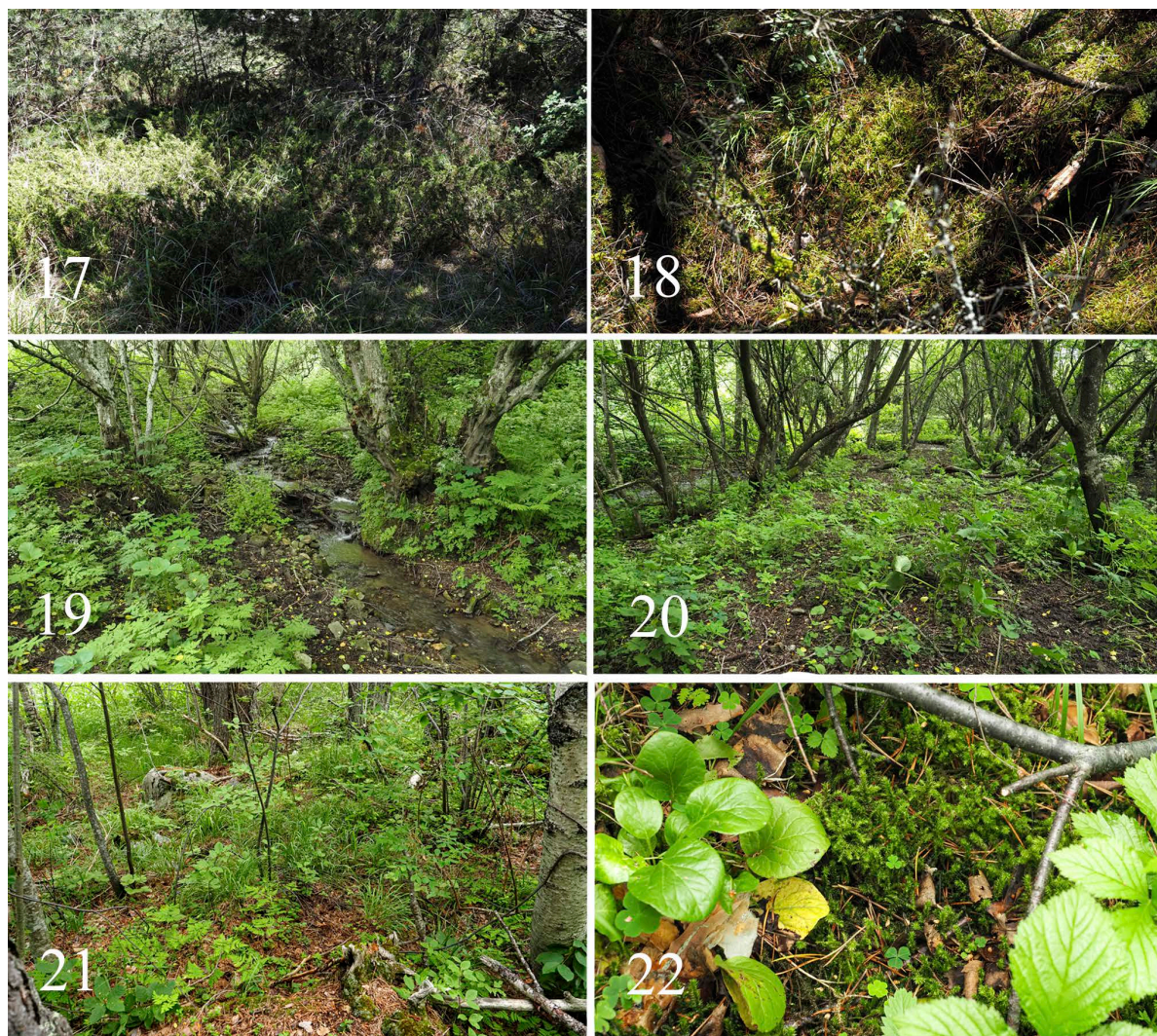
MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula*

forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6].

REMARK. This species is rather rare in the Caucasus.
CHOROTYPE. Palaeartic.

Asthenargus caucasicus Tanasevitch, 1987

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Verkhniy Baksan, right side of Baksan River, 43.32059°N



Figs 17–22. Habitats of sites #5–7. 17, 18 — site #5; 19, 20 — site #6; 21, 22 — site #7.

Рис. 17–22. Биотопы на участках №№ 5–7. 17, 18 — участок № 5; 19, 20 — участок № 6; 21, 22 — участок № 7.

42.78552°E, 1495 m a.s.l., young *Pinus* forest with *Juniperus*, sifting moss and pine needles, 18.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S5]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.233088°N 42.648150°E, 1940–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc., fern, green mosses, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and leaf litter, 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3].

REMARK. Presumably endemic to the Caucasus [Tanasevitch, 2023].

CHOROTYPE. Caucasian.

Bathyphantes gracilis (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Centromerus sp.

Fig. 23.

MATERIAL. 18 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, ca. 43.246°N 42.575°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and leaf litter, 12–18.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.233088°N 42.648150°E, 1940–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc., fern, green mosses, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and leaf litter, 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3].

REMARK. Unfortunately, in the absence of a corresponding male, it was not possible to closer identify this species. Its epigyne resembles many congeners, but does not exactly correspond to any of them.

Centromerus sylvaticus (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, between Elbrus

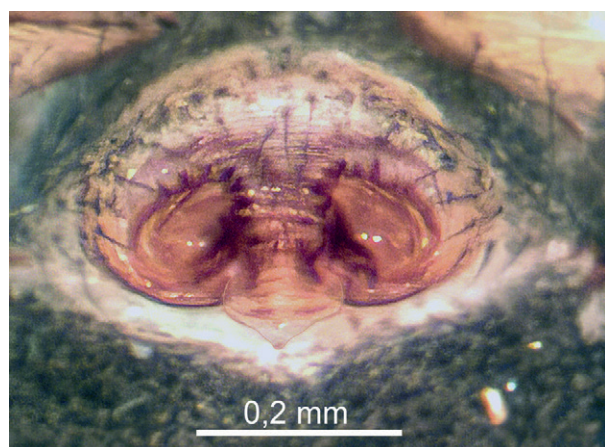


Fig. 23. Photograph of epigyne of *Centromerus* sp., specimen from Baidaevo, ventral view.

Рис. 23. Фотография эпигины *Centromerus* sp., экземпляр из Байдаево, вид снизу.

and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.233088°N 42.648150°E, 1940–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc., fern, green mosses, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and leaf litter, 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Ceratinella scabrosa (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871)

MATERIAL. 7 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, ca. 43.246°N 42.575°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and leaf litter, 12–18.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, environs of Neitrino, *Betula* grove on stony bank of Baksan River, with *Pinus* undergrowth, 43.278391°N 42.696911°E, 1685–1690 m a.s.l., sifting leaf litter, 13.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S2]; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.23278°N 42.64861°E, 1930–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc, fern, green mosses, sedges, sifting leaf litter and moss, 14 & 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Verkhniy Baksan and Neitrino, right side of Baksan River, 43.29676°N 42.73689°E, 1675–1680 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest with *Betula*, wet stony bank of spring, among stones and vegetation, 17.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S4].

REMARK. This species is very common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. European-Siberian.

Dicymbium nigrum (Blackwall, 1834)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6].

REMARK. This widespread species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palearctic.

Diplocephalus latifrons (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1863)

MATERIAL. 5 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, envi-

rons of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12–20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.23278°N 42.64861°E, 1930–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc, fern, green mosses, sedges, sifting leaf litter and moss, 14 & 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3]; 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, between Verkhniy Baksan and Neitrino, right side of Baksan River, 43.29676°N 42.73689°E, 1675–1680 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest with *Betula*, wet stony bank of spring, among stones and vegetation, 17.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S4]; 1 ♂, 10 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6].

REMARK. This widespread species is very common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. European.

Diplostyla concolor (Wider, 1834)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12–20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 3 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Verkhniy Baksan and Neitrino, right side of Baksan River, 43.29676°N 42.73689°E, 1675–1680 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest with *Betula*, wet stony bank of spring, among stones and vegetation, 17.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S4]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Baidaevo and Terskol, right side of Baksan River, 43.24694°N 42.55884°E, 1970–1975 m a.s.l., mixed forest with *Pinus*, *Betula*, *Sorbus*, etc., ferns, sedges, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, green mosses, etc., sifting leaf litter, pine needles and moss, 21.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S7].

REMARK. This widespread species is very common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Gongylidium rufipes (Linnaeus, 1758)

MATERIAL. 5 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Neitrino, *Betula* grove on stony bank of Baksan River, with *Pinus* undergrowth, 43.278391°N 42.696911°E, 1685–1690 m a.s.l., sifting leaf litter, 13.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S2].

REMARK. This widespread species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palearctic.

Maso sundevalli (Westring, 1851)

MATERIAL. 3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Neitrino, *Betula* grove on stony bank of Baksan River, with *Pinus* undergrowth, 43.278391°N 42.696911°E, 1685–1690 m a.s.l., sifting leaf litter, 13.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S2].

REMARK. This widespread species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Micrargus herbigradus (Blackwall, 1854)

MATERIAL. 5 ♂♂, 15 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, envi-

rons of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12–20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6]; 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Baidaevo and Terskol, right side of Baksan River, 43.24694°N 42.55884°E, 1970–1975 m a.s.l., mixed forest with *Pinus*, *Betula*, *Sorbus*, etc., ferns, sedges, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, green mosses, etc., sifting leaf litter, pine needles and moss, 21.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S7].

REMARK. This widespread species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaeartic.

Microneta viaria (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 19 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12–20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 1 ♂, 14 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Baksan Valley, environs of Neitrino, *Betula* grove on stony bank of Baksan River, with *Pinus* undergrowth, 43.278391°N 42.696911°E, 1685–1690 m a.s.l., sifting leaf litter, 13.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S2]; 2 ♂♂, 39 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.23278°N 42.64861°E, 1930–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc, fern, green mosses, sedges, sifting leaf litter and moss, 14 & 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3]; 7 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Verkhniy Baksan and Neitrino, right side of Baksan River, 43.29676°N 42.73689°E, 1675–1680 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest with *Betula*, wet stony bank of spring, among stones and vegetation, 17.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S4]; 5 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Baidaevo and Terskol, right side of Baksan River, 43.24694°N 42.55884°E, 1970–1975 m a.s.l., mixed forest with *Pinus*, *Betula*, *Sorbus*, etc., ferns, sedges, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, green mosses, etc., sifting leaf litter, pine needles and moss, 21.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S7].

REMARK. This widespread species is very common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Minyriolus pusillus (Wider, 1834)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.23278°N 42.64861°E, 1930–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc, fern, green mosses, sedges, sifting leaf litter and moss, 14 & 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaeartic.

Nerieni peltata (Wider, 1834)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.23278°N 42.64861°E, 1930–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare

Acer, etc, fern, green mosses, sedges, sifting leaf litter and moss, 14 & 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaeartic.

Obscuriphantes obscurus (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24608°N 42.57708°E, 1930–1935 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, ferns, sedges, green mosses, sifting leaf litter, 15.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1].

REMARK. This species is rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. West Palaeartic.

Piniphantes pinicola (Simon, 1884)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, environs of Neitrino, *Betula* grove on stony bank of Baksan River, with *Pinus* undergrowth, 43.278391°N 42.696911°E, 1685–1690 m a.s.l., sifting leaf litter, 13.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S2].

REMARK. This species is rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Ancient Mediterranean.

Pocadicnemis pumila (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, between Verkhniy Baksan and Neitrino, right side of Baksan River, 43.29676°N 42.73689°E, 1675–1680 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest with *Betula*, wet stony bank of spring, among stones and vegetation, 17.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S4]; 4 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, environs of Verkhniy Baksan, right side of Baksan River, 43.32059°N 42.78552°E, 1495 m a.s.l., young *Pinus* forest with *Juniperus*, sifting moss and pine needles, 18.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S5].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Porrhomma pallidum Jackson, 1913

MATERIAL. 12 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12–20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.23278°N 42.64861°E, 1930–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc, fern, green mosses, sedges, sifting leaf litter and moss, 14 & 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3]; 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6].

REMARK. This species is herewith being recorded from the Caucasus for the first time.

CHOROTYPE. Palaeartic.

Scotinotylus evansi (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1894)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12–20.VI.2024, leg.

A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.233088°N 42.648150°E, 1940–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc., fern, green mosses, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and leaf litter, 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3].

REMARK. This species is rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. European–West Siberian.

Tenuiphantes contortus (Tanasevitch, 1986)

MATERIAL. 17 ♂♂, 12 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, ca. 43.246°N 42.575°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and leaf litter, 12–18.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, environs of Neitrino, *Betula* grove on stony bank of Baksan River, with *Pinus* undergrowth, 43.278391°N 42.696911°E, 1685–1690 m a.s.l., sifting leaf litter, 13.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S2]; 12 ♂♂, 18 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.23278°N 42.64861°E, 1930–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc, fern, green mosses, sedges, sifting leaf litter and moss, 14 & 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3]; 4 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Baidaevo and Terskol, right side of Baksan River, 43.24694°N 42.55884°E, 1970–1975 m a.s.l., mixed forest with *Pinus*, *Betula*, *Sorbus*, etc., ferns, sedges, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, green mosses, etc., sifting leaf litter, pine needles and moss, 21.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S7].

REMARK. Presumably endemic to the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Caucasian.

Tenuiphantes mengei (Kulczyński, 1887)

MATERIAL. 5 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24608°N 42.57708°E, 1930–1935 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, ferns, sedges, green mosses, sifting leaf litter, 15.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus, but it can easily be confused with *Tenuiphantes perseus* (van Helsdingen, 1977), for details see Tanasevitch [2009].

CHOROTYPE. Palearctic.

Tenuiphantes perseus (van Helsdingen, 1977)

MATERIAL. 3 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, envi-



Fig. 24. Photograph of the epigyne of *Walckenaeria incisa* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871), specimen from Baidaevo, ventral view.

Рис. 24. Фотография эпигины *Walckenaeria incisa* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871), экземпляр из Байдаево, вид снизу.

rons of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, environs of Neitrino, *Betula* grove on stony bank of Baksan River, with *Pinus* undergrowth, 43.278391°N 42.696911°E, 1685–1690 m a.s.l., sifting leaf litter, 13.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S2]; 6 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Verkhniy Baksan and Neitrino, right side of Baksan River, 43.29676°N 42.73689°E, 1675–1680 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest with *Betula*, wet stony bank of spring, among stones and vegetation, 17.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S4]; 1 ♂ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6].

REMARK. This species is only known from the Caucasus [Tanasevitch, 2009, 2023] and Iran [Helsdingen *et al.*, 1977; Tanasevitch, 2008, as *T. mengei*], see above.

CHOROTYPE. East Mediterranean.

Walckenaeria atrotibialis (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1878)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 2 ♂♂ (ZMMU) Baksan Valley, 5.6 air-km SE of Bylym, 43.41739°N 43.06823°E, 1520–1525 m a.s.l., *Betula* forest in wet bed of Djigiat River (right tributary of Baksan River), sifting leaf litter, 19.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S6]; 1 ♂ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, between Baidaevo and Terskol, right side of Baksan River, 43.24694°N 42.55884°E, 1970–1975 m a.s.l., mixed forest with *Pinus*, *Betula*, *Sorbus*, etc., ferns, sedges, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, green mosses, etc., sifting leaf litter, pine needles and moss, 21.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S7].

REMARK. This species is very common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. West Palearctic–Nearctic.

Walckenaeria cucullata (C.L. Koch, 1836)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, environs of Baidaevo, right side of Baksan River, 43.24626°N 42.5755°E, 1930–1940 m a.s.l., *Pinus* forest on steep slope with *Betula*, cushions of green mosses, ferns, sedges, *Oxalis*, etc., sifting moss and litter, 12.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S1]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Baksan Valley, environs of Verkhniy Baksan, right side of Baksan River, 43.32059°N 42.78552°E, 1495 m a.s.l., young *Pinus* forest with *Juniperus*, sifting moss and pine needles, 18.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S5].

REMARK. This species is rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. European–Siberian.

Walckenaeria incisa (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871)

Fig. 24.

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, between Elbrus and Tegenekli villages, 2 km upstream of Adyl River from Baksan River confluence, 43.23278°N 42.64861°E, 1930–1945 m a.s.l., mixed forest on steep rocky slope with *Pinus*, *Betula*, rare *Acer*, etc, fern, green mosses, sedges, sifting leaf litter and moss, 14 & 20.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S3].

REMARK. This species is herewith being recorded from the Caucasus for the first time.

CHOROTYPE. European.

Walckenaeria obtusa Blackwall, 1836

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Elbrus District, Baksan Valley, between Baid-

aevo and Terskol, right side of Baksan River, 43.24694°N 42.55884°E, 1970–1975 m a.s.l., mixed forest with *Pinus*, *Betula*, *Sorbus*, etc., ferns, sedges, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, green mosses, etc., sifting leaf litter, pine needles and moss, 21.VI.2024, leg. A. Tanasevitch [S7].

REMARK. This species is rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaearctic.

Discussion

During a short field study of linyphiid spiders from the ground cover in forests in the Baksan Valley, 29 species have been revealed. Most of them are widespread species that are constantly found in the woodlands and other types of plant communities in the Caucasus. The most common among them are *Ceratinella scabrosa*, *Diplocephalus latifrons*, *Microneta viaria* and *Walckenaeria atrotibialis*.

Despite the significant differences in the forest vegetation of the two valleys studied, Arkhyz and Baksan (see Introduction), their linyphiid fauna is very similar. The difference in the number of species (17 vs 29) is most likely to depend on the poor exploration of both areas. Among the species recorded in both valleys, five species are presumed to be Caucasian endemics: *Asthenargus caucasicus* Tanasevitch, 1987, *Gongylidiellum arkhyz* Tanasevitch, 2024, *Mansuphantes ovalis* (Tanasevitch, 1987), *T. aequalis* (Tanasevitch, 1987) and *Tenuiphantes contortus* (Tanasevitch, 1986).

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