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On Central Asian *Castianeira arnoldii* Charitonov, 1946 (Araneae, Corinnidae), earlier known from juvenile specimens

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Castianeira Keyserling, 1879 is one of the largest corinnid genera. Currently it contains 131 species (Platnick, 2009) distributed all over the globe except for Australia and adjacent islands. In the Palaearctic *Castianeira* is restricted to the southern regions with subtropical climate. The northernmost localities lie in the Iberian Peninsula, Israel, Uzbekistan and South Korea. Four *Castianeira* species are known from juvenile specimens only. One of such species, *Castianeira arnoldii* Charitonov, 1946, was described from Uzbekistan. While studying some material collected by Alexander V. Gromov in Central Asia I found an adult female together with 3 juvenile specimens of *Castianeira*. These specimens were collected rather close to the type locality of *C. arnoldii*. The size and colour pattern of the juvenile specimens fit well the description provided by Charitonov (1946). Therefore I decided to describe the adult female of this species.
The specimen was photographed using an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope and Olympus Camedia C-500 camera. The images were montaged using "CombineZM" image stacking software. Photographs were taken in dishes with paraffin on the bottom. Different size holes were made in the paraffin to keep the specimens in the rightposition. The epigyne was macerated with KOH. All measurements are given in millimetres. Material is deposited in Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University.

***Castianeira arnoldii* Charitonov, 1946**
Figs 1–6

Castianeira arnoldii Charitonov, 1946: 28, f. 52, subadult female and subadult male.

Material examined: 1♀, 1 subad. ♀, 1 subad. ♂ & 1 juv. (ZMMU), Uzbekistan, Surkhandarya Area, Termez Dist., W bank of Uchkyzyl reservoir, ca. 1.5 km E of Kaftarkhana, 350 m, 37º20'58"N 67º12'30"E, 28.04.2002 (A.Gromov).

Diagnosis. The epigyne of *C. arnoldii* is similar to that of *C. flavimaculata* Hu, Song & Zheng, 1985 (cf. Figs 254K, L in Song et al., 1999), known from the southern half of China. The two species can be easily separated by the smaller copulatory openings in *C. arnoldii* separated by 4 diameters (vs. less than 2 diameters in C. *flavimaculata*) and the shorter insemination ducts in *C. arnoldii.*

Description. Total length 7.71. Carapace 3.25 long, 2.00 wide, cephalic and anterior part of thoracic region almost black, rest of carapace red-brownish (Figs 1–2). Chelicerae, maxilla and labium black to dark brown. Basal two thirds of femur I black, apical third yellowish. Abdomen violet-black, with three wide light transverse bands in frontal half and small V-shaped stripe in posterior half. Bands and stripe are distinctly visible in juveniles only. Anterior part of abdomen with small scutum. Venter of abdomen with median band (between epigastral fold and spinnerets) lighter than rest of abdomen, and pair of transverse lateral median bands.

Epigyne as in Figs 3–5. At first look it is possible to consider the adult female as juvenile, because the copulatory openings is small and the epigynal plate is of the same color as the rest of abdomen. The epigynal plate is fused with the book-lungs and forms a pre-epigastral scutum extending from the petiolus to the epigastral fold. The epigynal openings are small and separated from each other by 4 diameters, and by one diameter from the epigastral fold; insemination ducts wide near copulatory opening gradually tapering, terminal part of insemination duct 3 times thinner than near copulatory openings; insemination duct joins to receptacula at mid part; receptacula long, with widened ends, anterior parts heavily sclerotized and adjoining each other.

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