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Notes of linyphiid species (Aranei: Linyphiidae) described by E. Keyserling from Alaska

Заметки о видах пауков линифиид (Aranei: Linyphiidae), описанных Е. Кейзерлингом из Аляски

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KEY WORDS: Araneae, new combination, new synonym, type specimen, nomen dubium, nomen protectum.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, новая комбинация, новый синоним, типовой экземпляр, nomen dubium, nomen oblitum, nomen protectum.

ABSTRACT: Several species described in Keyserling's 1886 '*Die Spinnen Amerikas'* from Alaska have been declared by Roewer [1955] as *nomena dubia*. The type specimens of those species were examined and nomenclatural notes are made on Alaskan species described by Keyserling including the species *Erigone usurpabilis* Keyserling, 1886 syn.n. = *Collinsia caliginosa* (L. Koch, 1879), *Erigone urusta* Keyserling, 1886 = *Oreoneta urusta* (Keyserling, 1886) comb.n. = *Hilaira montigena arctica* Holm, 1960 syn.n., *Erigone vacerosa* Keyserling, 1886 = *Styloctetor vacerosus* (Keyserling, 1886) comb.n. = *Styloctetor lehtineni* Marusik et Tanasevitch, 1998 syn.n., *Linyphia arctica* Keyserling, 1886 (nomen oblitum) = *Tenuiphantes mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887) (nomen protectum), *Erigone famularis* Keyserling, 1886 = *Tibioploides famularis* (Keyserling, 1886) comb.n. = *Tibioploides pacificus* Eskov et Marusik, 1991 syn.n. *Linyphia arctica* Keyserling, 1886 was found to be a senior synonym of *Tenuiphantes mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887), but to lack of usage, and prevailing using of *Lepthyphantes mengei* or *Tenuiphantes menge*i (over a thousand times) we are applying to ICZN to protect junior synonym and declare senior synonym as nomen oblitum. Additional nomenclatural notes are also made on *Erigone umbraticola* Keyserling, 1886 = *Improphantes complicatus* (Emerton, 1882), *Erigone schumaginensis* Keyserling, 1886 = *Kaestneria pullata* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1863), and *Erigone ululabilis* Keyserling, 1886 = *Oreonetides vaginatus* (Thorell, 1872). Distribution of three species is mapped: *Oreoneta urusta*, *Styloctetor vacerosus* and *Tibioploides famularis.*

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РЕЗЮМЕ: Ряд видов, описанных Е. Кейзерингом в 1886 '*Die Spinnen Amerikas'* из Аляски до настоящего времени считались *nomena dubia*. Типовые материалы этих видов были найдены и исследованы. В результате установлены 3 новые комбинации и 4 вида синонимизированы: *Erigone usurpabilis* Keyserling, 1886 syn.n. = *Collinsia caliginosa* (L. Koch, 1879), *Erigone urusta* Keyserling, 1886 = *Oreoneta urusta* (Keyserling, 1886) comb.n. = *Hilaira montigena arctica* Holm, 1960 syn.n., *Erigone vacerosa* Keyserling, 1886 = *Styloctetor vacerosus* (Keyserling, 1886) comb.n. = *Styloctetor lehtineni* Marusik et Tanasevitch, 1998 syn.n., *Linyphia arctica* Keyserling, 1886 (omen oblitum) = *Tenuiphantes mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887) (nomen protectum), *Erigone famularis* Keyserling, 1886 = *Tibioploides famularis* (Keyserling, 1886) comb.n. = *Tibioploides pacificus* Eskov et Marusik, 1991 syn.n. Обнаружено, что *Linyphia arctica* Keyserling, 1886 является старшим синонимом *Tenuiphantes mengei* (Kulczynski, 1887), однако учитывая, что старший синоним не употреблялся, а младший синоним употреблялся более чем в тысяче работ, мы обратились в МКЗН с просьбой признать *Linyphia arctica* Keyserling, 1886 nomen oblitum (забытым названием), а *Tenuiphantes mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887) nomen protectum (защищенным названием). Дополнительно прокомментированы и другие виды, описанные Е. Кейзерлингом из Аляски: *Erigone umbraticola* Keyserling, 1886 = *Improphantes complicatus* (Emerton, 1882), *Erigone schumaginensis* Keyserling, 1886 = *Kaestneria pullata* (O. Pickard-

Cambridge, 1863), и *Erigone ululabilis* Keyserling, 1886 = *Oreonetides vaginatus* (Thorell, 1872). Распространение трёх видов закартировано: *Oreoneta urusta*, *Styloctetor vacerosus* и *Tibioploides famularis.*

Introduction

Keyserling's [1886] monumental work '*Die Spinnen Amerika'* includes many species described from Alaska. His written descriptions are detailed including many somatic characters, but as arachnology has shifted to focusing more on the structure of copulatory organs and the number of species has expanded, these descriptions are less informative. Roewer [1955] declared five of the species included here as *nomina dubia* (nicht zu deuten!). Keyserling's [1886] published descriptions of these species are informative so it is unclear why Roewer felt no clear identification could be made. This is unfortunate. Roewer apparently did not pursue obtaining the type specimens to validate those descriptions, but given his catalog included over 20,000 species it's understandable. George Marx, who posthumoously edited Keyserling's '*Die Spinnen Amerikas'*, and also provided many specimens to Keyserling, deposited many of the type specimens at the Smithsonian Institution (United States National Museum, USNM) after his passing, and here they languished until being reexamined for this publication. Due to the the time elapsed since Keyserling's publication, all of the species included have been adequately described under other names and so are not redescribed. The goal of this work is to comment on species described from Alaska by Keyserling and provide comments on newly available (found) types.

Material and methods

Specimens were examined and photographed using a Leica MZ16 microscope and Leica Microsystems DFC425 camera, processed with Leica Application Suite V3.8. Photos size in Figure 1 was manipulated for convenience.

Taxonomy

Family Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859

Collinsia caliginosa (L. Koch, 1879)

Fig. 1A–B.

Erigone caliginosa L. Koch, 1879: 56, pl. 2, f. 10–10a (♀).

Erigone usurpabilis Keyserling, 1886: 193, pl. 18, f. 252 (♀), **syn.n.**

Erigone usurpabilis: Crosby, Bishop, 1928: 8 (considered as nomen dubium).

Erigone caliginosa: Roewer, 1955: 1495 (considered *E. caliginosa* L. Koch, 1873 [sic!] as nomen dubium).

Collinsia caliginosa: Holm, 1973: 79, f. 19–21 (♀).

Collinsia caliginosa: Eskov, 1990: 288, f. 1–4 (♂♀).

COMMENTS. The type vial of *Erigone usurpabilis* contains two syntype females from "Akutan, Aleutian", whose epigyne conform to published descriptions [Holm, 1973; Eskov, 1990] and therefore the two names are synonymized. Specimens are in good shape, but setae generally brushed off. Epigyne are lifted which allows for an adequate view of the posterior plate. Crosby and Bishop [1928] in referring to *E. usurpabilis*, simply state they were unable to recognize the species but make no mention that there is inadequate information for identification, the nomen dubium declaration of *E. usurpabilis* had been added by the WSC [2025]. Holm [1973] redescribed *Collinsia caliginosa* and moved the species from *Erigone,* but makes no mention of the nomen dubium declaration of Roewer [1955]. The type location likely the town of Akutan, on Akutan Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska (54°08′N 165°54′W).

DISTRIBUTION. This species is known Vorkuta (Russia) east to Akutan Island and south to Tajikistan [Mikhailov, 2024].

Improphantes complicatus (Emerton, 1882)

Erigone umbraticola Keyserling, 1886: 195, pl. 18, f. 255 (♀).

Lephthyphantes umbraticolus: Chamberlin, Ivie, 1947: 58 (S of *Erigone umbraticola*).

Lepthyphantes complicatus: Holm, 1958: 57 (S of *L. umbraticola*).

For complete list of taxonomic references see WSC [2025].

COMMENTS. The type localities of *Erigone umbraticola* are Sitka and Kanaka Island. Chamberlin and Ivie [1947] moved the species to *Lepthyphantes*, and added additional locations in Alaska. Holm [1958] does not refer to the types of *Erigone umbraticola* in his synonymy, rather he refers to specimens identified by him and colleagues from "Greenland, Iceland, Spitsbergen, northern Scandinavia, Scotland and Switzerland". Alaskan specimens were not mentioned. Regardless, Keyserling's description and figures of epigyne fit well to those of *I. complicatus*.

DISTRIBUTION. Species has Circum-Holarctic arcto-boreal distribution and known across throughout Northern Holarctic.

Kaestneria pullata (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1863)

Erigone schumaginensis Keyserling, 1886: 182, pl. 17, f. 241 (♂).

Erigone schumaginensis: Roewer, 1955: 1501 (considered as nomen dubium).

Bathyphantes (*Coniphantes*) *anceps*: Ivie, 1969: 59 (S of *E. schumaginensis*).

Kaestneria pullata: Marusik *et al*., 1993: 75 (S of *K. anceps*).

For complete list of taxonomic references see WSC [2025].

COMMENTS. Ivie [1969] examined the holotype male of *Erigone schumaginensis* held at the USNM and found that it is the synonym with *K. anceps*. The type locality is the Shumagin Islands. The Shumagin Islands are a collection of 20 islands, and it is unclear which island it was collected off of.

DISTRIBUTION. This species has Circum-Holarctic distribution.

Oreoneta urusta (Keyserling, 1886), comb.n.

Figs 1C–D, 2.

Erigone urusta Keyserling, 1886: 193, pl. 18, f. 253 (♀).

Erigone urusta: Roewer, 1955: 1503 (considered as nomen dubium).

Hilaira montigena arctica Holm, 1960: 118, f. 28–30 (♂), **syn.n**.

Oreoneta arctica: Saaristo, Marusik, 2004: 211, f. 13b–15, 32–33, 41–42, 53–54 (removed from S with *Hilaira frigida intercepta*, contra Eskov, 1981: 1487, elevated to species).

COMMENTS. The type vial contains two syntype females from "Akutan, Aleutian", which conform to published descriptions of *Oreoneta arctica* [Saaristo, Marusik, 2004] and matches other Alaskan specimens in which both sexes have been collected [Holm, 1960]. One specimen has the epigyne lifted and allows for the posterior plate to be seen which aids in the identification based on the description in Saaristo & Marusik

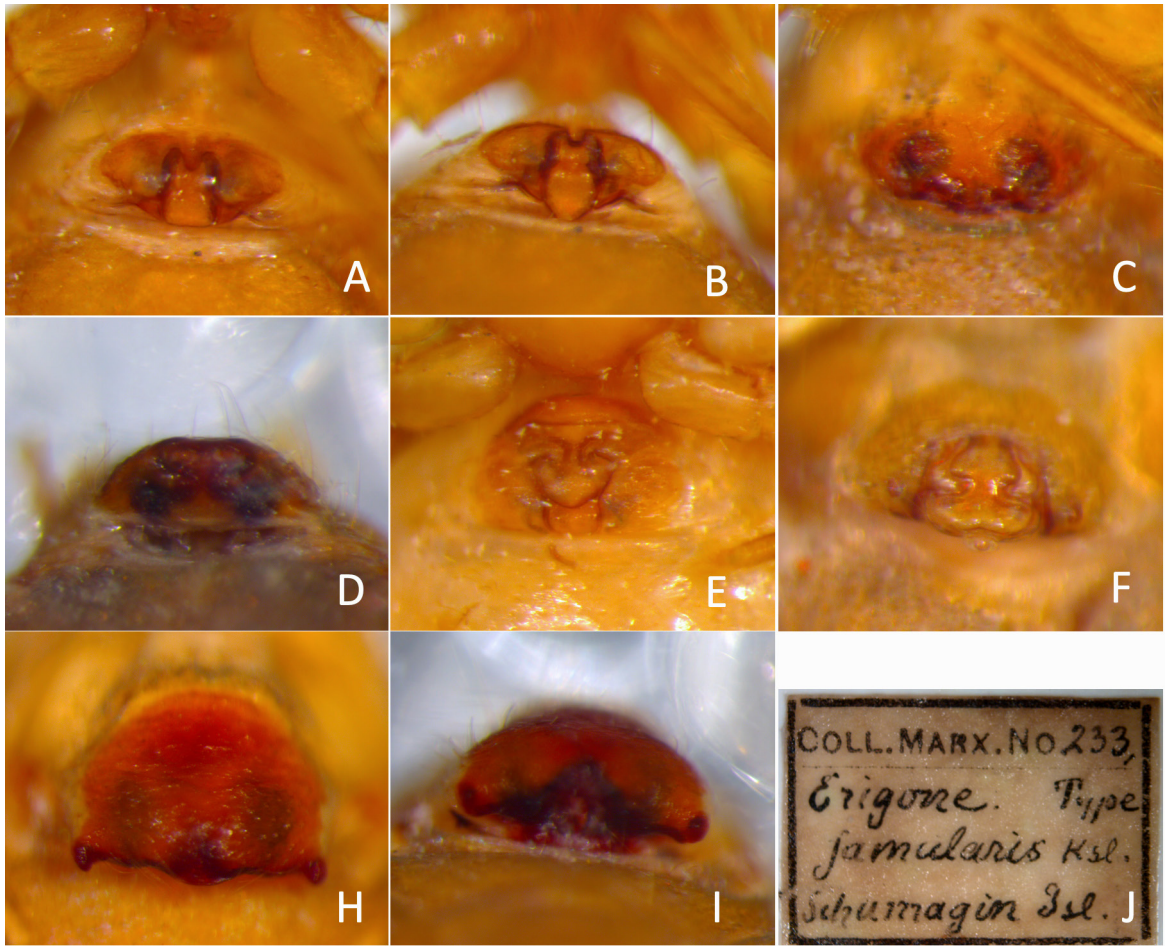

Fig. 1. Type specimens epigynes. A–B — *Erigone usurpabilis* Keyserling, 1886 (= *Collinsia caliginosa* (L. Koch, 1879), ventral and posterior; C–D — *Erigone urusta* Keyserling, 1886 (= *Oreoneta urusta* (Keyserling, 1886), ventral and posterior; F — *Styloctetor vacerosus* (Keyserling, 1886), ventral; G — *Linyphia arctica* Keyserling, 1886 = *Tenuiphantes mengei* (Kulczynski, 1887) ventral; H–J — *Tibioploides famularis* (Keyserling, 1886), ventral and posterior, type label.

Рис.1. Эпигины типовых экземпляров. A–B — *Erigone usurpabilis* Keyserling, 1886 (= *Collinsia caliginosa* (L. Koch, 1879), снизу и сзади; C–D — *Erigone urusta* Keyserling, 1886 (= *Oreoneta urusta* (Keyserling, 1886), снизу и сзади; F — *Styloctetor vacerosus* (Keyserling, 1886), снизу; G — *Linyphia arctica* Keyserling, 1886 = *Tenuiphantes mengei* (Kulczynski, 1887), снизу; H–J — *Tibioploides famularis* (Keyserling, 1886), снизу и сзади, типовая этикетка.

[2004]. One specimen does have the abdomen separated, but overall specimens are in good shape. Setae are present but TmI is missing, epigynal pits easily visible. Because of the conformation of the epigyne of the syntypes with published descriptions the two names are synonymized. Type locality likely the town of Akutan, on Akutan Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

DISTRIBUTION. This species has been found from Wrangel Island (180ºE, Russia), to Northcentral Alaska (152ºW), and from Northern Kuril Islands (50ºN) to Akutan Island, Aleutians (54ºN) (Fig. 2)

ETYMOLOGY. Most likely adjective formed from Latin 'urus' (wild ox).

Oreonetides vaginatus (Thorell, 1872)

Erigone ululabilis Keyserling, 1886: 184, pl. 17, f. 244 (♂).

Oreonetides vaginatus: Saaristo, 1972: 70, f. 1–17 (♂♀, S of *E. ululabilis*).

For complete list of taxonomic references see WSC [2025].

COMMENTS. Type locality of *Erigone ululabilis* is Sitka. Saaristo [1972] synonymized the two names without checking Keyserning's type but wrote "Keyserling's [1886: fig. 244] original figure of *O. ululabilis* suggested that this species might be synonymous with *O. vaginaius*. Dr. P.T. Lehtinen, who checked the type material, has informed me that this is the case."

DISTRIBUTION. This species has Circum-Holarctic distribution.

Styloctetor vacerosus (Keyserling, 1886), comb.n.
Figs 1E, 2.

Erigone vacerosa Keyserling, 1886: 200, pl. 18, f. 260 (♀).

Erigone vacerosa: Roewer, 1955: 1503 (considered as nomen dubium).

Styloctetor lehtineni Marusik et Tanasevitch, 1998: 158, f. 8–10, 20 (♂♀), **syn.n.**

Styloctetor lehtineni: Nekhaeva *et al*., 2024: 400, f. 7B–C (♂).

COMMENTS. The type vial contains three syntype females from "Ownalaska", matching the description in Marusik & Tanasevitch [1998], therefore the two names are synonymized. One syntype has its abdomen broken off. Type specimens are also comparable to other Alaskan specimens. Type location is

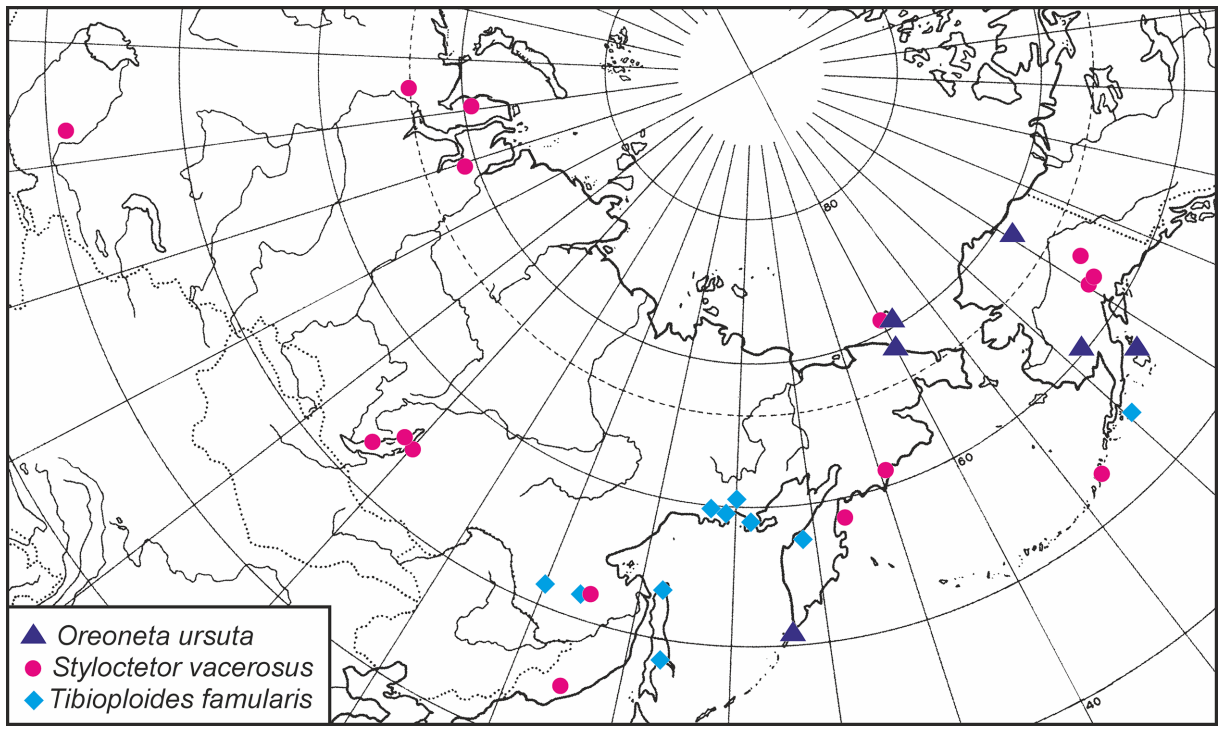

Fig. 2. Distribution records of three species: *Oreoneta ursuta* (triangle), *Styloctetor vacerosu*s (circle) and *Tibioploides famularis* (diamond).
Рис. 2. Распространение трёх видов: *Oreoneta ursuta* (треугольник), *Styloctetor vacerosu*s (круг) и *Tibioploides famularis* (ромб).

misspelled on the label but correctly given in the text as 'Unalaska', Unalaska Island, Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

DISTRIBUTION. From Polar Ural (*S. lehtineni* type locality) to Wrangel Island, Russia and Central Alaska, and from South Kazakhstan (42.23°N 67.8°E) to Maritime Province in Russia. In the Nearctic, southernmost known locality is Unalaska (53°51′N 166°43′W) (Fig. 2).

Tenuiphantes mengei (Kulczyński, 1887), nomen protectum

Fig. 1F.

Linyphia arctica Keyserling, 1886: 85, pl. 14, f. 179 (♀), **nomen oblitum**

Lepthyphantes mengei Kulczyński, 1887: 322, pl. 7, f. 37–39 (♂♀).

Bathyphantes arcticus: Banks, 1899: 347.

Lepthyphantes arcticus: Chamberlin, Ivie, 1947: 57.

Tenuiphantes mengei: Tanasevitch, 2009: 411, f. 80–82, 86–89, 95–97 (♂♀).

For complete list of 36 taxonomic references for *T. mengei* see WSC [2025].

COMMENTS. The type specimen of *Linyphia arctica* is a female from "Sitka, Alaska" and matches the many published descriptions for *T. mengei* well. Keyserling's illustration of the epigyne is odd. Not really representative of the type specimen, but the description is informative.

We apply ICZN Commission article 23.9.3 to protect the name *Tenuiphantes mengei* and suppress *Linyphia arctica* due the prevailing usage of the name *mengei* in combination with *Lepthyphantes* or *Tenuiphantes*. In support of article 23.9.3 there are more than 25 taxonomic publications within the last 50 years by more than 20 authors listed in the WSC (accessed 24 Jan 2025) and a google scholar search of *Linyphantes mengei* limited at the last 25 years finds 610 references, a search of *Tenuiphantes mengei* results in 671 references (accessed 24 January 2025) which indicates this name is in wide use in publications outside of taxonomy as well. The name *arcticus* was used only in one publication after 1900 and just refers to previous records [Chamberlin, Ivie, 1947].

Additional references for *Linyphia arctica* besides Keyserling's description are by Banks who identified *L. arctica* from the Medny Island (Commander Islands), Russia [Banks, 1899] as well as from Sitka, Berg Bay, and Kodiak, Alaska [Banks, 1900]. He also mentions the species being found in Washington State. He moved the species to *Bathyphantes* from *Linyphia*. We were able to locate one of his specimens from "Alaska: (1620)" held at the American Museum of Natural History and it is a *Bathyphantes brevipes* (Emerton, 1917) and not the same species as Keyserling's. But given this mis-identification, Banks movement of the species to *Bathyphantes* is explained. Additionally, there have been no coastal records of *T. mengei* or *L. arctica* in North America after Banks' publications which support the hypothesis he had made a mis-identification. Chamberlin & Ivie [1947] just refer to the earlier publications and move the species to *Lepthyphantes* where it had remained.

DISTRIBUTION. This is a Transpalaearctic species. Likely the spider described in Keyserling [1886] came with cargo from Russian Far East as Sitka was a well established Russian port prior to the purchase of Alaska by the United States. There is one other North American record for *T. mengei*, a BOLD record (BIOUG12609-C06) for a juvenile collected in Ontario 2014 which matches sequences found in Europe. *T. mengei* does not appear to be established in North America at this time.

Tibioploides famularis (Keyserling, 1886), comb.n.

Figs 1H–I, 2.

Erigone famularis Keyserling, 1886: 198, pl. 18, f. 258 (♀).

Erigone famularis: Roewer, 1955: 1497 (considered as nomen dubium).

Tibioploides pacificus Eskov et Marusik, 1991: 241, f. 14–18 (♂♀), **syn.n.**

Tibioploides pacificus: Hormiga, 2000: 55, f. 28A–J, pl. 65A–F, 66A–D (♂♀).

COMMENTS. Holotype female label identifies it from "Shumagin Isl." (Fig 1.J), however, Keyserling's [1886] publication lists "Sitka, Alaska". Specimens match description and illustrations by Eskov & Marusik [1991] and Hormiga [2000] and therefore the two names are synonymized. Keyserlings's original description and illustration are also similar to later descriptions mentioned. Abdomen of the holotype is separated and the distal portion of all legs are missing. Type location likely misspelling of Shumagin Islands, Alaska. The Shumagin Islands is a small collection of 20 islands and it is unclear which island it was collected off of.

DISTRIBUTION. The species is known from Cisokhotia and Sakhalin Island and the Shumagin Islands, Alaska (Fig. 2).

Conflict of interests

The authors declare no potential conflict of interest.

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