



A revision of the Holarctic genus *Larinioides* Caporiacco, 1934 (Araneae: Araneidae)

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Abstract

All known species of *Larinioides* Caporiacco, 1934 are revised. Seven species are recognised, of which one is transferred from *Araneus* Clerck, 1757 as a new combination, *Larinioides jalimovi* (Bakhvalov, 1981) **comb. n.** The first description of a male of *L. jalimovi* is given. The following four new synonyms are proposed: *Epeira gracilis* Menge, 1878 **syn. n.** and *Aranea dumetorum islandicola* Strand, 1906 **syn. n.** = *L. patagiatus* (Clerck, 1757); *Araneus cunzei* Bakhvalov, 1974, **syn. n.** = *Larinioides folium* (Schrank, 1803); and *Araneus sclopetarius* Clerck, 1757 **syn. n.** = *L. cornutus* (Clerck, 1757). Detailed illustrations of habitus, copulatory organs, and identification keys of males and females of all *Larinioides* species are provided.

Key words: Nearctic, new combination, new synonymy, Palaearctic, orb-weavers, taxonomy

Introduction

Larinioides Caporiacco, 1934 is a genus of orb-weaving spiders (Araneidae) known only from the Holarctic (Platnick 2014). It is a rather small taxon with only six species and one subspecies, all found near water (Nentwig *et al.* 2014; Platnick 2014). All of them occur in the Palaearctic, while three species, *L. cornutus* (Clerck, 1757), *L. patagiatus* (Clerck, 1757) and *L. sericatus* (Clerck, 1757), have circum-Holarctic ranges (Levi 1974). Five species and one subspecies are known from the Western Palaearctic (Helsdingen 2013) and four species occur in the East Palaearctic (Mikhailov 2013b). All species of the genus are rather well studied, except for *L. chabarovi* (Bakhvalov, 1981). These species have over 20 taxonomic entries (from 22 to 99) in Platnick's (2014) catalog and were included in the revisions of Nearctic, Japanese, Chinese and European faunas (e.g. Levi 1974; Song *et al.* 1999; Tanikawa 2007). However, the longtime confusion of *L. cornutus* and *L. folium* (previously known as *L. suspicax*) is likely to have caused misunderstandings about their biology and distribution. One species, *L. chabarovi*, has a much smaller range (from Yenisei River to the lower Amur River (Oliger *et al.* 2002)) than its congeners.

Historically, the nomenclature of *Larinioides* included a prominent name conflict between *L. folium* and *L. suspicax* (e.g. Kulczyński 1901, Thaler 1974, Levy 1998). Recently the issue was amended by Mikhailov (2013a) who revalidated the name *Aranea folium* Schrank, 1803, as was formerly proposed by Kulczyński (1901) and Thaler (1974).

In our studies of orb-weaving spiders of Siberia and Russian Far East, we found a *Larinioides* that was first thought to be a new species. However, a detailed literature search showed that it was *Araneus jalimovi* Bakhvalov, 1981, described from a female from Khabarovsk (Bakhvalov 1981b). Unfortunately, almost all Bakhvalov's types were lost after his death (S.L. Zonstein, pers. comm.) and we made an unsuccessful attempt to obtain information

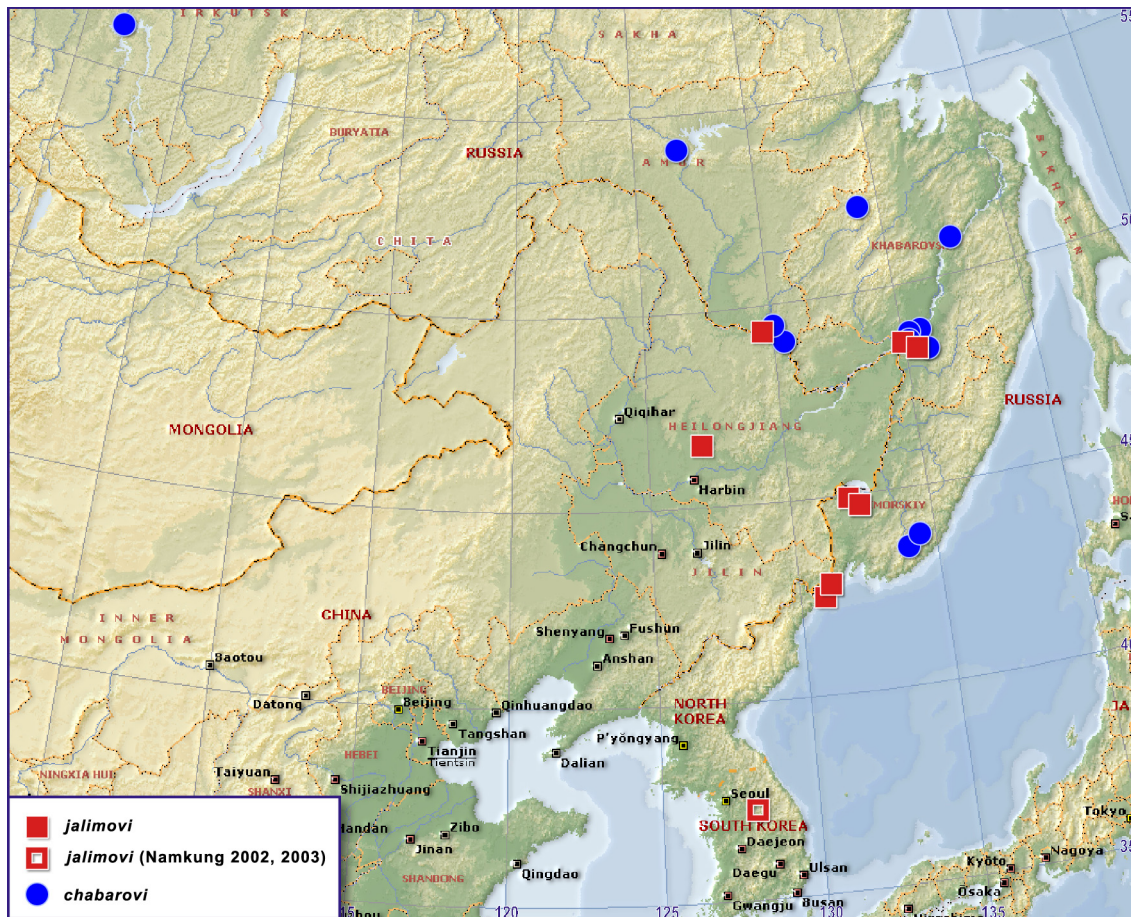


FIGURE 33. Distribution map of *Larinioides chabarovi* (circle) and *L. jalimovi* (square). Record from South Korea is based on misidentification by Namku

Comments. The species was known for a long time as *L. folium* Schrank, 1803. Levy (1998) considered this name a *nomen dubium*, and instead of introducing a neotype (to keep stability), he revalidated the name *L. suspicax*. In this paper, we follow Mikhailov (2013a) who reinstated *Epeira folium*. The figures of *Araneus cunzei* Bakhvalov, 1974 (cf. Bakhvalov 1974, 1981a) show a trapezoidal shape of the epigyne, which undoubtedly indicates its conspecificity with *L. folium*, and two names are synonymised here.

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