A New Species of the Spider Genus *Meta* C. L. Koch, 1836 (Araneae: Tetragnathidae) from Japan

Akio TANIKAWA

谷川明男：日本産ドヨウグモ属（クモ目：アシナガガモ科）の1新種

Abstract A new species of the genus *Meta* is described from Japan under the name of *Meta nigridorsalis*. The spiders of the species can be easily distinguished from the other species of the genus by the shape of the copulatory organs of both sexes.

In the summer of 1993, the arachnological research trip to Mie Prefecture was made jointly by Tokyo Spider Study Group, Mie Spider Study Group and Wakayama Spider Study Group. In the field research, Mr. Yoh IHARA discovered an interesting spider at Ido-chō Kumano-shi, Mie Prefecture on the 25th of July, 1993. Successively, Mr. Eiichi SHINKAI and I collected several specimens of the species in question from the same place. The spiders were hanging on the center of the horizontal orb-web made among the large rocks. Then, the spiders of the species were collected from Wakayama Prefecture by Mr. Kiyoto OGATA, from Hiroshima Prefecture by Mr. Yoh IHARA, and from Tottori Prefecture by Dr. Nobuo TSURUSAKI. After an examination of these materials, I came to the conclusion that the species is new to science. It will be described in this paper.

The placement of the species is not so clear. By the shape of the abdomen and the general appearance of the male palpal organ, it resembles to the species of the genus *Metellina*. However, I placed it in the genus *Meta* based on the following features much important: chelicera with 4 teeth on the posterior margin; epigynum with openings on the posterior face; the male palp is rather sclerotized.

All the type specimens designated in this paper are deposited in the collection of National Science Museum (Natural History), Tokyo.

Before going further, I wish to express my hearty thanks to Dr. Hirotsugu ONO, National Science Museum (Natural History), Tokyo, for his constant guidance and revising the manuscript of this paper. My sincere thanks are also due to Mr. Yoh IHARA, Hiroshima, Mr. Eiichi SHINKAI, Tokyo, Mr. Kiyoto OGATA, Aichi, and Dr. Nobuo TSURUSAKI, Tottori University, for their offering various specimens used in this study.

Following abbreviations are used in this paper: MOA, median ocular area;

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Description (based on the holotype ♂ and paratype 1♂ from Ido-cho, Kumano-shi, Mie Pref.; variations are given in parentheses). Measurement (in mm). Body length ♀ 5.88 (5.00–6.60), ♂ 4.50 (4.50–4.95); carapace length ♀ 2.37 (2.28–2.63), ♂ 2.33 (2.26–2.34), width ♀ 1.83 (1.75–2.07), ♂ 1.83 (1.74–1.83); abdomen length ♀ 3.44 (2.69–3.92), ♂ 2.30 (2.30–2.66), width ♀ 2.84 (2.34–3.24), ♂ 1.68 (1.68–2.06). Length of legs of the holotype ♀ and paratype 1♂ from Ido-cho, Kumano-shi, Mie Pref. as shown in Table 1.

Female. Carapace length/width 1.30 (1.27–1.31); MOA length/width 1.27 (1.10–1.30), anterior width/posterior width 0.96 (0.96–1.04). Chelicera somewhat long (Fig. 3), with 3 promarginal and 4 retromarginal teeth. Labium length/width 0.57 (0.57–0.70); sternum length/width 1.06 (1.03–1.11). Length of leg I/carapace 4.27 (4.21–4.34). Abdomen length/width 1.21 (1.14–1.23), with shallow lobes (Fig. 1). Epigynum as shown in Figs. 5–6.

Male. Carapace length/width 1.27 (1.27–1.33); MOA length/width 1.28 (1.13–1.28), anterior width/posterior width 1.00 (1.00–1.15). Chelicera somewhat long (Fig. 4), with 1 (1–3) promarginal and 4 retromarginal teeth. Labium length/width 0.68 (0.67–0.70); sternum length/width 1.06 (1.06–1.08). Length of leg I/carapace 4.77 (4.04–5.07). Male palp as shown in Figs. 8–10. Abdomen length/width 1.37

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</table>
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(1.29–1.37), with shallow lobes (Fig. 2).

Coloration and markings. Female and male (Figs. 1–2): Carapace brown, marginated with dark brown, with dark brown longitudinal median band. Legs brown, with dark brown annulation. Abdomen black, lighter in front, marginated
Figs. 5–10. *Meta nigridorsalis* sp. nov.—5. Epigynum, ventral view. 6. Same, caudal view. 7. Female genitalia, dorsal view. 8. Male palp, general view. 9. Same, ventral view. 10. Same, retrolateral view. (Scales: 0.2 mm.)
with gray.

Range. Japan (western part of Honshu).

Remarks. This new species is easily distinguished from the other species of the genus *Meta* by the shape of the epigynum and the male palpal organ.

Etymology. The specific name is derived from the color of the abdomen.

References


