

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF THERIDIIDÆ FROM EASTERN TEXAS (ARANEÆ)¹

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Among some material sent me several years ago, by Miss Sarah E. Jones collected by her at Dallas, Texas, was a small male spider which particularly attracted my attention. Tentatively I placed it in the little known genus *Umfila* Keyserling, (Theridiidæ), based on a single species from Brazil. Recently, I had the pleasure of showing it to Dr. Alexander Petrunkevitch of Yale University. He kindly called my attention to characters which certainly preclude it from that genus and suggested that a new genus be erected for it.

Genus **Mufila** gen. nov.

Cephalothorax about as wide as long, anterior margin broadly convex, longer than the posterior margin, cephalic portion rather high, thoracic groove long, in a depression; *eyes* closely grouped, differing little in size, anterior row slightly recurved, a.m.e. largest of the eight, posterior row almost straight, lateral eyes touching; *quadrangle* wider in front and not as high as wide; *clypeus* very high, about three times the height of the quadrangle; *mouth parts* weak; *sternum* oval, three-quarters as wide as long, anterior margin rounded, posterior margin pointed and extending between the fourth coxæ; *abdomen* narrow, pointed above the spinnerets, with a corneous ridge at the base which connects with a large epigastric scutum; *legs*, 4-1-2-3, with no spines, a tarsal comb of 6 to 7 curved bristles on the fourth metatarsus; *palpus* large, patella short and much rounded on the dorsal side, tibia small. Female not known.

¹ Published with a grant from the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College.

Genotype: *Mufila texana* spec. nov.

The genus *Mufila* probably belongs with the *Asageninae*, as a remnant of a stridulating organ remains on the base of the abdomen. It differs from the other genera in that sub-family by the very broad cephalothorax, the high clypeus and the closely grouped eyes that vary little in size. It differs from the genus *Umfila* Keys. by the cephalothorax which is as wide as long, the very high clypeus, the pointed sternum, and the lack of a dorsal scutum on the abdomen.

Mufila texana spec. nov.

Figure 1

Male. Length, 2.5 mm., ceph. 1.2 mm. long, 1.2 mm. wide, abd. 1.4 mm. long, 0.7 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax golden brown, shining, with a few short hairs below the a.m.e., almost circular, anterior margin strongly convex, and wider than the posterior margin, sides rounded, almost flat, cephalic portion highest, thoracic groove long and deep, in a depressed area; *eyes* closely grouped, area slightly elevated, each eye heavily ringed with black, and not varying much in size, anterior row slightly recurved, a.m.e. largest of the eight, separated by about a diameter and from the a.l.e. by a little less, posterior row the same length as the anterior row, almost straight, eyes equidistant and subequal, p.m.e. separated by little more than a diameter, lateral eyes touching; *quadrangle* wider in front and not as high as wide; *clypeus* Below a.m.e. almost equals three times the ocular area, with a stripe of short dark hairs directed upward, from the margin to the a.m.e.; *mandibles* dark, small and vertical, weak, fang short; *labium* very narrow, more than twice as wide as long, suture between the labium and sternum very indistinct; *maxillæ* yellow, shaded with gray, more than twice as long as the labium and strongly inclined; *sternum* bright yellow, darker about the margins, slightly convex, three-quarters as wide as long, anterior margin rounded, posterior margin pointed, first pair of coxæ widely separated, fourth pair

of coxæ separated by more than a diameter and the sternum carried between; *abdomen* oval, pointed above the spinnerets, two-thirds as wide as long, brown with five white spots, at the base a corneous line which may be the remnant of a sound organ, but no cross ridges on the cephalothorax remain, many long scattered hairs from corneous pits, venter pale, with a strongly marked epigastric scutum that covers the basal third and connects

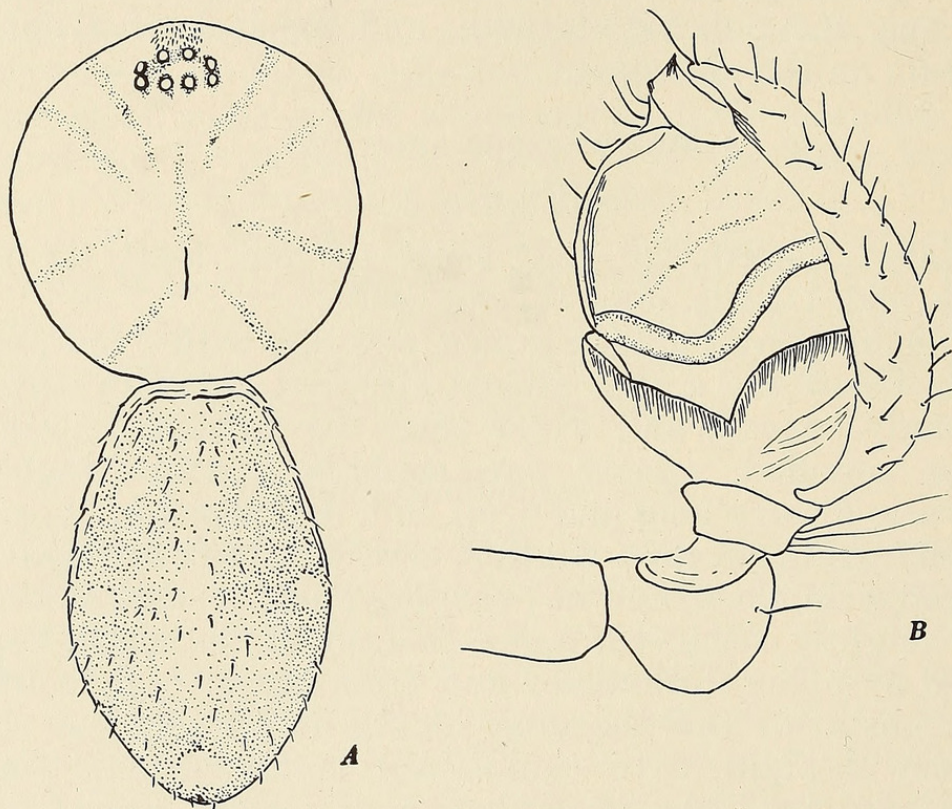


Figure 1. *Mufila texana* spec. nov. ♂. A, Dorsal view. B, Left palpus, lateral view.

with the corneous ridge on the dorsum, a broad dark ring surrounds the spinnerets which may be chitinized, spinnerets small, posterior spiracle probably opens directly anterior to the spinnerets, two small chitinized ovals about the middle of the venter, may be muscle spots;

legs, $\frac{1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4^*}{2.0 \quad 1.8 \quad 2.0 \quad 2.6}$, rather short, pale yellow, with the

* The leg formula used was suggested by Mrs. Harriet Frizzell and modified by Dr. Alex. Petrunkevitch in "A Study in Amber Spiders," Trans. Conn. Acad., 1942, 34, p. 137. The lower figure represents the length of the leg divided by the length of the carapace.

distal joints darker, femora with a dark anterior lateral line, much fainter on the posterior pairs, all joints with rows of small hairs, no spines, tarsal comb of 6 or 7 curved bristles on the fourth metatarsus; *palpus*, large for the size of the spider, shorter than the cephalothorax, femur pale and bent, other joints dark, patella short and much swollen on the dorsal side, tibia very small and pressed close to the cymbium, palpal organ short, barrel-shaped, embolus probably a short black spine at the tip.

Holotype: ♂ Texas; Dallas, on the outside of a house, 9 July 1936, (Jones); in MCZ.

A CORRECTION.—In *Pysche*, Vol. 56, No. 1, I published a synonymic list involving some species in *Pseudomyrma* and other genera of ants (pp. 41–49). On page 43 occur two errors, the first of which was made at the printing office *after* the page proof had been read by both author and editor. Page 43, line 5, should read “*Pseudomyrma spinicola* subsp. *infernalis*”, not “subsp. *sclerosa*.” Line 9 on the same page mistakenly omits an “e” from “subsp. *scelerosa*”, the latter being Wheeler’s original spelling. Enzmann’s transcription of the name was “*sclerosa*”.—W. L. BROWN, JR., Biological Laboratories, Harvard University.



Bryant, Elizabeth B. 1949. "A New Genus and Species of theridiidae From Eastern Texas (Araneae)." *Psyche* 56, 66–69.

<https://doi.org/10.1155/1949/59142>.

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