

## A new cavernicolous Pholcid spider from the Congo<sup>1</sup>

by

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With 5 text-figures

The following pages represent a brief report on a small collection of cavernicolous spiders, made at three different localities in the Katanga and Upemba provinces of the Congo Republic, by F. Anciaux de Faveaux of Jadotville at various periods during the year 1962.

I have particularly to thank Dr. V. Aellen, Conservator of Vertebrates at the Natural History Museum of Geneva, for affording me the opportunity of studying this small but valuable assemblage of Arachnida.

Collections of cave-living spiders are, in the nature of things, difficult to make but even if small in size are of more than usual interest and value in the study of ecology and zoogeography. I have great pleasure in dedicating the new form of *Spermophora* described in this paper to its collector, F. Anciaux de Faveaux.

Genus *Spermophora* Henz

*Spermophora faveauxi* n. sp. (Figures 1, 2)

Holotypes 1 ♂, 1 ♀, cotypes 1 ♀, 1 immature (A. 2053), Grotte Kasoma, Parc National de l'Upemba, Republic of the Congo,

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<sup>1</sup> Manuscrit déposé en mai 1965.



collected by F. Anciaux de Faveaux, August 13th, 1962. Material in the Natural History Museum of Geneva.

Colour in general pale yellow. Carapace with the cephalic portion light brown, becoming somewhat darker towards the cephalic angle posteriorly, a forwardly directed narrow brown stripe anterior to the group of eyes on each side; middle of thoracic area predominantly brown, the peripheral areas of the whole cephalothorax light yellow; chelicerae brown anteriorly; sternum and mouth-parts very light brown but distinctly darker than the coxae; abdomen (detached) uniformly pale, without a pattern of darker markings. Legs yellow, femora with a broad faint subapical annulation; whole of patellae dusky brown contrasting with the remaining segments, tibiae darkened a little at their extreme apices and with a very indistinct brownish subapical annulation, metatarsi slightly darkened at their extreme bases.

Eyes. The two outer eyes of each group of three, subequal, separated by about half their radius; inner eye with diameter about two-thirds that of the outer eyes.

Chelicerae normal, without processes or spines on the anterior surface (cf. *ensifera* Tullgren).

Pedipalp as in Fig. 1 seen from the outer side; the distal segments with dark brown infuscation; tibia and tarsus with fine long setae, femur with a distinct rounded process in the middle of its ventral surface.

Legs smooth, the tarsi with regular comb-like rows of fine cilia along their length.

Abdomen elongate and cylindrical, more like that of *Smeringopus* than most species of *Spermophora*.

Dimensions. Carapace 2.1, abdomen 2.3 mm.

♀ Colour. Cephalic portion of carapace brown both in front of and behind the eyes, sharply demarcated from the remainder of carapace which is pale yellow, the darkened marking posterior to the eyes almost quadratiform; thoracic area with a brown marking in the middle consisting of 2 wide arms on each side, the anterior pair directed postero-laterally, the other posteriorly, the latter enclosing a yellow bulb-shaped area between them; the uniformly yellow peripheral portion of carapace occupying two-thirds its total area. Dorsum of abdomen uniform pale cream, without darker markings, ventral surface similar except for the



chitinized structures of the epigastric area. Sternum and mouth-parts yellow brown, contrasting with the pale coxae; chelicerae brown with a reddish tinge. Pedipalpi pale brown; legs with markings similar to those of the ♂ but the patellae and the annulations on the femora, tibiae and metatarsi much darker and more clearly defined.

Eyes and chelicerae as in the ♂.

Abdomen elongate and cylindrical, its length distinctly greater than its greatest width or depth. Vulva and epigastric region as in Fig. 2, the chitinized parts for the most parts rather indistinct.

Dimensions: Total length 5.4 mm.

Apart from the species of *Spermophora* described in the present paper five others of this genus are known from Africa south of the equator; *ensifera* and *globosa* were described by TULLGREN (1910) from Kibonoto, Kilimandjaro, *minotaura* and *nigrescens* by BERLAND from Kenya (1920), while *peninsulae* was described by LAWRENCE from the Table Mountain Caves at Cape Town (1964). Thus all except one species are found in East Africa.

Of these the present species resembles *ensifera* Tullgren much more closely than any of the others in the structure of the reproductive organs of both sexes and in the more elongated, almost cylindrical abdomen.

*Spermophora peninsulae* Lawrence has been found only in caves; *S. minotaura* has been taken from caves in Kenya (Campbell Cave) as well as in forests, while *ensifera*, *globosa* and *nigrescens* seem to be cryptic forest dwellers only. An undescribed species of *Spermophora* has also been recorded by L. FAGE (1931) from caves in Madagascar.

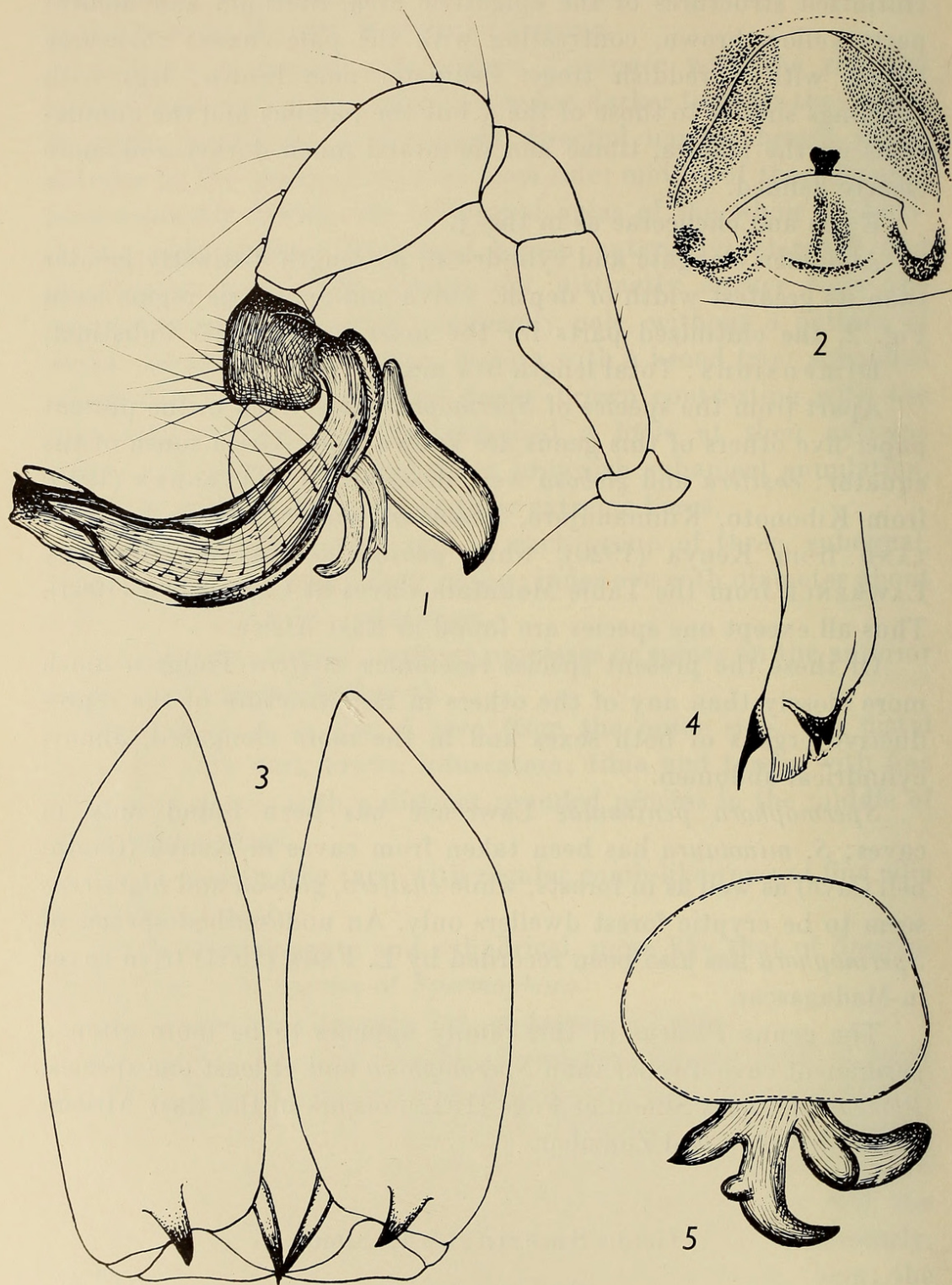
The genus *Pholcus* of this family appears to be more often a permanent cave dweller than *Spermophora* and at least one species, *Pholcus lucifugus* Simon et Fage (1922), occurs in the East African caves of Kenya and Zanzibar.

### Genus *Smeringopus* Simon

#### *Smeringopus* sp.

3 immature ♀♀ (A. 2046), Grotte Kasoma, Parc National de l'Upemba, collected 13-VIII-1962.





FIGURES 1-2, *Spermophora faveauxi* n. sp: 1, pedipalp of ♂ in lateral view; 2, vulva and epigastric region of ♀. Figs. 3-5, *Smeringopus natalensis* Lawrence ♂: 3, chelicerae seen from in front; 4, distal apex of pedipalp tarsus, lateral view; 5, bulb and apophyses of pedipalp, medial view.



A note on *Smeringopus natalensis* Lawrence

This species described from Verulam, Natal (1947, p. 14) was stated to be "very near to if not actually *elongatus* Vinson". I have since been able to examine a considerable amount of material and now consider it to be very closely related to *S. lesnei* Lessert from Vila Pery, Moçambique, and perhaps even a subspecies of this form. It differs from *S. pallidus* Blackwall (of which according to KRAUS (1957, p. 219) *elongatus* Vinson is a synonym) and *S. peregrinus* Strand in the tooth at the base of the fang on the anterior surface of the chelicera being distinctly larger and the apophysis of the bulb being trilobed instead of bilobed as in *pallidus* and *peregrinus*; in the last named character it resembles *lesnei* Lessert, differing however in the following details: the anterior, pointed branch of the apophysis is much shorter than the middle one (longer in *lesnei*), the middle branch about equal in length to the posterior one (considerably shorter in *lesnei*), and the posterior branch considerably thicker than the middle one (or either of the other two branches), while in *lesnei* the middle branch is thicker than the posterior one.

*S. natalensis* has been recorded from the following localities in Natal: Verulam; Manderston near Pietermaritzburg; the museum at Pietermaritzburg; Scottsville, a suburb of Pietermaritzburg. It is a semi-domesticated species, being common on the verandahs of houses (Scottsville) where it spins its webs under window ledges; the webs have been found in the corners of various rooms in the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, where it appears to prey almost exclusively on the ant, *Acantholepis capensis*.

The following spiders were included in the collections:

## Family SICARIIDAE

*Loxosceles* sp.

1 immature ♀ (A. 1924), Grotte Kyasala, Lubudi, Katanga (21-VII-1962).

## Family THERIDIIDAE

*Theridion rufipes* (Lucas)

1 ♀ (A. 2046), Grotte Kasoma, Parc National de l'Upemba (13-VIII-1962).



## Family SELENOPIIDAE

*Selenops sponsae* de Lessert

1 ♀ (A. 1884) Grotte de Kando, Lubudi, Katanga (18-VII-1962).

## Family CLUBIONIDAE

*Ctenus velox* Blackwall

1 ♀ (A. 1758), Grotte Kyasala, Lubudi, Katanga (22-IV-1962).

*Ctenus* sp. 2 immature ♀♀ (A. 2046), Grotte Kasoma, Parc National de l'Upemba (13-VIII-1962).

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