

Three new records of spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) from Azerbaijan

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Abstract

New data on three species of spiders from Azerbaijan is presented. Of these, *Anyphaena furva* Miller, 1967 (Anyphaenidae) and *Dysdera tbilisiensis* Mcheidze, 1979 (Dysderidae) are recorded for the first time in Azerbaijan, and *Cyclosa algerica* Simon, 1885 (Araneidae) is new to the entire Caucasus.

Keywords

Araneae, new records, fauna, Caucasus

Introduction

Currently, about 750 species are registered in the spider fauna of Azerbaijan (Nuruyeva and Huseynov 2016, 2022; Huseynov and Nuruyeva, 2017; Otto 2022; Zamani and Marusik 2023, 2024; Nuruyeva and Snegovaya, 2023, 2024 a, b, c; Ponomarev et al. 2024; Khasayeva 2024 a, b). During the examination of spider material collected by the second author in Gobustan in 2023, and in Khachmaz and Ordubad in 2024, three spider species new to Azerbaijan were identified. Amongst them, one

species from the Araneidae is reported for the first time for the fauna of the Caucasus. This information is provided below and the three species are illustrated.

Materials and methods

The specimens examined are stored in the collection of the Institute of Zoology under the Ministry of Education and Science of Azerbaijan (IZBA). Images were taken using a Nikon SMZ 1270 microscope equipped with a Sony DSC-P8 camera.

Results

Family Anyphaenidae

Genus *Anyphaena* Sundevall, 1833

Anyphaena furva Miller, 1967

Figures 1, 2

Anyphaena obscura: Bösenberg, 1902: 258, pl. 24, fig. 373 (m; misidentified per Breitling et al., 2015: 67).

Anyphaena furva Miller, 1967: 292, fig. 7 (♂). – Miller, 1971: 64, fig. 4 (♂); Růžička, 2001: 46, figs 1–3, 7 (♂, ♀); Bauchhenss, 2009: 153, figs 1a–c, 2 (♂); Vidal and Taberlet, 2018: 9, figs 1–2 (♂).

Material examined. 1♂ (IZBA), Azerbaijan: Khachmaz District, Nabran Vill., (N41°45'48.5" E48°40'20.5"; 0 m a.s.l.) 02.V.2024, N. Snegovaya.

Distribution. The species is known from France Germany, Czechia, Slovakia, Caucasus (WSC 2024). In the Caucasus, it was previously recorded in Adygeja (Ponomarev et al. 2012) and South Ossetia (Ponomarev and Komarov 2015). New record for Azerbaijan.

Family Araneidae

Genus *Cyclosa* Menge, 1866

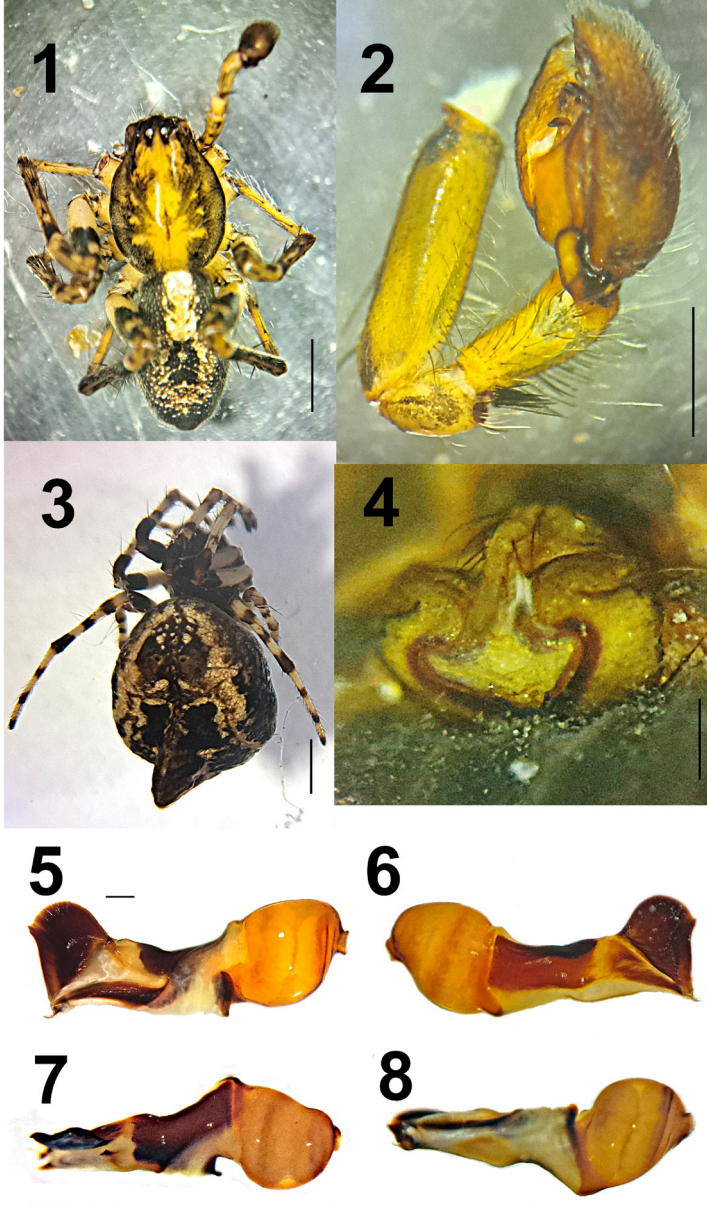
Cyclosa algerica Simon, 1885

Figures 3, 4

Cyclosa algerica Simon, 1885: 21 (♀). – Levi, 1977: 79, figs 34–37 (♂♀); Breitling, 2020: 339, fig. 5A–B (♀); Lecigne, 2021: 18, fig. 10a–d (♂♀); Morano, 2023: 86, figs 53–54 (♂♀).

Material examined. 1♀ (IZBA), Azerbaijan: Nakhchivan, Ordubad District, Agdere, (40.79651°N, 47.05372°E; 85 m a.s.l.), 17.VI.2024, N. Snegovaya.

Distribution. This species is distributed from Western Mediterranean to northern Iran (WSC 2024). New record for the Caucasus.



Figures 1–8. *Anyphaena furva*, male (1, 2); *Cyclosa algerica*, female (3, 4); *Dysdera tibilis*, male (5–8). 1, 3 – habitus, dorsal; 2 – palp, retrolateral; 4 – epigyne, ventral; 5 – bulb, retrolateral; 6 – same, prolateral; 7 – same, distal; 8 same, proximal. Scale bars = 1 mm (1, 3); 0,5 mm (2), 0,2 mm (4–8).

Family Dysderidae C. L. Koch, 1837

Genus *Dysdera* Latreille, 1804

Dysdera tbilisiensis Mcheidze, 1979

Figures 5–8

Dysdera tbilisiensis Mcheidze, 1979: 466, figs 3–4 (♂♀). – Dunin, 1992: 67, fig. 12 (♂♀); Mcheidze, 1997: 78, figs 73–74 (♂♀).

Material examined. 1♀ (IZBA), Azerbaijan: Gobustan District, Sundu Vill., (40.79651°N, 47.05372°E; 85 m a.s.l.), 17–18.V.2023, N. Snegovaya.

Distribution. Previously known only from Georgia [WSC 2024]. New record for Azerbaijan.

Discussion

In Azerbaijan, the genera *Anypaena* and *Cyclosa* are each represented by two species (Otto 2022), while the genus *Dysdera* includes 18 species (Otto 2022; Khasayeva 2024; Zamani and Marusik 2024). With the data presented in this article, the number of species within these genera has increased by one. Among the species of the genus *Cyclosa* recorded in the Caucasus, *Cyclosa oculata* (Walckenaer, 1802), which has been reported from the North Caucasus and Georgia (Otto 2022), has not been found in Azerbaijan.

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