

New data on the spider fauna (Aranei) of Kostanay Region (Kazakhstan)

Новые данные о фауне пауков (Aranei) Костанайской области (Казахстан)

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, новые находки, распространение, Казахстан.

ABSTRACT. This paper presents data on new findings of 20 spider species from six families in the Kostanay Region of Kazakhstan, of which 16 species have been recorded for the first time. The six species *Micaria subopaca* Westring, 1861, *Urozelotes trifidus* Tuneva, 2003, *Erigonoplus foveatus* (Dahl, 1912), *Uralophantes troitskensis* Esysunin, 1992, *Ero furcata* (Villers, 1789), and *Philodromus fuscomarginatus* (De Geer, 1778) represent new records for the spider fauna of Kazakhstan. The need to clarify the taxonomic status of *Urozelotes trifidus* Tuneva, 2003 is highlighted.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. В статье приводятся данные о новых находках 20 видов пауков из 6 семейств в Костанайской области Казахстана, из которых 16 видов отмечены впервые. Виды *Micaria subopaca* Westring, 1861, *Urozelotes trifidus* Tuneva, 2003, *Erigonoplus foveatus* (Dahl, 1912), *Uralophantes troitskensis* Esysunin, 1992, *Ero furcata* (Villers, 1789) и *Philodromus fuscomarginatus* (De Geer, 1778) оказались новыми для фауны пауков Казахстана. Отмечена необходимость уточнения таксономического статуса *Urozelotes trifidus* Tuneva, 2003.

Introduction

This paper continues our research on the spider fauna of Kostanay Region of Kazakhstan. The Region covers an area of over 196,000 km² within the forest-steppe, steppe, and semi-desert natural zones. It stretches from the southwestern edge of West Siberian Lowland to the northern region of Aral Sea, limited by the foothills of the Ural Mts in the west and the spurs of the Kazakh Uplands (Kazakh Hummocks) in the east. The central part of the region is crossed by the wide (20–75 km) meridional Turgay Depression, connecting West Siberian Lowland with the northern part of Turan Lowland. The climate is sharply continental, with dry, hot summers and cold winters. The diversity of geomorphological, climatic, topsoil and vegetation conditions (from pine and birch-aspen forests to semi-deserts, solonchaks (salt marshes), sandy massifs, numerous endorheic lakes, and basins of Tobol and Turgay Rivers) determines the variety of natural ecosystems and a high biodiversity in the region.

Previously, our publications focused on specially protected natural areas of Kostanay Region, particularly on the spider fauna of the NNR [Bragina, 2012; Ponomarev, Bragina, 2015; Ponomarev *et al.*, 2017], for which a total of 134 spider species in 18 families have been recorded. Faunistic data on 53 spider species from the Altyn Dala Nature Reserve [Ponomarev, Bragina, 2015] and 66 species from the ‘Kamenny Lake Tract’ State Natural Monument [Bragina *et al.*, 2025] have also



Figs 1–2. *Drassodes villosus* (Thorell, 1856), male palp: 1 — ventral view; 2 — retrolateral view. Scale bar: 0.25 mm.

Рис. 1–2. *Drassodes villosus* (Thorell, 1856), палепа самца: 1 — вид снизу; 2 — вид сбоку-сзади. Масштаб: 0,25 мм.

been published. In a recently published paper [Vlasov *et al.*, 2026], 88 species were reported for the northern part of the NNR. In total, approximately 200 spider species are currently known from Kostanay Region, which is fewer than in better studied faunas of western and northern Kazakhstan: 249 species in Atyrau Region [Ponomarev, 2022] and 303 and 341 species in West Kazakhstan and Aktobe Regions, respectively [Esyunin, Kabdrakhimov, 2023].

This paper faunistic-taxonomic presents new data on the spider fauna of Kostanay Region.

Material and Methods

The material for this paper was collected by T.M. Bragina in 2014–2025 in Altysarin, Auliekol, Karabalyk, Mendykara, Kostanay, Sarykol, Naurzum, Taran, and Zhangeldi districts of Kostanay Region, as well as within the city limits of Kostanay. In the text below, the collector's name is abbreviated as 'TB'. One of the localities studied — the Naurzum Nature Reserve — is abbreviated as 'NNR'.

All photographs were taken at the Southern Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Rostov-on-Don, Russia)



Figs 3–4. *Micaria subopaca* Westring, 1861, male palp: 3 — ventral view; 4 — retrolateral view. Scale bar: 0.25 mm.

Рис. 3–4. *Micaria subopaca* Westring, 1861, палепа самца: 3 — вид снизу; 4 — вид сбоку-сзади. Масштаб: 0,25 мм.

using the equipment based on a C1U4.2 microscope and a Sony Alpha ILCE-6000 camera. The material studied is mainly kept in the personal collection of A.V. Ponomarev (Razdorskaya Vil., Rostov Region, Russia), and partly (i.e., Philodromidae) in the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg (ZISP; curator: D.V. Logunov).

List of species

GNAPHOSIDAE

Drassodes villosus (Thorell, 1856)

Figs 1–2.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 2 ♂♂, nr Karabalyk Vil., 53.737372°N / 62.046542°E, 10.06.2014, TB; 1 ♂, Mendykara Distr., nr Borovskoe Vil., 53.812946°N / 64.226668°E, 15.06.2014, TB; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Kostanay Distr., nr Alexandrovka Vil., 53.537723°N / 63.889051°E, 7.06–22.07.2016, TB; 1 ♂, nr Sarykol Vil., 53.3°N / 65.5°E, 6.07.2025, TB.

COMMENTS. This species has been repeatedly recorded from Kazakhstan [Spassky, Shnitnikov, 1937; Ovtsharenko,

Savelyeva, 1992; Eskov, Marusik, 1995; Piterkina, Ovtcharenko, 2009], including in the Kostanay Region [Ponomarev *et al.*, 2017]. However, specimens from Kazakhstan have never been illustrated. Therefore, here are illustrations of the palp of a male from Kostanay Region.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Turkey, Russia (Europe to the Far East), Iran [WSC, 2026], Kazakhstan [Mikhailov, 2026].

Micaria subopaca Westring, 1861

Figs 3–4.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♂, Kostanay, 53.175611°N / 63.693428°E, garden, 11.05.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. The structure of the male palp (Figs 3, 4) undoubtedly indicates that the specimen from our collection belongs to *M. subopaca*. This is the first record of *M. subopaca* from Kazakhstan.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Russia (Europe to South Siberia, Kamchatka), Georgia, Iran [WSC, 2026] and Kazakhstan (Kostanay Region) [present data].



Figs 5–7. *Sosticus loricatus* (L. Koch, 1866), details of structure: 5, 6 — male palp; 7 — intact epigyne. 5, 7 — ventral view; 6 — retrolateral view. Scale bars: 0.25 mm.

Рис. 5–7. *Sosticus loricatus* (L. Koch, 1866), детали строения: 5, 6 — пальпа самца; 7 — необработанная эпигина. 5, 7 — вид снизу; 6 — вид сбоку-сзади. Масштаб: 0,25 мм.

Sosticus loricatus (L. Koch, 1866)

Figs 5–7.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Karabalyk Vil., 53.747341°N / 62.061953°E, 10.06–20.08.2014, TB. 1 ♀, Kostanay, 53.190951°N / 63.613234°E, 15.09.2015, TB; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Kostanay, 53.190951°N / 63.613234°E, in the house, 19.07.2016, TB; 1 ♀, Kostanay Distr., Alexandrovka Vil., 53.548055°N / 63.878273°E, 28.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. *S. loricatus* is widespread in Kazakhstan [Spassky, Shnitnikov, 1937; Ovtsharenko, 1982; Ovtsharenko, Savelyeva, 1992; Ponomarev, 2022; Esyunin *et al.*, 2025], but has not previously been recorded from Kostanay Region, where it is common in urbanized areas, including residential premises. Here are illustrations of the copulatory organs of a male (Figs 5, 6) from Karabalyk Vil. and a female (Fig. 7) from Kostanay.

DISTRIBUTION. North America, Europe, Caucasus, Russia (Europe to the Far East), Kazakhstan, Iran, China [WSC, 2026], Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizia [Mikhailov, 2026].

Urozelotes trifidus Tuneva, 2003

Figs 8–13.

Urozelotes trifidus Tuneva, 2003: 95, figs 1–6 (♂♀).

Haplodrassus cf. caspius: Ponomarev *et al.*, 2017: 5 (♂).

Urozelotes trifidus — Milano *et al.*, 2019: 37, fig. 5A–D (♂♀)

Urozelotes trifidus — Esyunin, Tuneva, 2020: 115, figs 21, 38–40 (♂♀).

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN. Kostanay Region: 1 ♂ (ZMMU), Naurzum Distr., 51.519683°N / 64.488889°E, nr Staryi Naurzum Vil., salt-marsh, 11.06.2014, T.M. Bragina.

COMMENTS. When describing the species *U. trifidus*, Tuneva [2003] highlighted its similarity to the species *Zelotes*

yutian Platnick et Song, 1986. When redescribing *Z. yutian*, based on the structure of the embolic division, Esyunin & Efimik [1997] proposed a new combination: *Urozelotes yutian*. However, later [Milasowszky *et al.*, 2007], *U. yutian* was synonymized with *Zelotes mundus* (Kulczyński, 1897) and considered a representative of the genus *Zelotes* Gistel, 1848. The structure of the male palp in *U. trifidus* differs significantly from that of *U. rusticus* (L. Koch, 1872) — the type species of *Urozelotes* Platnick et Murphy, 1984. In particular, in *U. trifidus* the terminal apophysis is massive and wide; the median apophysis is not lamellar, similar in shape to that of *Haplodrassus* Chamberlin, 1922; there is a clearly pronounced retrolateral process of the tegulum (tegular bulge) and a characteristic embolic projection, bifurcated at the apex (Figs 8–11). Yet, *U. trifidus* lacks a ridge of closely spaced stiff hairs (Figs 12–13) situated ventrally at the apex of metatarsi III and IV, which is characteristic of Zelotinae. Thus, the combination *Urozelotes trifidus* proposed by Tuneva [2003] would indeed be incorrect. In our opinion, the taxonomic status of this species needs to be further clarified.

This species has been recorded from Kazakhstan for the first time.

DISTRIBUTION. South-eastern France [Milano *et al.*, 2019], Russia (Orenburg and Novosibirsk regions) [Tuneva, 2003; Azarkina *et al.*, 2018; Esyunin, Tuneva, 2020], and Kazakhstan (Kostanay Region) [present data].

Zelotes subterraneus (C.L. Koch, 1833)

Fig. 14.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♂, Kostanay Distr., 53.169276°N / 63.978143°E, 23 km E of Kostanay, birch forest, 14.07.2016, TB.



Figs 8–11. *Urozelotes trifidus* Tuneva, 2003, male palp (8–10), bulb (11): 8 — ventral view; 9 — ventral-retrolateral view, 10 — retrolateral view; 11 — dorsal view. Scale bar: 0.25 mm.

Рис. 8–11. *Urozelotes trifidus* Tuneva, 2003, палпы самца (8–10), бульбус (11): 8 — вид снизу; 9 — вид снизу-сбоку; 10 — вид сбоку-сзади; 11 — вид сверху. Масштаб: 0,25 мм.

COMMENTS. The first record of *Z. subterraneus* from Kostanay Region. All records of this species from Kazakhstan have not been properly illustrated and hence require verification. As *Z. subterraneus* is quite closely related to *Z. fuscus* (Thorell, 1875) and *Z. fratris* (Chamberlin, 1920), some of the earlier records of this species from Kazakhstan require verification.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe [Nentwig *et al.*, 2026]. All records in the Asian part of the Palearctic require verification [Kovblyuk, 2006; Ponomarev, Shmatko, 2019].

LINYPHIIDAE

Erigonoplus foveatus (Dahl, 1912)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♂, 17 ♀♀, NNR, 51.520989°N / 64.47915°E, pine forest, 10-8.07.2016, TB; 4 ♀♀, same reserve, 51.577903°N / 64.235492°E, steppe, 9.07.2016, TB; 1 ♂, 15 ♀♀, same reserve, 51.524008°N / 64.483531°E, small pine forest, 9.07.2016, TB; 3 ♀♀, same reserve, 51.16872°N / 64.482039°E, birch grove, 9.07.2016, TB; 1 ♂, Kostanay Distr., 53.169276°N / 63.978143°E, 20 km E of Kostanay, birch forest, 14.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. This is the first record of *E. foveatus* from Kazakhstan.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Russia (Europe, the Caucasus, West Siberia) [WSC, 2026], and Kazakhstan (Kostanay Region) [present data].

Minicia marginella (Wider, 1834)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀, 9 km W of Kostanay, 53.177369°N / 63.821903°E, birch forest, 14.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. In Kazakhstan, this species was recorded only from East Kazakhstan Region (Saur Mts) [Eskov, 1992; Eskov, Marusik, 1995]. This is the first record of *M. marginella* from Kostanay Region.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Turkey, the Caucasus, Russia (Europe to the Far East) [WSC, 2026], Kazakhstan, Kirghizia [Mikhailov, 2026].

Trichopterna cito (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1872)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀, NNR, 51.16872°N / 64.482039°E, a birch grove patch, 9.07.2016, TB; 1 ♀, Kostanay Distr., 20 km SW of Kostanay, steppe, 53.038761°N / 63.371760°E, 14.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. In Kazakhstan, *T. cito* has been found in West Kazakhstan [Tanasevich, 1987; Piterkina, Mikhailov, 2009; Esyunin, Kabdrakhimov, 2024], Pavlodar [Eskov, Marusik, 1994] and Kostanay [Vlasov *et al.*, 2026] regions. This is the second record of this species from Kostanay Region.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Morocco, Turkey, Caucasus, Russia (Europe to South Siberia), Kazakhstan [WSC, 2026; present data].

Uralophantes troitskensis Esyunin, 1992

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♂, Altynsarin Distr., 53.206109°N / 64.215922°E, 3 km N of the Shcherbakovo Vil., a small meadow with *Sanguisorba* sp., 15.07.2015, TB.

COMMENTS. This is the first record of *U. troitskensis* from Kazakhstan.

DISTRIBUTION. Russia (Rostov, Chelyabinsk and Orenburg regions) [Esyunin, 1992; Gnelitsa, 2022; Ponomarev, 2022], and Kazakhstan (Kostanay Region) [present data].

MIMETIDAE

Ero furcata (Villers, 1789)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀, Kostanay, airport, 53.225442°N / 63.548151°E, steppe meadow, 24.05.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. This is the first record of *E. furcata* from Kazakhstan.

DISTRIBUTION. Azores, Europe, Turkey, Caucasus, Russia (Europe to Far East), Turkmenistan, Japan [WSC, 2026], and Kazakhstan (Kostanay Region) [present data].



Figs 12–14. *Urozelotes trifuus* Tuneva, 2003 (12, 13) and *Zelotes subterraneus* (C.L. Koch, 1833) (14), details of structure, ventral view: 12 — part of metatarsus and tarsus III; 13 — part of metatarsus and tarsus IV; 14 — male palp. Scale bars: 0.25 mm.

Рис. 12–14. *Urozelotes trifuus* Tuneva, 2003 (12, 13) и *Zelotes subterraneus* (C.L. Koch, 1833) (14), детали строения, вид снизу: 12 — часть предлапки и лапка III; 13 — часть предлапки и лапка IV; 14 — пальпа самца. Масштаб: 0,25 мм.

PHILODROMIDAE

Philodromus fuscomarginatus (De Geer, 1778)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀ (ZISP), Auliekol Distr., Amankaragay Vil., 52.224577°N / 63.920172°E, 8.07.2015, TB.

COMMENTS. This is the first record of *P. fuscomarginatus* from Kazakhstan.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Russia (Europe to Far East) [WSC, 2026], and Kazakhstan (Kostanay Region) [present data].

Philodromus poecilus (Thorell, 1872)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀ (ZISP), Karabalyk Vil., 53.747341°N / 62.061953°E, 10.06.2014, TB; 1 ♀ (ZISP), Taran Distr., Naberezhnoe Vil., 52.860767°N / 62.801717°E, 4.05.2015, TB.

COMMENTS. In Kazakhstan, *Ph. poecilus* was recorded in the West Kazakhstan [Esyunin, Kabdrakhimov, 2023] and the East Kazakhstan [Savelyeva, 1970] regions, as well as in the vicinity of Almaty [Spassky, Shnitnikov, 1937]; this is the first record from Kostanay Region.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Turkey, Caucasus, Russia (Europe to the Far East), Central Asia [WSC, 2026].

Thanatus mongolicus (Schenkel, 1936)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♂ (ZISP), Zhalgeldi Distr., nr Torgay Vil., 49.632197°N / 63.483153°E, 7.07.2015, TB.

COMMENTS. In Kazakhstan, it was recorded in Atyrau [Tsvetkov *et al.*, 2006], West Kazakhstan [Esyunin *et al.*, 2024b], and East Kazakhstan [Esyunin *et al.*, 2024a] regions. This is the first record of *T. mongolicus* for the Kostanay Region.

DISTRIBUTION. Steppes of the European part of Russia (Kherson Region, the Crimea, DPR, Rostov Region, Krasnodar Krai, Kalmykia) [Kastrygina, Kovblyuk, 2013; Polchaninova, Prokopenko, 2019; Ponomarev, 2022], Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China [WSC, 2026].

SALTICIDAE

Attulus zimmermanni (Simon, 1877)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Oblast: 6 ♂♂, NNR, 51.520989°N / 64.47915°E, pine forest, 8–9.07.2016, TB; 1 ♂, NNR, 51.16872°N / 64.482039°E, a birch grove patch, 8.07.2016, TB; 2 ♂♂, same locality and biotope, 9.07.2016, TB; 1 ♂, 8.5 km E of Kostanay, 53.177369°N, 63.821903°E, birch forest, 14.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. In Kazakhstan, it was recorded from Abai (=Semipalatinsk) [Logunov, Marusik, 2000], West Kazakhstan [Esyunin *et al.*, 2023] and Kostanay [Vlasov *et al.*, 2026] regions. This is the second record of *A. zimmermanni* from Kostanay Region.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Russia (Europe to South Siberia), Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, China [WSC, 2026].

Euophrys uralensis Logunov, Cutler et Marusik, 1993

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀, NNR, 51.524008°N / 64.483531°E, pine forest, 9.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. A new species for Kostanay Region. In Kazakhstan, it has been recorded from Jambyl, Jetisu [Logunov, 1997], Atyrau [Ponomarev, 2008], and West Kazakhstan [Esyunin *et al.*, 2025] regions.

DISTRIBUTION. Russia (Europe) [WSC, 2026], Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizia [Mikhailov, 2026].

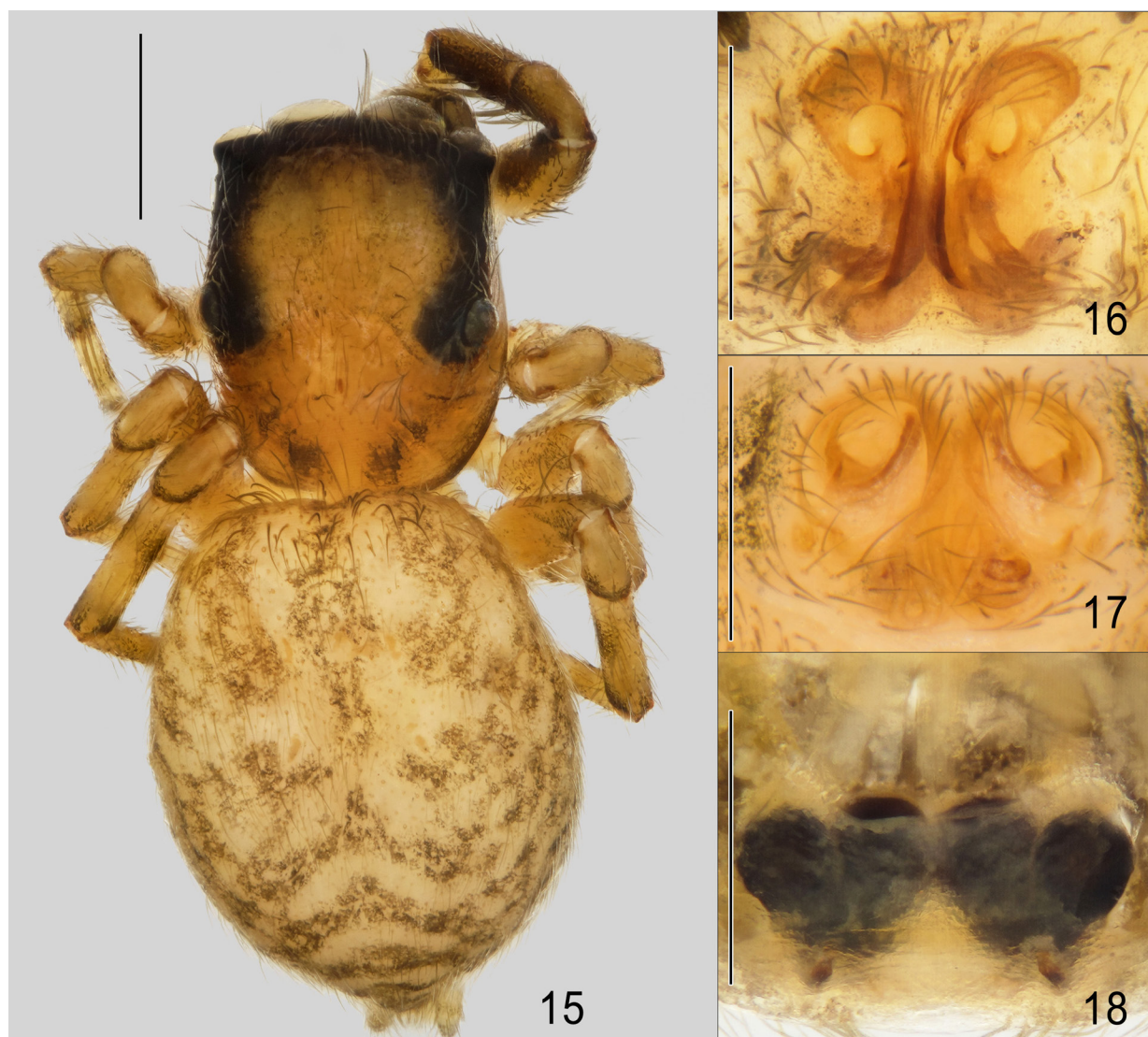
Neon levis (Simon, 1871)

Figs 15–16.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 2 ♀♀, Altynsarin Distr., 53.206109°N / 64.215922°E, 3 km N of the Shcherbakovo Vil., a small meadow with *Sanguisorba* sp., 15.07.2015, TB.

COMMENTS. A new species for the Kostanay Region. In Kazakhstan, this species has been recorded only from the vicinity of Almaty [Logunov, 1998], but that finding was not illustrated. Here are illustrations of the epigyne (Fig. 15) and habitus (Fig. 16) of a female from Kostanay Region.

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Turkey, the Caucasus, Iran, Russia (Europe to South Sibe-



Figs 15–18. *Neon levis* (Simon, 1871) (15, 16), *Neon rayi* (Simon, 1875) (17) and *Titanoeca spominima* (Taczanowski, 1866) (18): 15 — habitus; 16–17 — intact epigyne; 18 — vulva. 15, 18 — dorsal view; 16–17 — ventral view. Scale bars: 15 — 0.5 mm, 16–18 — 0.25 mm.

Рис. 15–18. *Neon levis* (Simon, 1871) (15, 16), *Neon rayi* (Simon, 1875) (17) и *Titanoeca spominima* (Taczanowski, 1866) (18): 15 — внешний вид; 16–17 — необработанная эпигина; 18 — вульва. 15, 18 — вид сверху; 16–17 — вид снизу. Масштаб: 15 — 0,5 мм, 16–18 — 0,25 мм.

ria), Kazakhstan, China [WSC, 2026], Kirghizia, Tajikistan [Mikhailov, 2026].

Neon rayi (Simon, 1875)

Fig. 17.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀, NNR, 51.16872°N / 64.482039°E, a birch grove patch, 8.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. This is the first record of *N. rayi* from Kostanay Region; in Kazakhstan, to date it has been found only in Almaty Region [Tarabae, 1979].

DISTRIBUTION. Southern, Central Europe to Kazakhstan, Israel [WSC, 2026].

Synageles hilarulus (C.L. Koch, 1846)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀, 9 km W of Kostanay, 53.177369°N / 63.821903°E, birch forest, 14.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. A new species for the fauna of Kostanay Region. In Kazakhstan, it has been known from the Trans-Ili

Alatau Mt Range [Folkina, 1978] and Pavlodar Region [Logunov, Rakov, 1996].

DISTRIBUTION. Europe, Turkey, Russia (Europe to the Far East), Kazakhstan, Korea, Japan [WSC, 2026], Turkmenistan, Kirghizia [Mikhailov, 2026].

Synageles subcingulatus (Simon, 1878)

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀, NNR, 51.16872°N / 64.482039°E, a birch grove patch, 8.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. This is the first record of *S. subcingulatus* from Kostanay Region; in Kazakhstan, to date it has been known from Pavlodar and Almaty regions [Logunov, Rakov, 1996: sub *Synageles lepidus*].

DISTRIBUTION. Central Europe, Ukraine, Russia (Europe, West Siberia), Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan [WSC, 2026], Kirghizia [Mikhailov, 2026].

TITANOECIDAE

Titanoeca spominima (Taczanowski, 1866)

Fig. 18.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN, Kostanay Region: 1 ♀, 9 km W of Kostanay, 53.177369°N / 63.821903°E, birch forest, 14.07.2016, TB.

COMMENTS. The second record of *T. spominima* from Kazakhstan. Recently [Vlasov *et al.*, 2026], it was found in the NNR.

DISTRIBUTION. Sweden, Finland, Central Europe, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Russia (Europe) [WSC, 2026].

Discussion

In the present study, 20 spider species in six families from Kostanay Region have been identified and reported. Of these, 16 species are found in this region for the first time, and six (i.e., *Micaria subopaca*, *Urozelotes trifidus*, *Erigonoplus foveatus*, *Uralophantes troitskensis*, *Ero furcata*, and *Philodromus fuscomarginatus*) are first recorded from Kazakhstan.

Of particular interest is the finding of *Z. subterraneus* in the steppe zone in the north of the region; previously, the closely related species *Z. fuscus* had been found in the NNR [Ponomarev *et al.*, 2017]. It should also be mentioned that a second record of *T. spominima* has been made from outside Europe, which suggests that the range of this species can be characterised as the west-central Palearctic.

Given the great diversity of natural ecosystems in Kostanay Region and the insufficient knowledge of its arachnofauna — where northern species are found to extend southwards and southern species northwards, and where both European and eastern species coexist — further research will provide new data to clarify the ranges of certain species and update regional lists of spider species.

Compliance with ethical standards

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval: No ethical issues were raised during our research.

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