

A redescription of *Phoroncidia paradoxa* (LUCAS, 1846) (Araneae : Theridiidae)

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Samenvatting. Een herbeschrijving van *Phoroncidia paradoxa* (LUCAS, 1846) (Araneae: Theridiidae)

De spin *Phoroncidia paradoxa* (Theridiidae) wordt herbeschreven. Tekeningen van het mannetje en vrouwtje en van de secundaire genitalia worden gegeven.

Résumé. Une redescription de *Phoroncidia paradoxa* (LUCAS, 1846) (Araneae : Theridiidae)

L'araignée *Phoroncidia paradoxa* (Theridiidae) est redécrite. Le mâle et la femelle, ainsi que les genitalia secondaires sont figurés.

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Introduction

During the preparation of a catalogue with distribution maps of the Belgian Theridiidae, I examined among others the collection of P.L.G. BENOIT, now in the personal collection of R. JOCQUÉ. This collection does not only contain Belgian specimens but also foreign ones, including *Phoroncidia paradoxa* (LUCAS, 1846), sampled in France. According to the catalogues of ROEWER (1942), BRIGNOLI (1983) and PLATNICK (1989), and the *Zoological Record*, this species has not been reported since 1914. SIMON (1914) describes the species in part 6 of «Les Arachnides de France» in the genus *Ulesanis*, but without any drawings. However, BRIGNOLI (1969), did publish on the species and provided drawings of the male abdomen and opisthosoma and also of the male palp. A further description is not given in his article. Therefore it was thought of interest to provide a more comprehensive redescription of this species.

Description

Material : 1 male, 2 females France : Vence, VIII/1966 leg. P.L.G. BENOIT, (in personal collection of R. JOCQUÉ) (identified as *Ulesanis paradoxa* (LUCAS)).

Total length : female \pm 2.0 mm, male \pm 1,5 mm

Cephalothorax : female \pm 0.8 mm, male \pm 0.6 mm

Abdomen : female \pm 2.0 mm, male \pm 1.2 mm

Colour : abdomen, cephalothorax and sternum yellow-brown; abdomen on the upper side mostly white. Cephalothorax with very narrow black margin. Because the BENOIT collection had been exposed to daylight for a number of years, the specimens are strongly bleached (JOCQUÉ 1983), which explains the different colour pattern mentioned by SIMON (1914). Sternum about as long as broad. Distance between coxa of fourth legs large, sternum not produced behind it. Clypeus very high. Eyes widely spaced with exception of the lateral eyes, which are touching. Legs all very short, fourth pair hardly reach behind the abdomen when stretched. Abdomen, as for all the other *Phoroncidia* species, sclerotised. Female abdomen with a very high hump ending in two

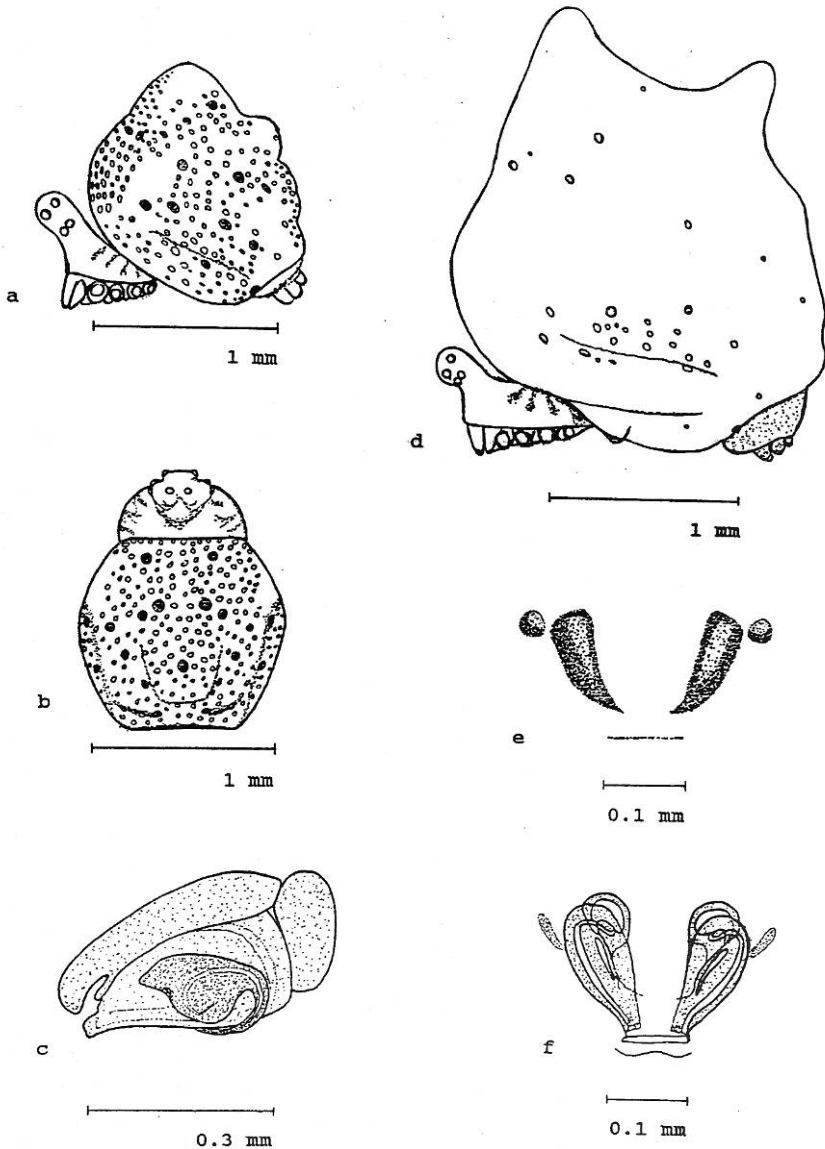


Figure 1: *Phoroncidia paradoxa* (LUCAS, 1846), male : a, abdomen lateral view; b, abdomen dorsal view; c, palp
 female : d, abdomen lateral view; e, epigyne; f, fulva.

closely set, rounded tubercles and with two more widely spaced rounded tubercles behind the hump. Abdomen approximately as high as long and with a series of circular pits. Male abdomen with one high undivided hump and a second, lower but much broader hump; the circular pits are more numerous and denser than in the female.

Distribution

BRIGNOLI's article mentions the Mediterranean as the distribution area of the species. BENOIT's spiders are indeed from that region. Vence is located to the northwest of Nice (France).

Acknowledgments

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Korte mededelingen

Over de voedselvoorkeur van de rups van *Deilephila porcellus* LINNAEUS (Lepidoptera : Sphingidae)

Op 4 augustus 1988 vond ik een rupsje van *Deilephila porcellus* LINNAEUS in de binnenduinen te Wenduine (West-Vlaanderen). De begroeiing bestond vooral uit laagkruipende braamstruiken. In ons appartement probeerde ik het rupsje verder te kweken met wilgeroosje (*Epilobium angustifolium*). Dit voedsel bleef 2 dagen onaangeroerd en met lede ogen zag ik het rupsje wegwijnen. Ik trok weer naar de vindplaats en bemerkte tussen de braamstruiken kleine partijen met minuscule plantjes van het echt walstro (*Galium verum*) en in de buurt ook het wat grotere glad walstro (*Galium mollugo*). Ik nam van beide een handsvol mee en gaf dit aan het rupsje. Al vlug begon het te vreten aan de dunne blaadjes van het echt walstro. Toen dit na enkele dagen opraakte weigerde de rups over te schakelen op glad walstro. Ik zorgde dus opnieuw voor vers echt walstro. Hiermee groeide de rups voorspoedig verder. Ze verpopte op 12 augustus 1988. Na overwintering binnenshuis sloop hieruit op 12 maart 1989 een volmaakt gevormd wijfje.

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