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New records of forest linyphiid spiders from the Adygea Republic and Krasnodar Krai, northern Caucasus, Russia (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

Новые находки лесных пауков-линифиид из Республики Адыгея и Краснодарского края (Северный Кавказ, Россия) (Aranei: Linyphiidae)

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Araneae, фаунистика, горная фауна, таксономия, гибридизация.

ABSTRACT. New faunistic records of 27 species of linyphiid spiders from the Adygea Republic and Krasnodar Krai, northern Caucasus, Russia are given. Diagnostic characters of *Tenuiphantes perseus* (van Helsdingen, 1977) and *T. mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887), two particularly similar congeners, are discussed. The fauna of the Caucasus comprises both *T. mengei* and *T. perseus*, as well as their presumable hybrids. The sole record of *Walckenaeria incisa* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871) from the Caucasus is considered erroneous, actually concerning *W. cuspidata* Blackwall, 1833. *Ceratinella wideri* (Thorell, 1871), *W. cuspidata* and *W. obtusa* Blackwall, 1836 are new to the fauna of the Caucasus.

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РЕЗЮМЕ. Приведены новые фаунистические данные по 27 видам пауков семейства Linyphiidae Республики Адыгея и Краснодарского края, Северный Кавказ (Россия). Обсуждены диагностические признаки близких видов *Tenuiphantes perseus* (van Helsdingen, 1977) и *T. mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887). Установлено, что фауна Кавказа содержит как *T. mengei* и *T. perseus*, так и, по-видимому, их гибриды. Находка *Walckenaeria incisa* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871) на Кавказе признана ошибочной, и относится к *W. cuspidata* Blackwall, 1833. *Ceratinella wideri* (Thorell, 1871), *W. cuspidata* и *W. obtusa* Blackwall, 1836 впервые отмечены на Кавказе.

Introduction

The present communication continues my research series on linyphiid spiders from the woodlands of the Caucasus Major. My previous publications provided information concerning the spiders of broad-leaved and mixed forests on the southern macro slope of the Caucasus Major in the Abrau-Dyurso District, Krasnodar Krai, as well as on the northern macro slope in the Arkhyz and Baksan river valleys in the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Russia [Tanasevitch, 2023, 2024a, b].

The present study focuses on the litter-dwelling linyphiids from forested mountain regions of the Adygea Republic and the adjacent territory of the Krasnodar Krai, northern Caucasus, Russia. The spider fauna of Adygea is rather well known, presently containing 307 species, of which are 96 Linyphiidae [Tanasevitch, Ponomarev, 2015; Otto, 2022; Tanasevitch, 2024a, b]; the Krasnodar Krai spider list encompasses 390 species, including 65 linyphiids [Otto, 2022; Ponomarev *et al*., 2022].

New faunistic records of linyphiid spiders from the Adygea Republic and Krasnodar Krai are supplied with short remarks and chorotypes.

Material, methods and sampling

This paper is based on material collected by the author in two mountain regions of the Adygea Republic and Krasnodar Krai, Russia. All samples are shared between the collections of the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University (ZMMU), Moscow (curator: Kirill G. Mikhailov), and the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg, Russia (curator: Dmitry V. Logunov); Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (ZISP), Saint-Petersburg, Russia.

Three sites in different forest habitats were chosen in the environs of Guzeripl, Adygea, referred to in the text as AR1–3; four sites, KK1–4, were selected in the forests in near the neighbouring Lago-Naki, Krasnodar Krai. Forest litter was sifted at sites AR1–3 from 03 to 10 July, 2005, and at sites KK1–4 from 12 to 18 June, 2025, all lying at 1,318 to 1,700 m a.s.l. Site numbers are given in the text in square brackets, e.g. [AR2]. Spiders preserved in 75% ethanol were studied using an MBC-9 stereo microscope. Line drawings were made with a drawing tube.

Woodlands in the study areas of the Adygea Republic and the adjacent territory of the Krasnodar Krai were all represented by dense fir-beech (*Abies–Fagus*) and beech-fir (*Fagus–Abies*) forests, with minor admixtures of *Acer* and *Sorbus*, situated on steep slopes. Unlike forests studied in the previous publications

[Tanasevitch, 2023; 2004b], the woodlands in the vicinities of Guzeripl and Lago-Naki were characterized by the absence of a moss layer from the ground cover. As rarely only a thin layer of green mosses was present as spots on stones and fallen trees, a mixed leaf and needle litter was sifted.

The terminology of copulatory organs mainly follows that of Merrett [1963] and Saaristo, Tanasevitch [1996]. The following abbreviations are used in the figures: Ca — carina; DA — denticulate area; EP — embolus proper; LB — lower branch of the lamella characteristica; LEM — lateral extension of the middle part of the scape; LEP — lateral extension of the proscape; SS — serrate surface; Th — thumb; UB — upper branch of the lamella characteristica. Scale bar in figures corresponds to 0.1 mm.

Species distributions in the Caucasus are given following Otto [2022], with some additions. The species range typifications (chorotypes) are after Tanasevitch [2023, 2024a, b], with a few corrections.

Results

Class Arachnida Cuvier, 1812
Order Araneae Clerck, 1758
Family Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859

Agyneta ramosa Jackson, 1912

MATERIAL. 20 ♂♂ & ♀♀ (ZISP), 20 ♂♂ & ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. European-West Siberian.

Centromerus minor Tanasevitch, 1990

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 8 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), road-km 12 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.004820°N, 40.042657°E, 1445 m a.s.l., deadcover *Abies* forest on steep slope, with *Fagus*, sparse *Acer*, *Sorbus*, etc., sifted litter, 5.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR3]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2].

REMARK. *Centromerus minor* is widespread in the Caucasus, also known from Turkey [Danışman *et al*., 2025] and Iran [Zamani *et al*., 2019]

CHOROTYPE. Anatolian-Caucasian.

Centromerus sylvaticus (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 2 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2].

REMARKS. *Centromerus sylvaticus* is being recorded from the Krasnodar Krai for the first time. This species is quite common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Ceratinella brevis (Wider, 1834)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 5 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2]; 1 ♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.144080°N, 40.053540°E, 1415 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 18.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK3].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaearctic.

Ceratinella wideri (Thorell, 1871)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2].

REMARK. The species is being recorded from the Caucasus for the first time.

CHOROTYPE. Palaearctic.

Diplocephalus latifrons (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1863)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 12 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.004820°N, 40.042657°E, 1445 m a.s.l., deadcover *Abies* forest on steep slope, with *Fagus*, sparse *Acer*, *Sorbus*, etc., sifted litter, 5.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR3].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. European.

Diplocephalus picinus (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 9 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1].

REMARKS. *Diplocephalus picinus* is common in the Caucasus. The species is being recorded from the Adygea Republic for the first time.

CHOROTYPE. West Palaearctic.

Diplostyla concolor (Wider, 1834)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀ (ZISP), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2]; 1 ♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.144080°N, 40.053540°E, 1415 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 18.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK3].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Gonatium rubens (Blackwall, 1833)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with

Abies, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaearctic.

Gongylidiellum caucasicum Tanasevitch et Ponomarev, 2015

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2]; 2 ♀♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.175500°N, 40.077497°E, 1320–1330 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 13 & 16.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK4].

REMARKS. *Gongylidiellum caucasicum* has been described from the Adygea Republic, Caucasus [Tanasevitch, Ponomarev, 2015], now being recorded from the Krasnodar Krai for the first time.

CHOROTYPE. Caucasian. Presumably endemic to the Caucasus.

Gongylidiellum vivum (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1875)

MATERIAL. 2 ♂♂, 25 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Disjunct West Palaearctic – Far Eastern [Tanasevitch, 2024a].

Mansuphantes ovalis (Tanasevitch, 1987)

MATERIAL. 3 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), road-km 14 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.010660°N, 40.024510°E, 1520 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, with *Fagus*, fern, sifted litter, 9.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR2]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.105837°N, 40.016329°E, 1490 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 12.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK1]; 2 ♀♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2]; 2 ♀♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.144080°N, 40.053540°E, 1415 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 18.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK3].

REMARK. The species is only known from the northern Caucasus [Tanasevitch, 1987; Martynovchenko, Mikhailov, 2014; Ponomarev, Chumachenko, 2014].

CHOROTYPE. Caucasian. Presumably endemic to the Caucasus.

Maso sundevalli (Westring, 1851)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Micrargus herbigradus (Blackwall, 1854)

MATERIAL. 14 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 1 ♂ (ZISP), road-km 12 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.004820°N, 40.042657°E, 1445 m a.s.l., deadcover *Abies* forest on steep slope, with *Fagus*, sparse *Acer*, *Sorbus*, etc., sifted litter, 5.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR3]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2]; 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.175500°N, 40.077497°E, 1320–1330 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 13 & 16.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK4].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaearctic.

Microneta viaria (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 11 ♂♂, 31 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 1 ♂, (ZMMU), road-km 12 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.004820°N, 40.042657°E, 1445 m a.s.l., deadcover *Abies* forest on steep slope, with *Fagus*, sparse *Acer*, *Sorbus*, etc., sifted litter, 5.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR3]; 1 ♂, 12 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.105837°N, 40.016329°E, 1490 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 12.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK1]; 2 ♂♂, 15 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2]; over 80 ♂♂ & ♀♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.175500°N, 40.077497°E, 1320–1330 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 13 & 16.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK4].

REMARK. This species is common and most abundant in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Holarctic.

Neriene peltata (Wider, 1834)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 7 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 2 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (ZMMU), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaearctic.

Obscuriphantes obscurus (Blackwall, 1841)

MATERIAL. 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N,

40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 1 ♀ (ZISP), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2].

REMARKS. *Obscuriphantes obscurus* is being recorded from the Adygea Republic and Krasnodar Krai for the first time. The species seems to be rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. West Palaearctic.

Oedothorax retusus (Westring, 1851)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1].

REMARKS. *Oedothorax retusus* has hitherto been known from the Caucasus, based on the female sex alone: Azerbaijan [Dunin, 1984; Guseinov, 1999] and Georgia [Seropian *et al*., 2023]. The species is being recorded from the Adygea Republic and Krasnodar Krai for the first time, also based on female material alone.

CHOROTYPE. Palaearctic.

Palliduphantes khobarum (Charitonov, 1947)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 10 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2].

REMARK. This species is rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. East Mediterranean.

Plesiophantes tanasevitchi Wunderlich, 2011

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1].

REMARKS. The previously unknown female of *P. tanasevitchi* has recently been described from the above locality [Tanasevitch, 2025]. The species is only known from Mount Chugush, Caucasian Nature Reserve [Tanasevitch, 1987, as *P. joosti*] and the environs of Guzeripl, both Adygea Republic, Russia.

CHOROTYPE. Very rare, presumably Caucasian.

Porrhomma pygmaeum (Blackwall, 1834)

MATERIAL. Over 50 ♂♂ & ♀♀ (ZISP), over 50 ♂♂ & ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (ZMMU), road-km 12 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.004820°N, 40.042657°E, 1445 m a.s.l., deadcover *Abies* forest on steep slope, with *Fagus*, sparse *Acer*, *Sorbus*, etc., sifted litter, 5.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR3]; 2 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (ZISP), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.105837°N, 40.016329°E, 1490 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 12.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK1]; 5 ♂♂, 10 ♀♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2]; 16 ♂♂, 31 ♀♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.175500°N, 40.077497°E, 1320–1330 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 13 & 16.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK4].

REMARKS. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Palaearctic.

Sintula corniger (Blackwall, 1856)

MATERIAL. 4 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.144080°N, 40.053540°E, 1415 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 18.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK3].

REMARKS. *Sintula corniger* is being recorded from the Krasnodar Krai for the first time. This species seems to be rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. West Palaearctic.

Stemonyphantes agnatus Tanasevitch, 1990

MATERIAL. 2 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1].

REMARKS. *Stemonyphantes agnatus* seems to be rather rare in the Caucasus. The species is also known from Crimea [Kovblyuk, 2002], Turkey [Sancak *et al*., 2022] and Iran [Zamani *et al*., 2020].

CHOROTYPE. East Mediterranean.

Tenuiphantes morosus (Tanasevitch, 1987)

MATERIAL. 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1].

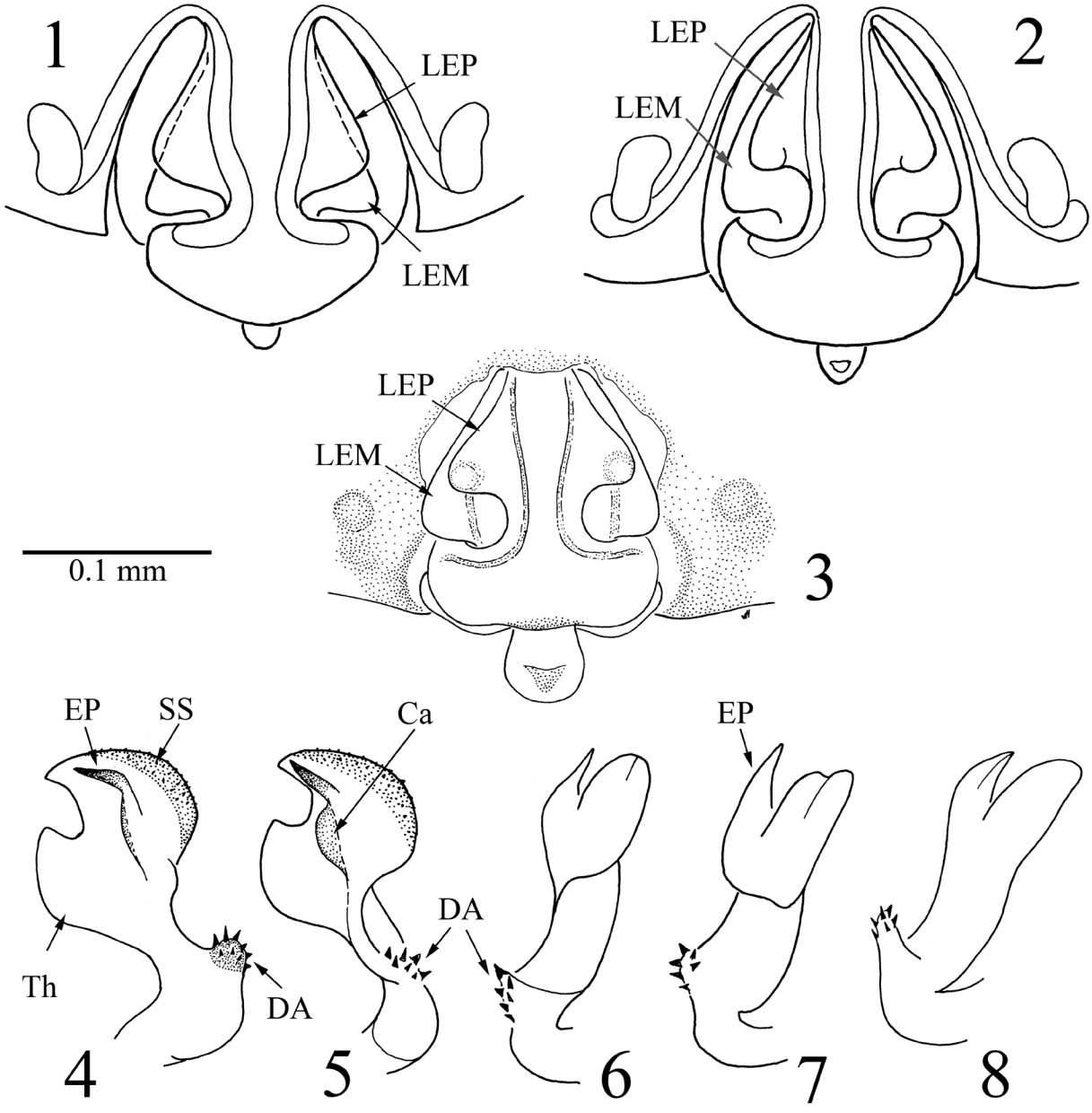
REMARKS. This species seems to be rather rare in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. Caucasian.

Tenuiphantes perseus (van Helsdingen, 1977)
Figs 1, 4–8, 9–12.

Tenuiphantes mengei sensu Tanasevitch, 1990: 25, 96, figs. 25: 13, 14, ♂, misidentification, examined.

MATERIAL. 2 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 1 ♀ (ZISP), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.105837°N, 40.016329°E, 1490 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 12.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK1]; 1 ♀ (ZMMU), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.124653°N, 40.028854°E, 1480–1500 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, *Fagus* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 14 & 17.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK2]; 2 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀ (ZISP), Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.175500°N, 40.077497°E, 1320–1330 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 13 & 16.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK4].



Figs 1–8. Epigyne (1–3) and embolus (4–8) of *Tenuiphantes perseus* (van Helsdingen, 1977) (1, 4–8) and *T. mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887) (2, 3). 1–3 — ventral view; 4, 5 — ventro-retrolateral view, different specimens; 6–8 — ventro-prolateral view, different specimens. Figs 1, 4–8 — specimens from Asalem, Iran; 2 — from Paratunka, Kamchatka, Russia; 3 — Europe. Figs 1, 2, 4–8 — after Tanasevitch [2009], 3 — after van Helsdingen *et al*. [1977]. Fig. 3 not to scale.

Рис. 1–8. Эпигина (1–3) и эмболюс (4–8) *Tenuiphantes perseus* (van Helsdingen, 1977) (1, 4–8) и *T. mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887) (2, 3). 1–3 — вид снизу; 4, 5 — вид ретролатерально снизу, различные экземпляры; 6–8 — вид пролатерально снизу, различные экземпляры. Рис. 1, 4–8 — экземпляры из Асалем, Иран; 2 — из Паратунки, Камчатка, Россия; 3 — Европа. Рис. 1, 2, 4–8 — по Tanasevitch [2009], 3 — по van Helsdingen *et al*. [1977]. Рис. 3 не в масштабе.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL RE-EXAMINED. 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (ZMMU, labeled as *Tenuiphantes mengei*), RUSSIA, North Ossetia–Alania, Kabardino-Sunzhensky Mt. Ridge, between Kardzhin and Elkhotovo, ca. 43.302487°N, 44.258148°E, NW slope, gully, *Fagus* forest, 570 m a.s.l., 30.VII.–24.VIII.1985, S.K. Alekseev leg. [C-2].

TAXONOMIC REMARKS. *Tenuiphantes perseus* is very similar to the disjunct Palaearctic-Alaskan *T. mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887). The main differences between both these species were shown by Tanasevitch [2009] and comprised:

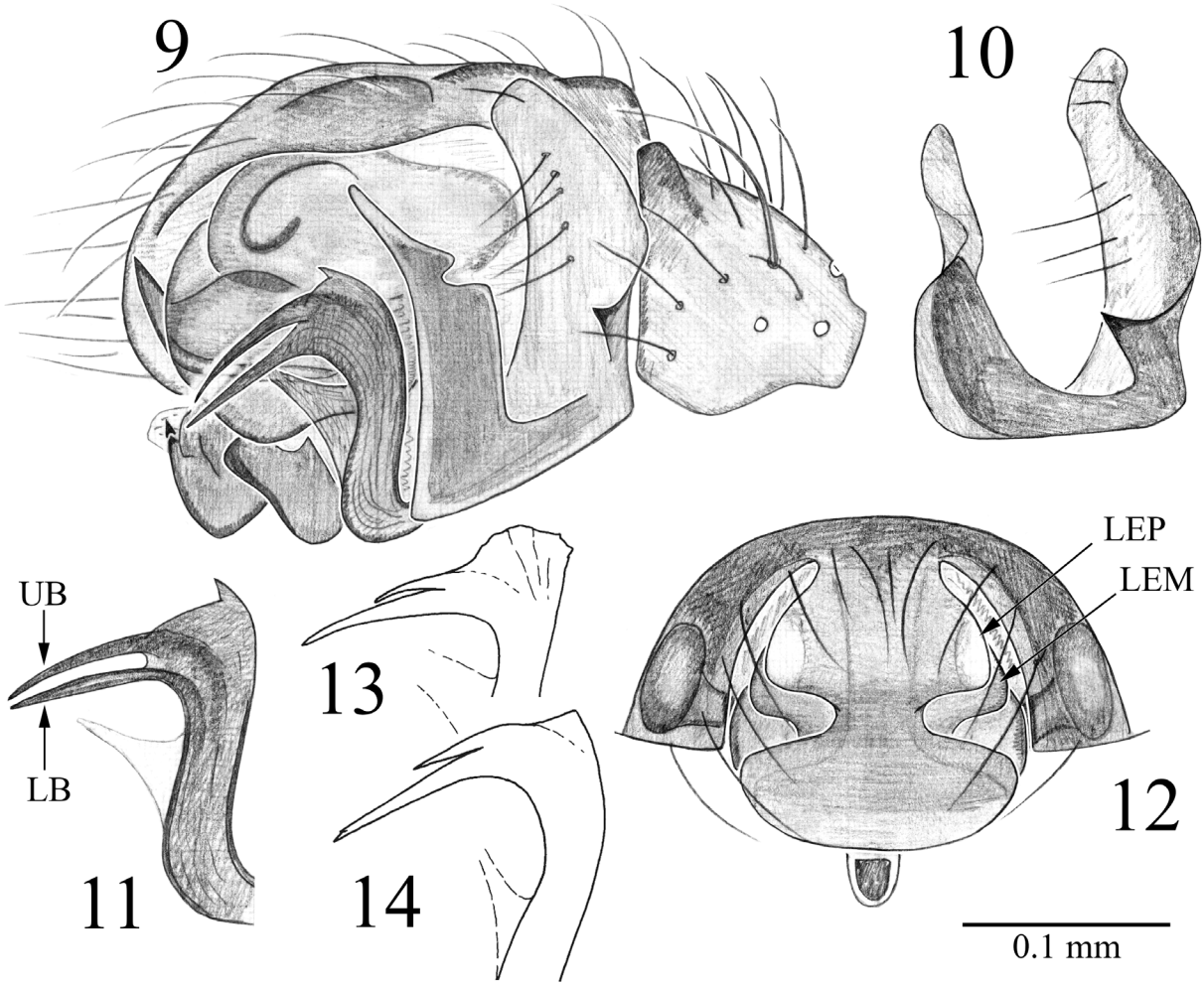
In the male:

(1) Upper branch of lamella characteristica in *T. mengei* almost half as long as its lower branch; *vs*. both branches subequal in length in *T. perseus* (Figs 13, 14 cf. Fig. 11).

(2) Base of embolus in *T. perseus* supplied with teeth (Figs 4–8), *vs*. toothless in *T. mengei*.

In the female:

(3) Edges of lateral extensions of proscapus in *T. mengei* not overlapping with lateral extensions of middle part of scapus, *vs*. partly overlapping in *T. perseus* (Figs 2, 3 cf. Figs 1, 12).



Figs 9–14. Details of male palpal structure (9–11, 13, 14) and epigyne (12) of *Tenuiphantes perseus* (van Helsdingen, 1977) (9–12), and *T. mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887) (13, 14). 9 — left palp, retrolateral view; 10 — paracymbium, lateral view; 11, 13, 14 — lamella characteristica, lateral view; 12 — epigyne, ventral view. Figs 9–12 — specimens from North Ossetia [C-2]; 13, 14 — specimens from Paratunka, Kamchatka, and Nizhnyaya Piosha, Arkhangelsk Area, Russia, respectively. Figs 13, 14 — after Tanasevitch [2009].

Рис. 9–14. Детали строения пальпа самца (9–11, 13, 14) и эпигины (12) *Tenuiphantes perseus* (van Helsdingen, 1977) (9–12) и *T. mengei* (Kulczyński, 1887) (13, 14). 9 — левая пальпа, ретролатерально; 10 — парацимбиум, вид сбоку; 11, 13, 14 — lamella characteristica, вид сбоку; 12 — эпигина, вид снизу. Рис. 9–12 — экземпляры из Северной Осетии [C-2]; 13, 14 — соответственно экземпляры из Паратунки (Камчатка) и Нижней Пёши (Архангельская обл., Россия). Рис. 13, 14 по Tanasevitch [2009].

(4) Some differences present in the shape of the posterior median plate.

A study of a large number of specimens of both *T. perseus* and *T. mengei* from the Caucasus reveals the presence among their populations of many samples which show mixed diagnostic characters. It seems quite possible that the Caucasus is an area of contact between these two very similar species, where their interpenetration and possible hybridization occur. Thus, the specimen from Teberda, West Caucasus, Russia, earlier identified as *Tenuiphantes* sp. [Tanasevitch, 2009], seems to be a hybrid with a mixed set of the following diagnostic characters: its upper branch of the lamella characteristica is half as long as its a lower branch, like in *T. mengei*, but the embolus shows teeth at its base, and the edges of the lateral extensions of the proscapus partly overlap with the lateral extensions of the middle part of the scapus, like in *T. perseus* (see figs 98–104 in Tanasevitch [2009]). In this regard, it seems quite possible that some material from the Caucasus previously determined as *T. mengei* is either misidentified *T. perseus* or their hybrids. Thus, Figs 9–12 which I prepared back in 1986 show the genitals of a typical *T. perseus* from North Ossetia – Alania (see above), which were mistakenly identified as *T. mengei* [Tanasevitch, 1990]. No reliable distinguishing characters of the hybrids have been revealed yet.

REMARKS. *Tenuiphantes perseus* is known from Iran: Gilan, Mazandaran, Lorestan, and Tehran [Tanasevitch, 2008, as *T. mengei*; Tanasevitch, 2009]; Eastern Azerbaijan [Tanasevitch, 2008, as *T. mengei*]; and the Caucasus Major [Tanasevitch, 2009, 2023, 2024b; Ponomarev *et al*., 2022; Babenko, Ponomarev, 2023]. The species is being recorded from the Adygea Republic for the first time.

CHOROTYPE. East Ancient Mediterranean.

Walckenaeria alticeps (Denis, 1952)

MATERIAL. 1 ♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.144080°N, 40.053540°E, 1415 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope,

sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 18.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK3].

REMARKS. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. West Palaearctic.

Walckenaeria atrotibialis (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1878)

MATERIAL. 5 ♀♀ (ZISP), RUSSIA, Caucasus Major, Adygea Republic, road-km 17 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.009799°N, 40.001784°E, 1675–1710 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, with *Abies*, sparse *Sorbus*, *Acer*, etc., fern, sifted litter, 3.–7.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR1]; 3 ♀♀ (ZMMU), road-km 14 from Guzeripl to Yarova Polyana, 44.010660°N, 40.024510°E, 1520 m a.s.l., *Abies* forest on steep slope, with *Fagus*, fern, sifted litter, 9.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [AR2]; 2 ♀♀ (ZISP), Caucasus Major, Krasnodar Krai, Apsheronsk District, Dakhovskaya – Lago-Naki road, 44.144080°N, 40.053540°E, 1415 m a.s.l., *Fagus* forest on steep slope, sparse *Abies*, *Sorbus* and *Acer* undergrowth with fern, briar, etc., sifted litter, 18.VI.2025, A. Tanasevitch leg. [KK3].

REMARK. This species is common in the Caucasus.

CHOROTYPE. West Palaearctic – Nearctic.

Discussion

During a short excursion, a total 27 species of linyphiid spiders were collected in the broad-leaved and mixed forests in the vicinities of Guzeripl, Adygea (21 species), and in the neighbouring area at Lago-Naki, Krasnodar Krai (17 species), northern Caucasus, Russia. Four species are being reported as new to Adygea: *Diplocephalus picinus*, *Obscuriphantes obscurus*, *Oedothorax retusus*, *Tenuiphantes perseus*, *vs*. six species new to the Krasnodar Krai: *Ceratinella wideri*, *Centromerus sylvaticus*, *Gongylidiellum caucasicum*, *Ob. obscurus*, *Oe. retusus*, *Sintula corniger.*

Ceratinella wideri, *Walckenaeria cuspidata* and *W. obtusa* Blackwall, 1836 (see below), all three are being recorded from the Caucasus for the first time.

A single female specimen of *Walckenaeria incisa* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1871) previously recorded from the Baksan Valley, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, Caucasus, Russia [Tanasevitch, 2024b], revised, actually belongs to *W. cuspidata* Blackwall, 1833, a species new to the Caucasus. *Walckenaeria obtusa*, recorded from the same Baksan Valley, was erroneously referred to as being "…rather rare in the Caucasus" (op. cit.), but actually the species is new to the fauna of the Caucasus.

Distinguishing between the Caucasian populations of *Tenuiphantes perseus* and *T. mengei*, two very similar species, is difficult because of their presumable hybrids in this area, these showing mixed diagnostic characters.

Taking into account the above new records and corrections, the linyphiid spider fauna of the Caucasus currently includes 224 species belonging to 105 genera.

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