

## A synopsis of the genus *Tibellus* Simon, 1875 (Aranei: Philodromidae) in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia

### Сводка по роду *Tibellus* Simon, 1875 (Aranei: Philodromidae) в Казахстане и Средней Азии

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, фауна, распространение.

**ABSTRACT.** This paper summarizes data on findings of the genus *Tibellus* Simon, 1875 in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia. Distribution maps are presented, compiled on the basis of both original and literature-derived data. *Tibellus macellus* Simon, 1875 is recorded from Kyrgyzstan for the first time.

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**РЕЗЮМЕ.** Данная работа обобщает данные о находках рода *Tibellus* Simon, 1875 в Казахстане и Средней Азии. Представлены карты распространения на основе как оригинальных, так и литературных данных. *Tibellus macellus* Simon, 1875 впервые отмечен из Киргизии.

#### Introduction

With the 53 species described to date, *Tibellus* Simon, 1875 is the third largest genus in the family Philodromidae [WSC, 2026]. Easily recognisable by their elongated bodies, *Tibellus* congeners are found almost worldwide and represent a common component of any chortobiont fauna [Efimik, 1999].

To date, only three *Tibellus* species have been found in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia (i.e., Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan) [Efimik, 1999; Mikhailov, 2024; Eshyunin *et al.*, 2024; Bragina *et al.*, 2025]: viz., *T. macellus* Simon, 1875, *T. maritimus* (Menge, 1875), and *T. oblongus* (Walckenaer, 1802). Despite their widespread distribution, *Tibellus* species are relatively rarely collected, and therefore any new findings may be of interest in terms of clarifying their distribution in a particular region. This paper aims to summarize all available data on *Tibellus*, both original and literature-derived, from Kazakhstan and Middle Asia.

#### Material and methods

A total of 61 specimens have been studied, borrowed from or deposited in the following Russian institutions: ZISP — Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg (curator: Dr. D.V. Logunov), ZMMU — Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Moscow (curator: Dr. K.G. Mikhailov).

Photographs were made using a Nikon SMZ25 stereomicroscope with a DS-L3 DS camera. Maps were produced by using the online mapping software SimpleMappr [Shorthouse, 2010]. Nomenclature of the species ranges used follows Marusik *et al.* [2000].

#### Results

##### *Tibellus* Simon, 1875

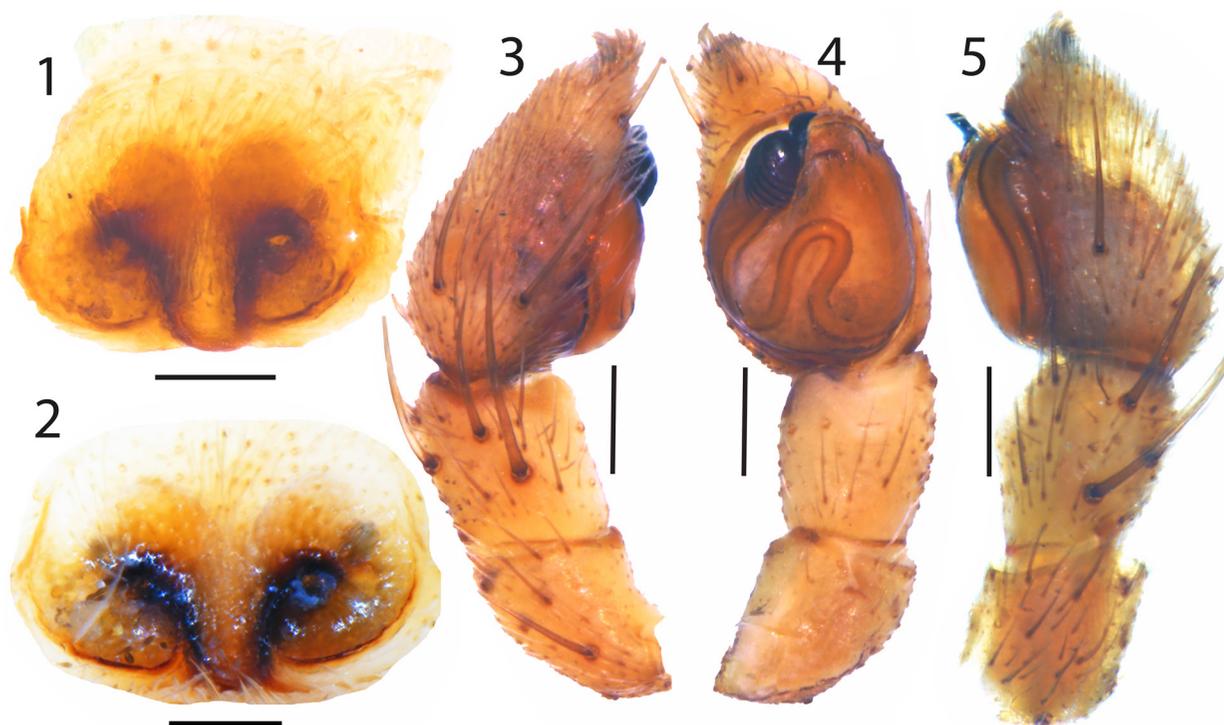
Type species: *Aranea oblonga* Walckenaer, 1802; by subsequent designation.

**REMARKS.** The genus consists of 53 valid species in world fauna [WSC, 2026]. It is distributed worldwide, with most species known from the Holarctic and Afrotropical regions, and only a few occurring in Australia and the Neotropics [van den Berg, Dipenaar-Schoeman, 1994; Efimik, 1999; do Prado *et al.*, 2022; WSC, 2026]. The genus has been reviewed in the scope of faunas of the USA [Gertsch, 1933; Schick, 1965], India [Tikader, 1980; Gajbe, Gajbe, 1999] and Korea [Jang *et al.*, 2023], including the broader revisions of the Afrotropical [Van den Berg, Dipenaar-Schoeman, 1994] and East Palearctic [Efimik, 1999] regions. Of the 10 species known from Russia and neighbouring countries [Mikhailov, 2024], only three have been found in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia to date. Yet, Efimik [1999] produced a comprehensive identification key to all species known from the east Palearctic fauna.

##### *Tibellus maritimus* (Menge, 1875)

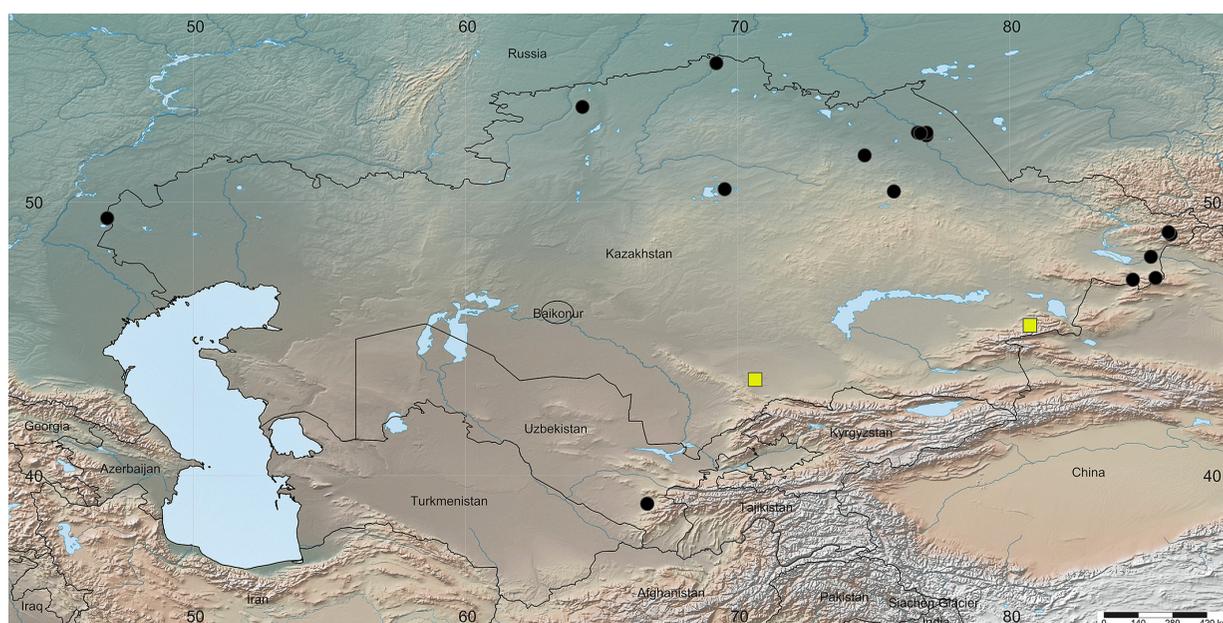
Figs 1–5, Map 1.

**MATERIAL.** KAZAKHSTAN. 1 ♂ (ZMMU; det. K.G. Mikhailov), West Kazakhstan Oblast, Zhanybek (49°25'22"N 46°50'51"E), 10.06.1982, K.G. Mikhailov; 1 ♀ (ZMMU; det. T.V. Piterkina), same



Figs 1–5. *Tibellus maritimus* (Menge, 1875) (1, 3–5 — ZMMU, Kazakhstan, Zhanybek; 2 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001382, Kazakhstan, Aktobe Oblast): 1–2 — epigynes, ventral view; 3 — male palp, retrolateral view; 4 — same, ventral view; 5 — same, prolateral view. Scale bars 0.2 mm.

Рис. 1–5. *Tibellus maritimus* (Menge, 1875) (1, 3–5 — ZMMU, Казахстан, Джаныбек; 2 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001382, Казахстан, Актюбинская область): 1–2 — эпигины, вентрально; 3 — пальпа самца, ретролатерально; 4 — то же, вентрально; 5 — то же, пролатерально. Масштаб 0,2 мм.



Map 1. Collecting localities of *Tibellus maritimus* (Menge, 1875) in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia. New records — yellow squares, earlier records — black circles.

Карта 1. Точки находок *Tibellus maritimus* (Menge, 1875) в Казахстане и Средней Азии. Новые точки — желтые квадраты, ранние находки — черные кружки.

locality, 23.06.2004, coll. T.V. Piterkina; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Jetisu Oblast [part of the former Almaty Area], Alakol Distr., c. 7 km ESE of Lep-sinsk, Chernaya Rechka River canyon (45°30'N 80°45'E), 1250 m a.s.l., 15.06.2001, A.V. Gromov; 2 ♀♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001382), Aktobe Oblast (47°54'27"N 57°24'04"E), sweeping on meadow dominated by *Elytrigia repens*, 27.05.2025, A.A Nekhaeva.

EARLIER RECORDS. KAZAKHSTAN: West Kazakhstan Oblast: Zhanybek (49°25'22.1"N 46°50'50.8"E) [Efimik, 1999; Piterkina, 2009a,b; Piterkina, Mikhailov, 2009]. Akmola Oblast: Tengiz-Korgalzhyn lake system (50°29'N 69°32'E) [Spassky, 1930]. Kostanay Oblast: Dokuchaevskoe Plateau [Ponomarev et

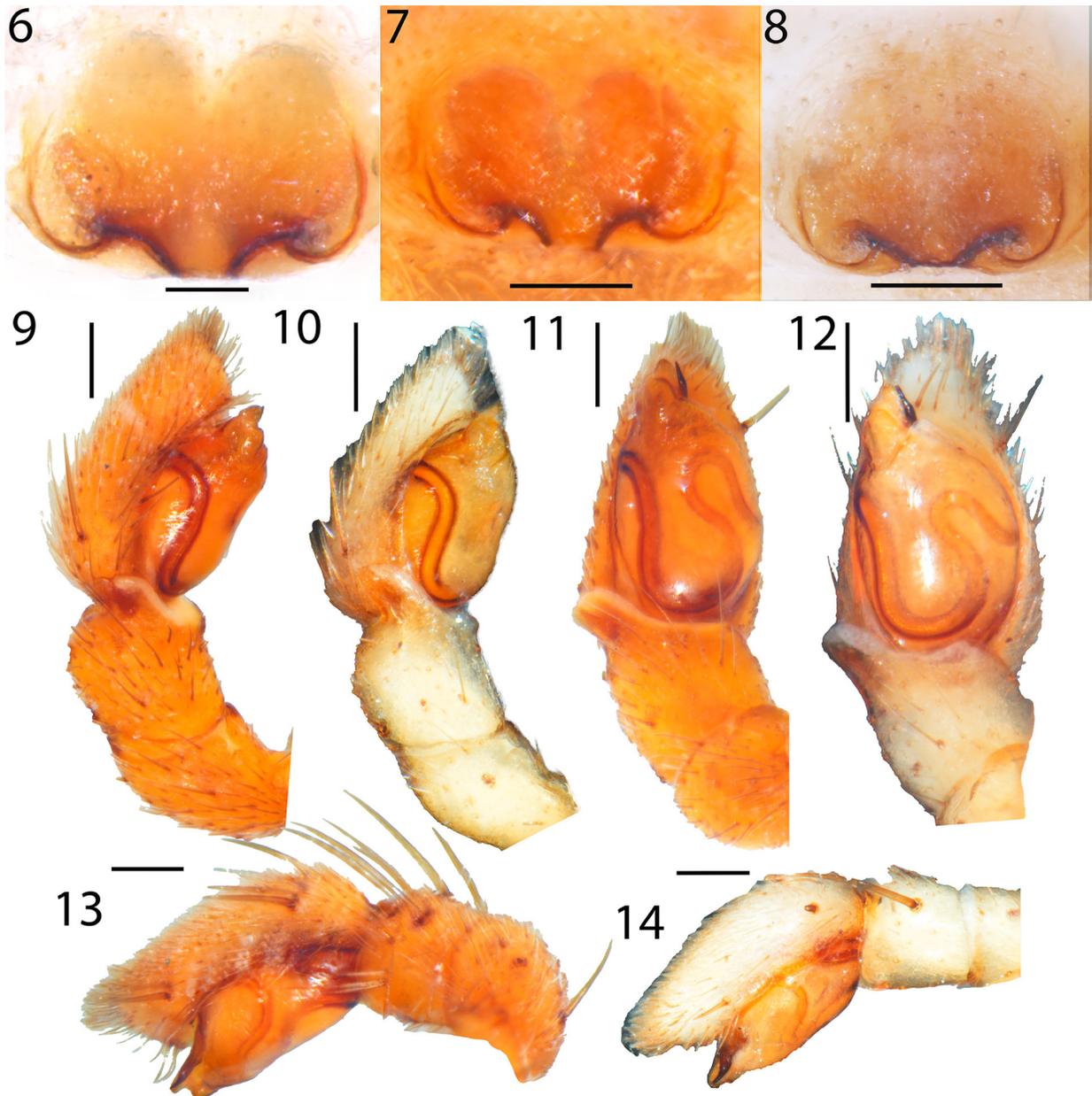


Fig. 6–14. *Tibellus macellus* Simon, 1875 (6, 10, 12, 14 — ZMMU, Kazakhstan, Zhanybek; 7, 9, 11, 13 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001844, Kyrgyzstan, Oruktu; 8 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_1378, Kazakhstan, Merke): 6–8 — epigynes, ventral view; 9–10 — male palps, retrolateral view; 11–12 — ditto, ventral view; 13–14 — ditto, prolateral view. Scale bars 0.2 mm.

Рис. 6–14. *Tibellus macellus* Simon, 1875 (6, 10, 12, 14 — ZMMU, Казахстан, Джаныбек; 7, 9, 11, 13 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001844, Киргизия, Урюкты; 8 — ZISP, 0001378, Казахстан, Мерке): 6–8 — эпигины, вентрально; 9–10 — пальпы самцов, ретролатерально; 11–12 — то же, вентрально; 13–14 — то же, вентрально. Масштаб 0,2 мм.

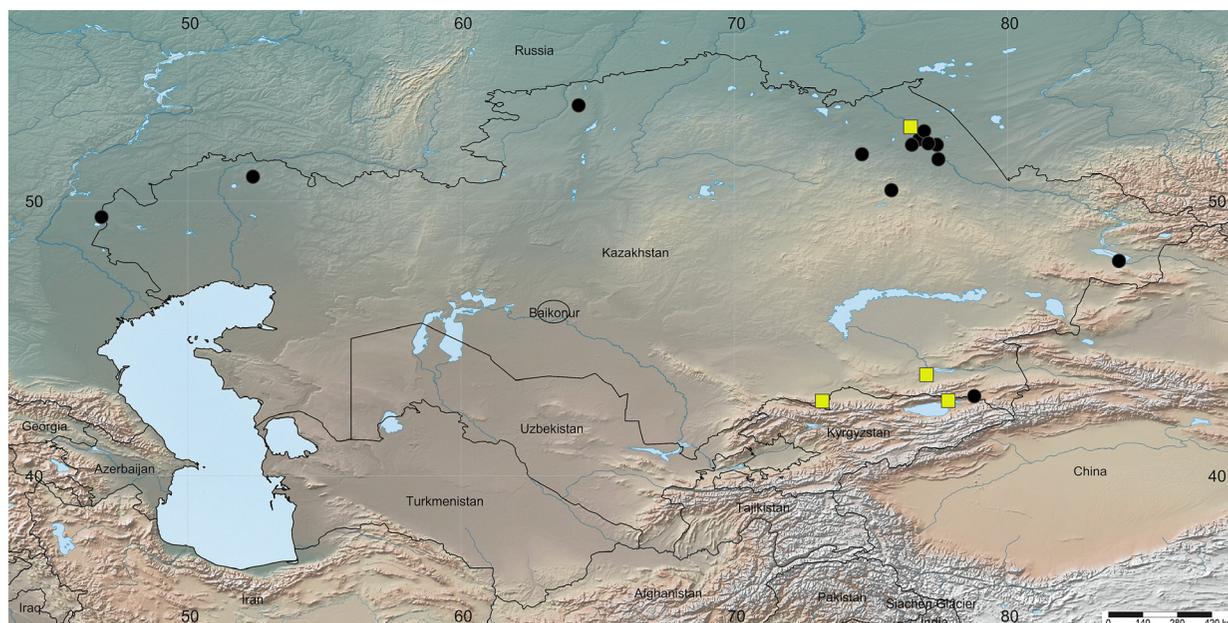
*al.*, 2017], “The Stone Lake tract” (53°29'23.0"N 64°18'15.0"E) [Bragina *et al.*, 2025], no precise locality [Esyunin, Kabdrakhimov, 2024]. Pavlodar Oblast: nr Kyzyl-Tau (~50°24'N 75°45'E), c. 15 km N of Pavlodar (~52°27'N 76°57'E), c. 25 km N of Pavlodar (~52°33'N 76°57'E), c. 8 km N of Kyzyl-Zhar (~52°33'14"N 76°37'47"E), c. 8 km NE of Kyzyl-Zhar (~52°31'41"N 76°43'59"E), Shiderty (51°43'12"N 74°40'48"E) [Efimik, 1999]. North Kazakhstan Oblast: Bolshaya Malyska (55°05'50"N 69°13'53"E) [Efimik, 1999]. East Kazakhstan Oblast: Shilikty Vil. (47°10'17"N 84°31'53"E), Boran Vil. (48°00'32"N 85°11'43"E), Topolevka River (mouth: 48°49'48"N 85°55'12"E, head: 48°54'36"N 85°50'24"E) [Esyunin *et al.*, 2024], Saur Mt Range (~47°14'N 85°22'E), no precise locality [Savelieva, 1970, 1979].

Mangystau Oblast: Karynzharyk depression (~42°47'N 54°23'E) [Zyuzin, Tarabaev, 1994]. — UZBEKISTAN: Qashqadaryo Oblast: Yakkabog Distr. (coordinates for Yakkabog, ~38°58'40"N 66°41'15"E) [Kharitonov, 1969].

REMARKS. Holarctic polyzonal species [Efimik, 1999; Marusik *et al.*, 2000]. A comparison of the epigynes from Zhanybek (Fig. 1) and Jetisu Oblast (Fig. 2) shows no significant differences in their structure.

*Tibellus macellus* Simon, 1875  
Figs 6–14, Map 2.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN: 1 ♂ (ZMMU; det. T.V. Piterkina), West Kazakhstan Oblast, Zhanybek (49°25'22"N 46°50'51"E),



Map 2. Collecting localities of *Tibellus macellus* Simon, 1875 in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia. New records — yellow squares, earlier records — black circles.

Карта 2. Точки находок *Tibellus macellus* Simon, 1875 в Казахстане и Средней Азии. Новые точки — желтые квадраты, ранние находки — черные кружки.

2–7.07.2004, T.V. Piterkina, 1 ♀ (ZMMU; det. T.V. Piterkina), same locality, 1.07.1984, K.G. Mikhailov; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Almaty Oblast, c. 7 km from the Vil. of Nikolaevka, left bank of Kaskelen River (43°41'N 77°02'E); 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001395), nr Kolkhoz Spartak (52°42'06"N 76°27'09"E), feather grass, steppe on sandy soil, recorded with a net (100 samples), 29.05.1949, Steinberg; 1 ♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001378), Zhambyl Oblast, West Tian-Shan nr Merke (~42°43'06"N 73°13'17"E), sweeping and hand collecting in gorge (*Ephedra* sp., *Rheum* sp., Gramineae, *Spirea* sp., *Convolvulus* sp., *Verbascum* sp.), 1324 m a.s.l., in gorge at the camp, 6.08.2025, A.A. Nekhaeva. — KYRGYZSTAN: 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001844; earlier det. by V. Pereleshina as *T. oblongus*), Oruktu (~42°44'N 77°50'E), Semirechye [=Heptopotamia], 23.06.1919, V.N. Shnitnikov [3735 N209 306-1934].

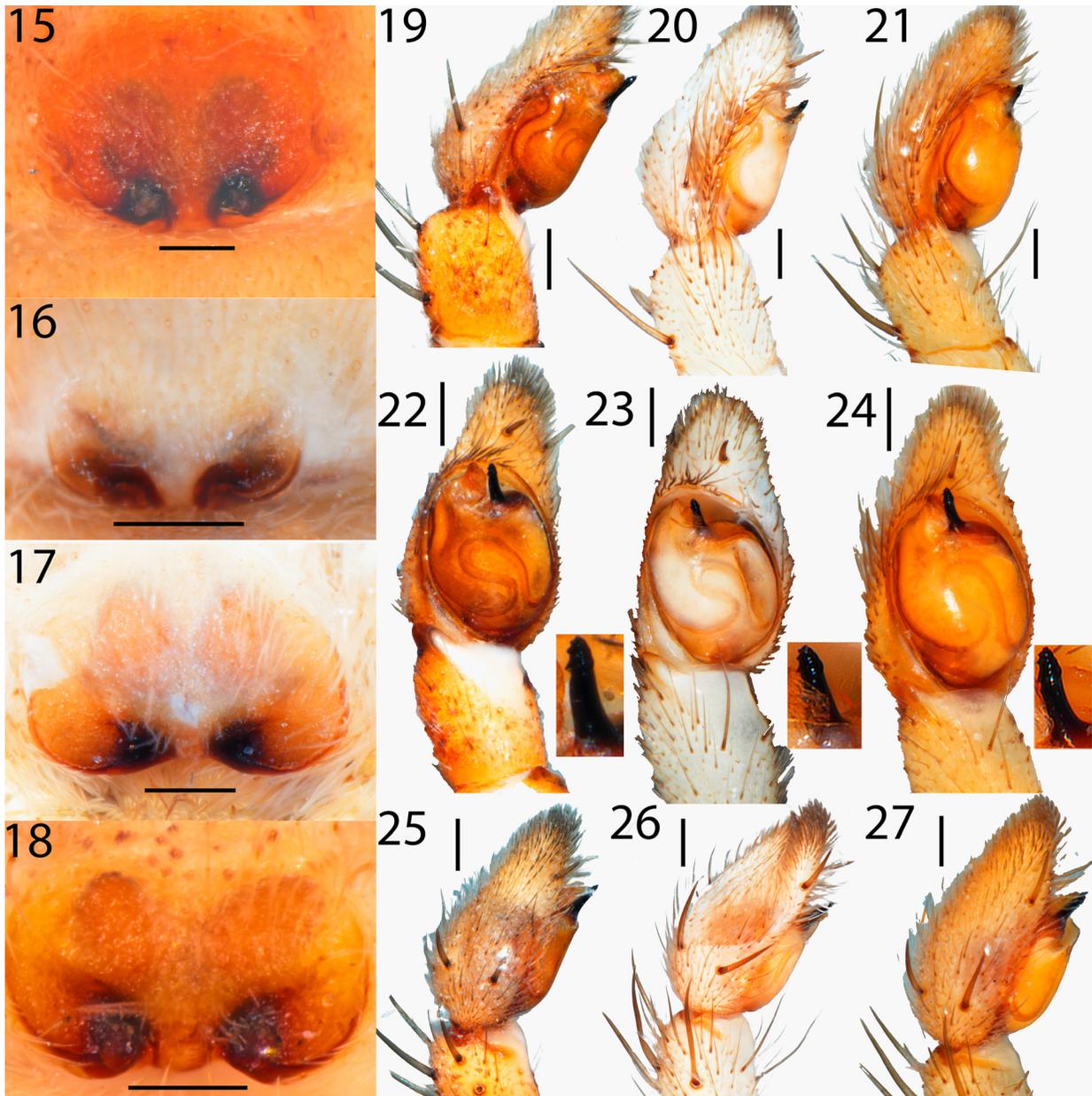
EARLIER RECORDS. KAZAKHSTAN: West Kazakhstan Oblast: Zhanybek (49°25'22"N 46°50'51"E) [Logunov, Huseynov, 2008; Piterkina, 2009a,b; Piterkina, Mikhailov, 2009; Esyunin *et al.*, 2023], Dadem agashi (50°53'20"N 52°23'00"E) [Esyunin *et al.*, 2023]. Kostanay Oblast: Dokuchaevskoe plateau [Ponomarev *et al.*, 2017], 'The Stone Lake tract' (53°29'23"N 64°18'15"E) [Bragina *et al.*, 2025]. Pavlodar Oblast: Atameken (=Leninskii, 52°15'14"N 76°46'44"E), Kishi Kalkaman Lake (=Malyi Kalkaman, 52°03'N 76°30'E), c. 25 km SE of Pavlodar (~52°03'N 77°25'E), c. 25 km N of Pavlodar (~52.55°N 76.95°E), Bayanaul Distr. (~50°24'N 75°45'E), 8 km NE of Shoktal Vil. (~51°50'N 79°05'E), Shyderty Vil. (51°42'54.0"N 74°40'44.4"E), May Distr. (coordinates for Koktobe Vil.; 51°31'45"N 77°28'24"E), Zarya Vil. (52°06'00.0"N 77°06'03.0"E), [Efimik, 1999]. East Kazakhstan Oblast: Topoleviy Cape (~47°49'19"N 84°04'45"E) [Esyunin *et al.*, 2024]. Almaty Oblast: 10 km S of Zhajdakbulak (=Shaidakbulak, ~42°54'N 78°47'E) [Efimik, 1999].

REMARKS. West-Palaerctic subboreal species [Efimik, 1999]. Although the ZISP specimens from Kyrgyzstan were hitherto identified as *T. oblongus*, they actually belong to *T. macellus*, as evident from the structure of their copulatory organs (Figs 7, 9, 11, 13), which differ slightly from those of the specimens found in western Kazakhstan (Figs 6, 10, 12, 14).

### *Tibellus oblongus* (Walckenaer, 1802)

Figs 15–27, Map 3.

MATERIAL. KAZAKHSTAN: 1 ♂ (ZMMU; det. K.G. Mikhailov), West Kazakhstan Oblast, Zhanybek (49°25'22"N 46°50'51"E), 27.06.1982, Krytskaya; 6 ♂♂, 12 ♀♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001853; det. A.V. Ponomarev), Atyrau Oblast, c. 45 km NNE of Makhambat (right bank of Ural River) (~48°06'47"N 51°55'59"E), shore of a floodplain lake with diverse vegetation among sparse willow trees, 10.06.1987, A.V. Ponomarev [36.12.2/3]; 1 ♂ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0000922), Almaty Oblast, Talgar, 950 m a.s.l. (43°18'41"N 77°14'35"E), coll. 10.06.2023, in lab till 27.02.2024, A.V. Ozernoy [18–2024]; 4 ♂♂ (ZMMU), Jetisu Oblast, Sarkha Distr., c. 18 km SE of Kokterek, right bank of Lepsy River, 460 m a.s.l. (46°37'N 79°41'E), 12.06.2001, A.V. Gromov; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), East Kazakhstan Oblast, Urdazhar Distr., 78 km NE of Karatuma [=Kirovka], Tarbogatai Mt. Range, left bank of Sholakterek river canyon (47°10'N 82°06'E), 1200–1250 m, 23.06.2001, A.V. Gromov; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), South Kazakhstan Oblast, Urdazhar Distr., c. 4 km NE of Kyzybulak [=Petrovskoe], East Kyzybulak River canyon (47°03'N 82°18'E), 1100–1150 m a.s.l., 21.06.2001, A.V. Gromov; 2 ♀♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0000694), Chelkar Lake shore (53°11'48"N 68°23'34"E), O. Lyambek & V. Piotrovsky, 07.1905 [173-1905]; 1 ♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001397), East Kazakhstan Oblast, c. 18 km W of Aksaule Vil., Karaultobe Mts (48°28'N 80°39'E), 700 m a.s.l., sweeping on wet meadow, 20.06.2016, R.V. Yakovlev. — UZBEKISTAN: 1 ♂, 5 ♀♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0000693), Bukhara Oblast, Yaz'yavan Distr., Karakalpak Steppe, c. 13.5 km W of Yaz'yavan (40°39'01"N 71°33'51"E), *Populus* forest and reed, c. 400 m a.s.l., A.V. Gromov. — KYRGYZSTAN: 1 ♂ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001793), Susuamyr Valley (~42°10'N 73°57'E) 1.07.1913, V.V. Tchernavin; 1 ♂ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001814), Fergana Oblast [likely to be Osh Oblast], Lake Kulun (40°32'N 74°19'E), c. 2880 m a.s.l., 17.07.1910 [56-1914]. — TURKMENISTAN: 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0000696), Syunt-Khasardag Nature Reserve, Parkhai (~38°31'N 56°24'E), meadow, 3.05.1987, T.V. Pavlenko. — TAJIKISTAN: 1 ♂ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001396), Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast, Wakhan Corridor, c. 39 km ENE from Ishkoshim Vil. (36°49'15"N 72°02'13"E), tugai (gallery) forest, 2700 m a.s.l., 13–14.07.2023, A.A. Fomichev; 1 ♂ (ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001396), same oblast, Gunt River valley, Khorog Town



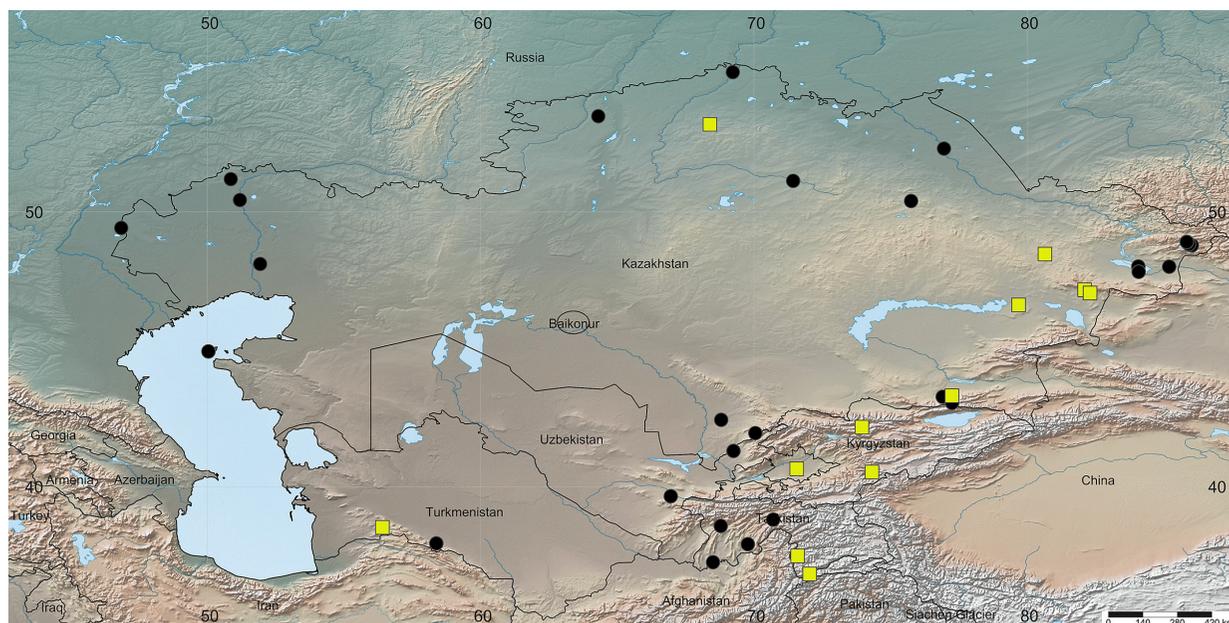
Figs 15–27. *Tibellus oblongus* (Walckenaer, 1802) (15 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001853, Kazakhstan, Makhambat; 16–17, 20, 23, 26 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0000693, Uzbekistan, c. 13,5 km W of Yaz'yavan; 18, 21, 24, 27 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0000696, Turkmenistan, Parkhai; 19, 22, 25 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_00001396, Tajikistan, 39 km ENE of Ishkoshim Vil.): 15–18 — epigynes, ventral view; 19–21 — male palps, retrolateral view; 22–24 — male palps and emboli, ventral view; 25–27 — male palps, prolateral view. Scale bars 0.2 mm.

Рис. 15–27. *Tibellus oblongus* (Walckenaer, 1802) (15 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0001853, Казахстан, Махамбат; 16–17, 20, 23, 26 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0000693, Узбекистан, 13,5 км к западу от Язьяван; 18, 21, 24 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_0000696, Туркмения, Пархай; 19, 22, 25 — ZISP, ARA\_ARA\_00001396, Таджикистан, 39 км к ВВС от Ишкашима: 15–18 — эпигины, вентрально; 19–21 — пальпы самцов, ретролатерально; 22–24 — пальпы самцов и эмболосы, вентрально; 25–27 — пальпы самцов, пролатерально. Масштаб 0,2 мм.

(37°28'43"N 71°35'48"E), on building walls and stony fences, 2300 m a.s.l., 9–11.07.2023, A.A. Fomichev & Yu.V. Dyachkov.

EARLIER RECORDS. KAZAKHSTAN: Mangystau Oblast: Kulaly Island (44°55'40"N 50°02'01"E) [Ponomarev, Abdurakhmanov, 2014]. West Kazakhstan Oblast: Zhanybek (49°25'22"N 46°50'51"E) [Efimik, 1999; Piterkina, 2009a,b; Piterkina, Mikhailov, 2009], Bobrovoe Lake (50°26'20"N 51°11'09"E) [Esyunin, Kabdrakhimov, 2023], Ichka Mt (51°11'52"N 50°51'03"E) [Esyunin *et al.*, 2023]. Turkestan Oblast: Arys (42°26'N 68°48'E) [Efimik, 1999], Sayram-Ugam National Park (41°57'N 70°03'E) [Salmenova, 2023], no exact

locality [Ashikbaev, 1980]. Akmola Oblast: Burabay (=Borovoje, 53°05'14"N 70°18'00"E) [Spassky, Lavrov, 1928], Astana and its vicinities (51°08'N 71°26'E) [Bolot *et al.*, 2018, Temreshev *et al.*, 2021]. Atyrau Oblast: Makhambat (~48°06'47"N 51°55'59"E) [Ponomarev, 2022]. Kostanay Oblast: "The Stone Lake tract" (53°29'23"N 64°18'15"E) [Bragina *et al.*, 2025], no precise locality [Ashikbaev, 1976]. Pavlodar Oblast: Bayanaul Distr. (~50°24'N 75°45'E), nr Pavlodar (~52°18'56"N 76°57'23"E) [Efimik, 1999]. North Kazakhstan Oblast: Bolshaya Malyshka (55°05'50"N 69°13'53"E) [Efimik, 1999]. East Kazakhstan Oblast: 20 km NE of Karatal Vil. (47°45'N 85°23'E),



Map 3. Collecting localities of *Tibellus oblongus* (Walckenaer, 1802) in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia. New records — yellow squares, earlier records — black circles.

Карта 3. Точки находок *Tibellus oblongus* (Walckenaer, 1802) в Казахстане и Средней Азии. Новые точки — желтые квадраты, ранние находки — черные кружки.

Ashutas (~48°01'N 84°04'E) [Efimik, 1999], Topoleviy Cape (47°49'19"N 84°04'45"E), Boran Vil. (48°00'32"N 85°11'43"E), Urunkhaika Vil. (48°47'12"N, 86°01'35"E), Topolevka River (mouth 48°49'48"N 85°55'12"E, head 48°54'36"N 85°50'24"E) [Esyunin *et al.*, 2024], records without precise locality: Fomichev, Marusik [2013]. **Almaty Oblast:** nr Almaty [43°16'25"N 76°54'54"E] [Spassky, Shnitnikov, 1937; Efimik, 1999], Zailiisky Alatau (~43°03'N 77°15'E) [Folkina, 1978], no exact locality [Tarabaev, 1979]. **Kokshetau Oblast:** no exact locality [Ashikbaev, 1980; Ashikbaev *et al.*, 1998, 2001; Sagitov *et al.*, 2013; Temreshev *et al.*, 2016, 2023]. — **UZBEKISTAN:** **Samar-kand Oblast:** Samar-kand (39°39'15"N 66°57'35"E) [Kroneberg, 1875; Mikhailov, Temereva, 2023], records without precise locality: Bronstein, Murtazaev [1974]; **Tashkent Oblast:** Environs of Tashkent (41°18'N 69°15'E) [Efimik, 1999]. — **KYRGYZSTAN:** **Osh Oblast:** Kulun Lake (40°32'N 74°19'E) [Efimik, 1999; Utochkin, 1981: sub *T. longicephalus*], no exact locality [Zonstein, 1984, 1996]. — **TURKMENISTAN:** Ashgabat (37°56'15"N 58°22'48"E) [Simon, 1899; Mikhailov, Fet, 1994]. — **TAJIKISTAN:** **Dushanbe Oblast:** nr Dushanbe (38°34'23"N 68°47'11"E) [Andreeva, 1975, 1976; Efimik, 1999]. **Khatlon Oblast:** Kulob (=Khatlon, 37°54'43"N 69°46'51"E) [Efimik, 1999], Tigrovaya balka (37°15'N 68°30'E) [Andreeva, 1975, 1976]. **Badakhshan Mountainous Autonomous Oblast:** Range above Khorog (coordinates for Khorog 37°29'N 71°33'E), nr Sabzikhav Vil. (~38°48'06"N 70°42'29"E) [Andreeva, 1975].

REMARKS. Holarctic polyzonal species [Efimik, 1999; Marusik *et al.*, 2000]. For comparative purposes, illustrations of the copulatory organs of specimens from Uzbekistan (Figs. 16-17, 20, 23, 26), Turkmenistan (18, 21, 24, 27), and Tajikistan (18, 21, 24, 27) are provided.

## Discussion

As a Holarctic species [Efimik, 1999], *T. maritimus* was hitherto reported from northern, eastern, and west-

ern Kazakhstan, and has newly been found in southern Kazakhstan (Jetisu Oblast; Map 1). *Tibellus macellus* is a West-Palaerctic subboreal species [Efimik, 1999; Esyunin, 2024] that has been known from Kazakhstan [Efimik, 1999; Logunov, Huseynov, 2008; Ponomarev *et al.*, 2017; Esyunin *et al.*, 2024; Bragina *et al.*, 2025] but not from Middle Asia [Mikhailov, 2024]. Based on the old ZISP collections by V.N. Shnitnikov, this species has been reported from Kyrgyzstan (nr Issyk-Kul Lake; Map 2), which is hardly surprising as it was already known from Almaty Oblast bordering Kyrgyzstan [Efimik, 1999]. Thus, to date *T. maritimus* remains known from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, whereas *T. macellus* from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. There is no doubt that both species will be found in other Middle Asian countries as soon as their territories are more thoroughly explored. Both species demonstrate a somewhat ubiquitous nature in their distribution.

Being a well-known Holarctic species [Efimik, 1999; WSC, 2026], *T. oblongus* is rather widespread in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia (Map 3), as evident from the references given above. However, it was much better documented in Kazakhstan; but in this study, a number of new localities from Middle Asian countries have been added.

Based on this synopsis, the genus *Tibellus* has been studied rather unevenly in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia. For instance, central Kazakhstan remains virtually *terra incognita*, even despite this country is the best studied in the region at hand. All Middle Asian countries, especially Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, remain poorly studied, with few recorded *Tibellus* species, which can be explained not so much by the smaller number of species occurring there, but rather by the smaller amount of research conducted to date.

The number of known *Tibellus* species in the region under study is expected to increase in the future. For example, it can be safely assumed that *T. asiaticus* Kulczyński, 1908, currently known from the Altai regions adjacent to Kazakhstan [Efimik, 1999], probably also occur in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The same holds true for *T. aspersus* Danilov, 1991, known from Tuva [Efimik, 1999], since the spider fauna of north-eastern Kazakhstan partially overlaps with that of the mountains of southern Siberia (see Logunov *et al.* [1999] or Esysunin *et al.* [2024]).

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