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New data on *Belippo* and *Myrmarachne* of Kenya (Araneae: Salticidae: Myrmarachninae)

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Abstract

Basing on the collection of Åke Holm, we provide new data on African Myrmarachninae from Kenya: *Belippo elgonensis* **sp. n.** (♂) and *B. terribilis* **sp. n.** (♂) are described, as well as the previously unknown female of *Myrmarachne giltayi*. *Belippo calcarata, B. milloti* and *M. dundoensis* are recorded from Kenya for the first time and new records for *Myrmarachne kiboschensis, M. lawrencei* and *M. marshalli* are given.

Key words: new species, jumping spiders, Africa

Introduction

The largest collection of spiders from Kenya was established by Åke Holm, a Swedish arachnologist, as a result of his expeditions to eastern Africa between 1938–1979. Only a part of the salticids gathered by Holm has been analyzed [*Tomocyrba* by Prószyński & Żabka (1983); *Heliophanus* and *Asemonea* by Wesołowska (1986, 2001, respectively); *Langelurillus* by Próchniewicz (1994); *Langona* and *Phlegra* by Próchniewicz & Hęciak (1994); Dendryphantinae by Wesołowska & Dawidowicz (2014)]. In total, 29 species of Kenyan jumping spiders from this collection have been reported so far. We continue studies on Holm's specimens by presenting data on nine Myrmarachninae species, four of *Belippo* and five of *Myrmarachne*. Hitherto, *Belippo* has not been reported from Kenya; as for *Myrmarachne*, we add one more species to the previous list of 12 that have been notified from this country (Wanless 1978; Wesołowska & Salm 2002). Additionally, we give descriptions and figures for some species described long time ago. These species are poorly known and their descriptions are superficial or do not fulfill modern standards, so new data might be helpful in their identification.

The two genera that we present here are ant-mimicking salticids. They are traditionally placed in the same subfamily, although their close relationship remains unsettled. Myrmecomorphy is fairly common among spiders and it has been reported in a few different families. Including Salticidae, representatives of 13 spider families are considered as mimics of ants (Cushing 1997). Even among jumping spiders, there are several ant-mimic genera that are not necessarily related to each other, because ant mimicry evolved independently for several times as a result of convergence. It was well documented that similar morphological characters in this case do not necessarily imply a phylogenetic relationship (Maddison & Hedin 2003). However, as one considers reproductive structures, *Belippo* and *Myrmarachne* seem to be closely related. A further molecular study on the ant-mimic jumping spider genera would surely clarify this problem.

Both *Myrmarachne* and *Belippo* share similar morphological variation within each genus, which is probably a consequence of interspecific convergence to their ant models. The species are therefore difficult to distinguish, and in many cases only the structure of genitalia affords species recognition. The other problem—which may impair male-female matches—is that members of these two genera are sexually dimorphic, which applies to differences in body size and shape of chelicerae. Males have these appendages conspicuously elongated (in extreme extent in *Myrmarachne*, less so in *Belippo*), even if the chelicerae of conspecific females are enlarged, they are still much smaller than those of males and have other dentition.

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