

A new species of *Panamomops* (Araneae: Linyphiidae) from Ukraine with the first record of *P. inconspicuus* for the country

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Abstract. New data on the genus *Panamomops* are presented from Ukraine. *Panamomops inconspicuus* (Miller & Valešová, 1964) is reported for the first time. A new species, *Panamomops luteus* **sp. nov.**, is described based on both sexes.

Keywords: Erigoninae, new species, *P. luteus* **sp. nov.**, Ukraine

Zusammenfassung. Eine neue *Panamomops* Art (Araneae: Linyphiidae) aus der Ukraine mit dem ersten Nachweis von *P. inconspicuus* für das Land. Aus der Ukraine werden neue Nachweise der Gattung *Panamomops* präsentiert. *Panamomops inconspicuus* (Miller & Valešová, 1964) wird erstmals nachgewiesen. Eine neue Art, *Panamomops luteus* **sp. nov.**, wird anhand beider Geschlechter beschrieben.

Абстракт. Новий вид роду *Panamomops* (Araneae: Linyphiidae) з України і перші відомості про вид *P. inconspicuus* в країні. Представлено нові дані про рід *Panamomops* в Україні. Вид *Panamomops inconspicuus* (Miller & Valešová, 1964) вперше вказаний в країні. *Panamomops luteus* **sp. nov.**, новий вид з України, описаний за особинами обох статей.

Of the fifteen species currently included in the genus *Panamomops* Simon, 1884 twelve are recorded in Europe (World Spider Catalog 2025). Of these, two have been recorded so far in Ukraine: *P. fedotovi* (Charitonov, 1937) (Crimea) (Gnelitsa 2008) and *P. menzei* Simon, 1926. The latter species is absent in Crimea although widespread and commonly found in Ukraine outside the Crimean Peninsula (Gnelitsa 1997). Warm temperatures during October and November of the last two decades allowed me to find a locality where I caught several adult specimens of *P. inconspicuus* (Miller & Valešová, 1964), a species previously unknown in Ukraine. In addition, several tiny yellow *Panamomops* sp. individuals were collected in Crimea. These samples revealed clear morphological differences from the other species of the genus. Thus, the unknown Crimean species is herein illustrated and described as *P. luteus* **sp. nov.** Additionally, the first records of *P. inconspicuus* in Ukraine are also presented.

Material and methods

Specimens were hand-collected using a hand-held suction sampler directly in the field and in preliminarily sifted litter. Identification was made with an MBR – 1 microscope and an MBS – 10 binocular microscope; drawings were made with a camera lucida. Before study of the inner structure, epigynes were macerated in a 5% KOH solution. For making microscope mounts of the epigyne a Faure-Berlese mounting medium was used.

The following abbreviations are used: C = cymbium, DSA = distal suprategular apophysis, E = embolus, F = fold, Fd = fertilisation duct, Ip = incoming pass, La = lamina, O = genital opening, Pc = paracymbium, PTi = pedipalpal tibia, R = radix, Re = receptacle, Spt = suprategulum, St = subtegulum, T = tegulum, TP = radical tailpiece. All measurements given below are in mm.

Collections: SIZK – I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, Kyiv (Ukraine), VGC – Valery Gnelitsa personal collection.

Results

***Panamomops luteus* sp. nov.** (Figs 1-2)

Type material. Holotype male, UKRAINE, Crimea, urban district of Yalta, Parkove village, Yalta Mountain-Forest Nature Reserve, 44.4041°N, 33.9108°E, *Pinus brutia* var. *pityusa* with *Juniperus excelsa* and *J. oxycedrus*, in litter, 9. Mar. 2007, leg. M. Kovblyuk, coll. SIZK; allotype female: same locality and data as holotype; paratypes: 2 ♂♂, 19 ♀♀, same locality and data, leg. M. Kovblyuk, coll. VGC.

Other material. UKRAINE, Crimea: Sevastopol, environment of Balaklava, Aya cape, 44.4937°N, 33.6145°E, 14. Mar. 2002, 8 ♀♀, leg. Y. Marusik, coll. VGC; urban district of Yalta, Parkove village, Yalta Mountain-Forest Nature Reserve, 44.4050°N, 33.9103°E, 1 ♀, under the rind of *Pinus brutia* var. *pityusa*, 9. Mar. 2007, leg. M. Kovblyuk, coll. VGC; Pheodosia district, Karadag Nature Reserve, Sychev gully, 45.0323°N, 35.0324°E, *Quercus petraea*, *Carpinus*, *Fagus*, *Populus* with *Corylus*, *Sambucus*, *Euonymus*, in litter, 1. May 2003, 1 ♀, leg. V. Gnelitsa, coll. VGC.

Etymology. The specific name refers to the colouration of both the male and female. Adjective.

Diagnosis. The new species can easily be distinguished by the yellow-coloured body of specimens as well as configuration of the male palp, epigyne and vulva structure. The new species is similar to *Panamomops szinetari* Gallé-Szpisjak & Gallé, 2025. Males of *P. luteus* **sp. nov.** differ from those of *P. szinetari* by the shortened apophyses of the palpal tibia (Fig. 1a, d, e) vs. long apophyses (Gallé-Szpisjak & Gallé 2025: figs 2I, L, M, 4F). Females of *P. szinetari* differ from those of *P. luteus* **sp. nov.** (Fig. 2b) by extensive clearly visible lamina and a spiral with two-turns which is heavily sclerotized in the incoming pass of the vulva (Gallé-Szpisjak & Gallé 2025: figs 3E, 6B).

Description. Holotype male. Total length 1.09; carapace 0.53 long, 0.38 wide, yellow, frontal part grey-yellowish, elevated cephalic area with lateral sulci, clypeus protruded frontally (Fig. 2e, f). Posterior median eyes descend a little frontally at the top of a head elevation (Fig. 2e) separated by less (0.7) of their diameter, eyes surrounded by black. Chelicerae: anterior margin with six teeth, first and fifth ones the largest, posterior margin with five tiny teeth gradually decreasing in

Tab. 1: Leg measurements of male *Panamomops luteus* sp. nov. (holotype)

Leg	femur	patella	tibia	metatarsus	tarsus	Sum
I	0.40	0.14	0.35	0.27	0.25	1.41
II	0.35	0.14	0.28	0.25	0.22	1.24
III	0.29	0.13	0.22	0.22	0.21	1.07
IV	0.39	0.14	0.35	0.28	0.22	1.38

size proximately (Fig. 2c), densely spaced stridulating ridges, barely visible. Sternum 0.31 long, 0.29 wide, yellow.

Legs yellow. Legs measurements as in Tab. 1. Leg spination not determined. Spines of male specimens lost or possibly reduced.

Position of metatarsus trichobothrium. I – 0.32, II – 0.33, III – 0.28. Trichobothrium on Metatarsus IV absent.

Palp as in Fig. 1. Wide loop-shaped embolus (E) curved obliquely outside of mesial line turning into spiral with gradually decreasing diameter distally (Fig. 1a-d). Palpal tibia (PTi) bears anteriorly two horn-like apophyses of which lateral one is armed distally with several tiny tubercles (Fig. 1a, c-e). Opisthosoma grey-yellow.

Female (allotype). General appearance as in male. Total length 1.34; carapace 0.57 long, 0.39 wide, yellow (Fig. 2g, h); sternum 0.34 long, 0.29 wide, yellow, margin poorly visible; posterior median eyes 1.5 diameter apart, elongated when observed from above, slightly converging towards each other; anterior margin of chelicerae with six teeth distally, two proximal teeth the largest, distal four gradually reducing in size (Fig. 2d), posterior margin with five tiny teeth.

Legs yellow; leg spination. 2-2-1-1, position of metatarsal trichobothrium: I – 0.31, II – 0.32, III – 0.29. Trichobothrium on Metatarsus IV absent. Opisthosoma pale grey-yellow.

Epigyne with characteristic receptacles clearly visible through the tegument (Fig. 2a), receptacles (Re) are extended laterally and bent forward, two folds (F) of the ventral plate run anteriorly along the longitudinal axis and then diverge laterally (Fig. 2a).

Vulva see Fig. 2b. Sperm duct of the vulva begins at genital opening (O), runs anteriorly to the lamina (La) then curves posteriorly to reach the start of its incoming pass (Ip), which runs forward again to enter the posterior side of the receptacle (Re). Lamina (La) is barely visible. The incoming pass of vulva is fairly widened, heavily sclerotized and bent slightly laterally.

Comments. The spider's leg spines are slender and fragile; therefore, they may be easily lost. No single specimen I investigated retained full composition of tibial dorsal spines. To ascertain the male spination, a larger number of specimens would be necessary.

Comparative remarks. The palp of the new species shows the typical configuration for males of *Panamomops* Simon, 1884. Based on the anterior outgrowths of the palpal tibia, three species groups may be erected within the genus: 1 – the lateral outgrowth is noticeably slender (narrower) than the mesial – *P. affinis* Miller & Kratochvíl, 1939, *P. dybowskii* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1873), *P. fagei* Miller & Kratochvíl, 1939, *P. latifrons* Miller, 1959, *P. mengei*, *P. palmgreni* Thaler, 1973, *P. pamiricus* Tanasevitch, 1989. 2 – the lateral outgrowth is noticeably more robust (thicker) than the mesial one – *P. depilis* Eskov & Marusik, 1994, *P. fedotovi*, *P. inconspicuus*, *P. mutilus* (Denis, 1962), *P. sulcifrons* (Wider, 1834), *P. tauricornis* (Simon, 1882) (Nentwig et al. 2025). *Panamomops szinetari* and *P. luteus* sp. nov. do not fit into either of the above-mentioned groups because both of their outgrowths are robust, thus forming together the third group.

The epigyne of *P. luteus* sp. nov., as well as its vulva structure, are typical for *Panamomops*. Most species of *Panamomops* have round receptacles (*P. depilis*, *P. dybowskii*, *P. fedotovi*, *P. inconspicuus*, *P. latifrons*, *P. tauricornis*, *P. mutilus*, *P. palmgreni*, *P. sulcifrons*) or oval ones (*P. affinis*, *P. fagei*, *P. mengei*) (Nentwig et al. 2025). In *P. luteus* sp. nov., however, the receptacles are extended laterally and bent forward (Fig. 2a) as in *P. szinetari* which is similar to *P. luteus* sp. nov.

Habitat. *Panamomops luteus* sp. nov. mainly inhabits pine forest litter, less frequently broadleaf forest litter.

Distribution. The species occurs in the southern and south-eastern coastal area of the Crimean Peninsula.

Panamomops inconspicuus (Miller & Valešová, 1964)

(Figs 3-4)

Material. UKRAINE, Sumy region, Sumy district, Vakalivshchina Vill, 51.035°N, 34.936°E, grass meadow on the edge of deciduous forest (*Fraxinus*, *Quercus*, *Acer*, *Tilia*, *Pinus* sparsely), on the ground between soil particles, 20. May 2009, 1 ♂; 22. May 2009, 1 ♀; 28. May 2009, 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀; 2. Oct. 2010, 1 ♀; 20. Oct. 2014, 2 ♀♀; 25. Oct. 2009, 4 ♂♂; 2. Nov. 2008, 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; 4. Nov. 2008, 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; 9. Nov. 2014, 7 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀; 15. Nov. 2008, 1 ♀; 16. Nov. 2019, 1 ♀. S 15° slope, forb grass meadow, in litter and on the ground, 51.029°N, 34.9251°E, 11. Apr. 2015, 1 ♂. 3 km to SW off Sumy city, 50.8624°N, 34.7221°E, forb grass meadow on SE open slope, on the ground, 11. Jun. 2009, 1 ♀. Krasnopilla district, Hrunivka Vill., 50.9992°N,

Tab. 2: Leg measurements of female *Panamomops luteus* sp. nov. (allotype)

Leg	femur	patella	tibia	metatarsus	tarsus	Sum
I	0.42	0.17	0.35	0.29	0.26	1.49
II	0.37	0.15	0.30	0.26	0.24	1.32
III	0.33	0.15	0.23	0.23	0.21	1.15
IV	0.45	0.14	0.39	0.30	0.25	1.53

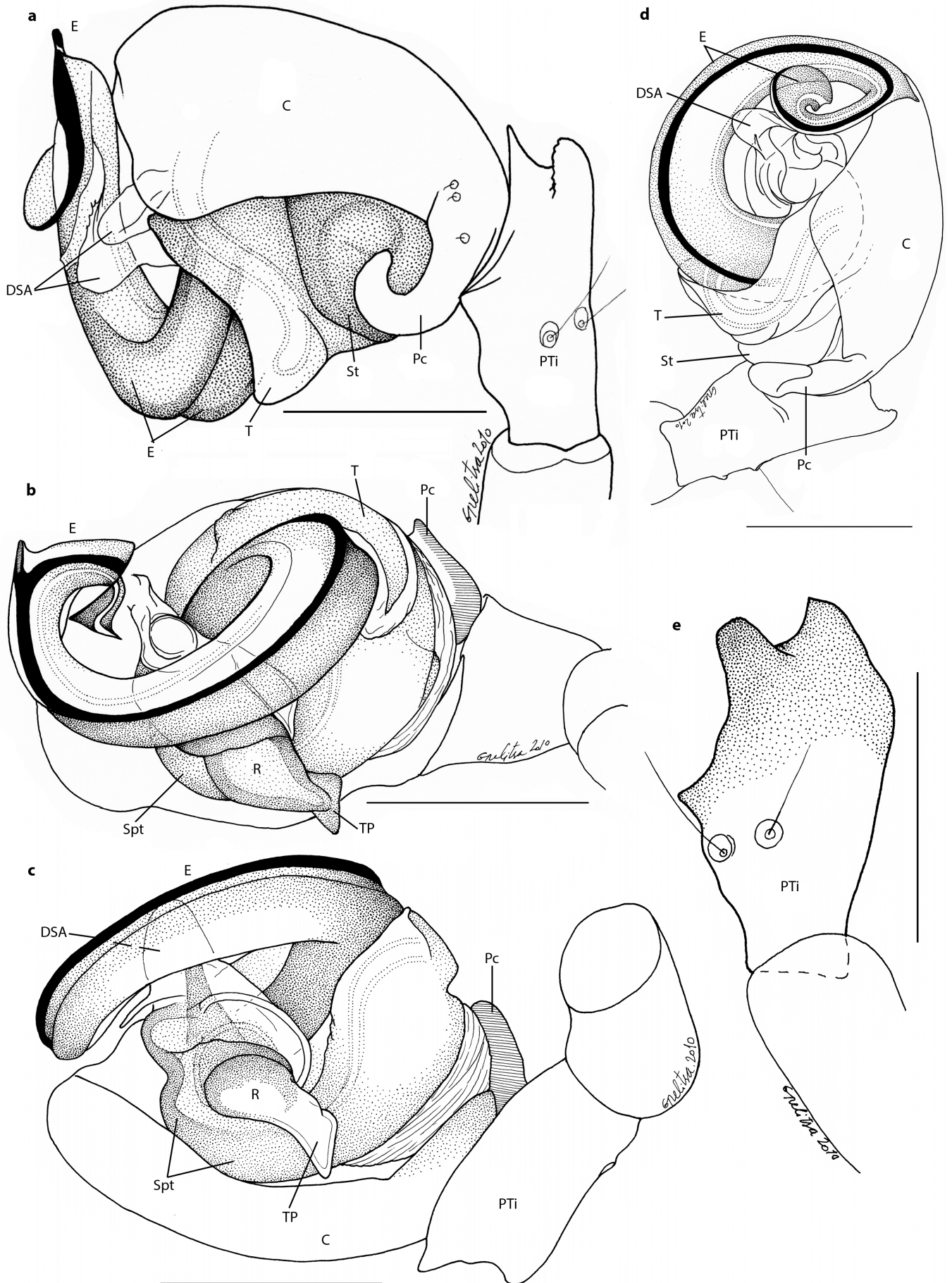


Fig. 1: *Panamomops luteus* sp. nov., male. **a.** palp laterally; **b.** palp ventrally; **c.** palp mesially; **d.** palp frontally; **e.** palpal tibia dorsally. Abbreviations: C = cymbium, DSA = distal suprategular apophysis, E = embolus, Pc = paracymbium, PTi = pedipalpal tibia, R = radix, Spt = suprategulum, St = subtegulum, T = tegulum, TP = radical tailpiece. Scale bars = 0.1 mm

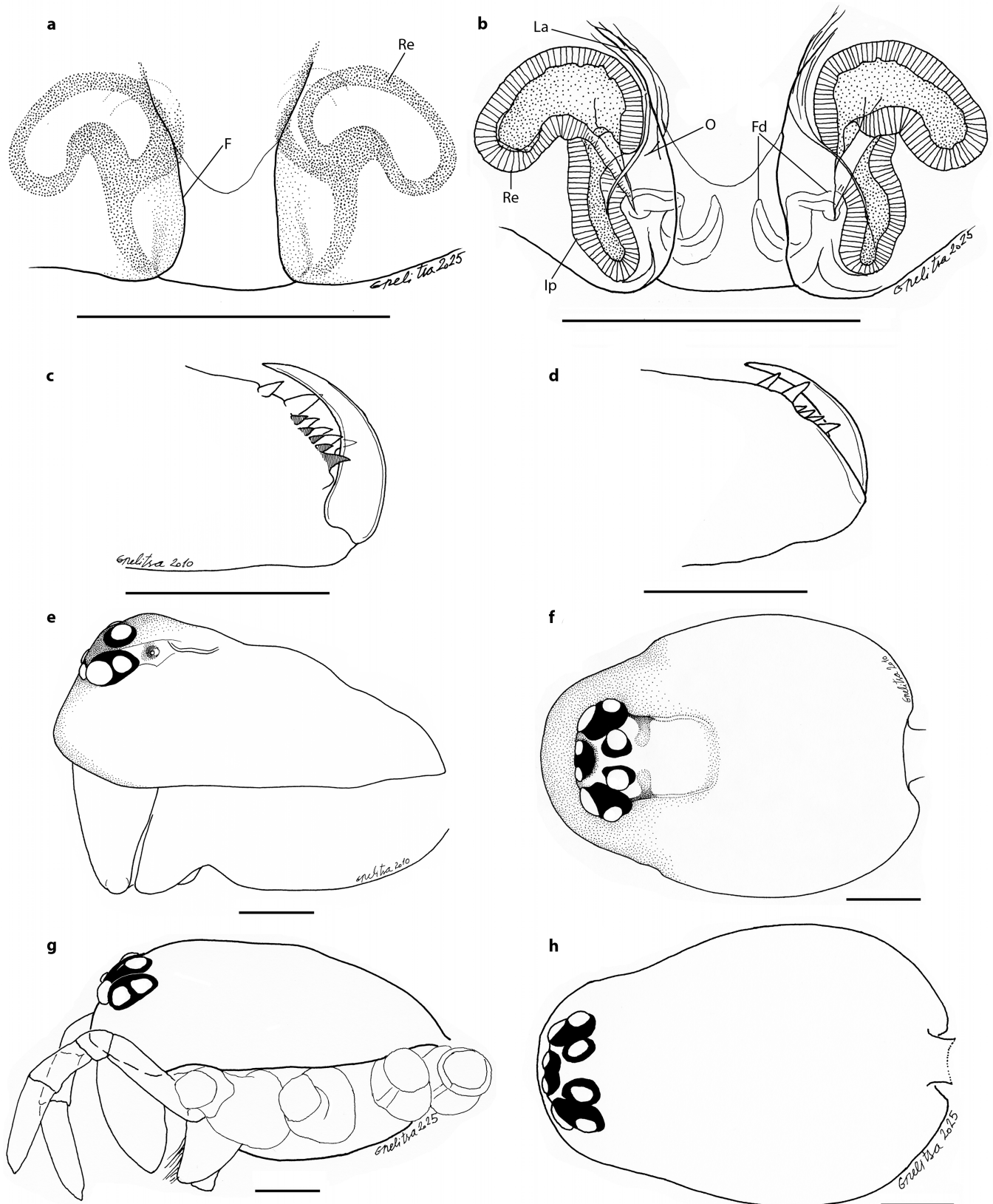


Fig. 2: *Panamomops luteus* sp. nov. **a.** epigyne ventrally; **b.** vulva ventrally; **c.** male chelicera; **d.** female chelicera; **e.** male carapace laterally; **f.** male carapace dorsally; **g.** female carapace laterally; **h.** female carapace dorsally. Abbreviations: F = fold, Fd = fertilisation duct, Ip = incoming pass, La = lamina, O = genital opening, Re = receptacle. Scale bars = 0.1 mm

35.1159°E, upper part of 60° N slope, sparse *Euonymus*, forb grass with moss, on the ground between soil particles, 13. Nov. 2022, 1 ♀.

Biology. This rare species is encountered in different habitats, see Tab. 3.

This spider is often found accidentally, while places where it occurs regularly are rare. According to the Czech Arachnological Society (2025) *P. inconspicuus* prefers dry meadows (35% of mature specimens, 26% records in the Czech Republic), blueberry places (30% specimens, 23% records),

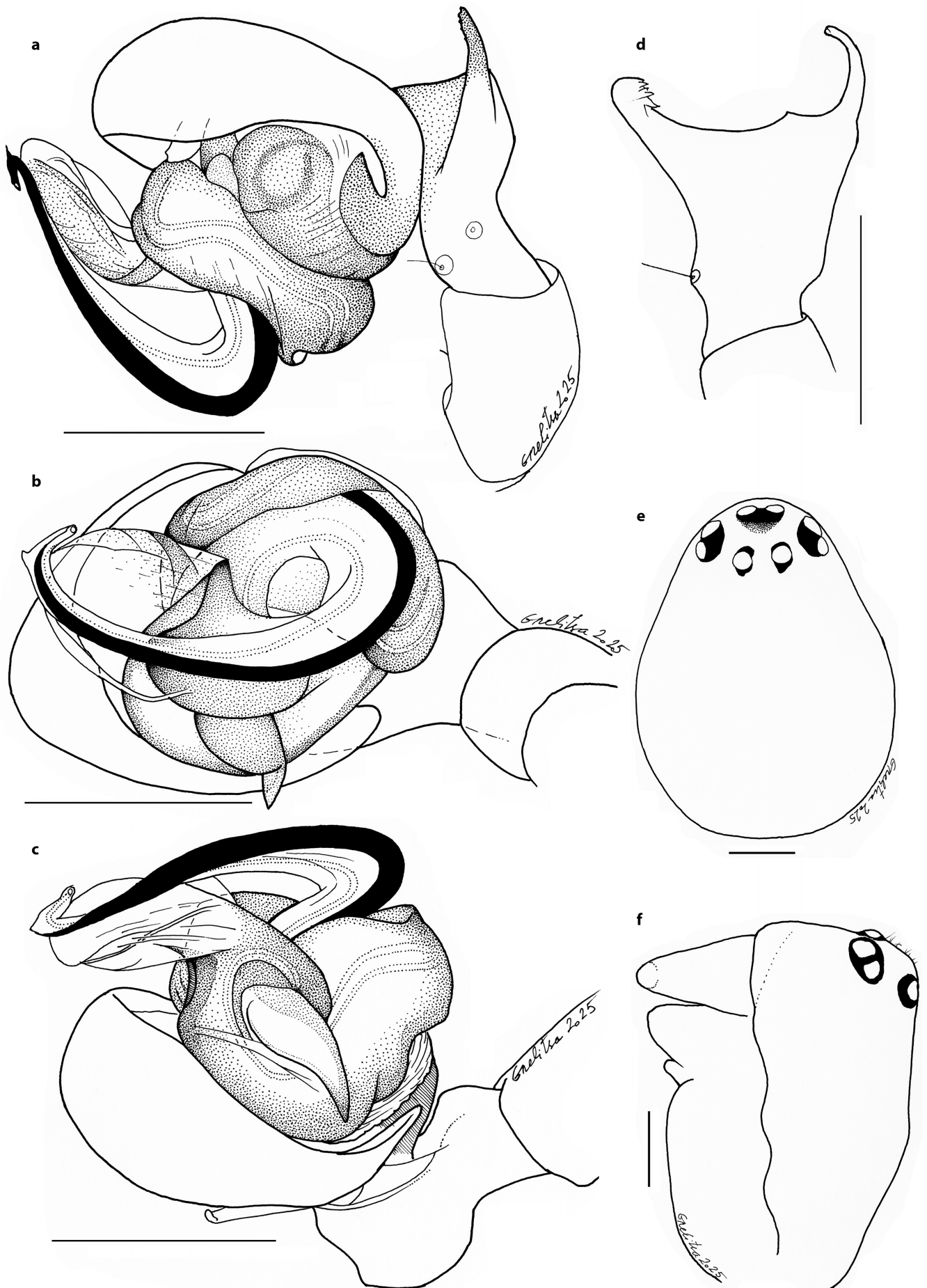


Fig. 3: *Panamomops inconspicuus*, male. **a.** palp laterally; **b.** palp ventrally; **c.** palp mesially; **d.** palpal tibia, dorsally; **e.** carapace dorsally; **f.** carapace laterally. Scale bar = 0.1 mm

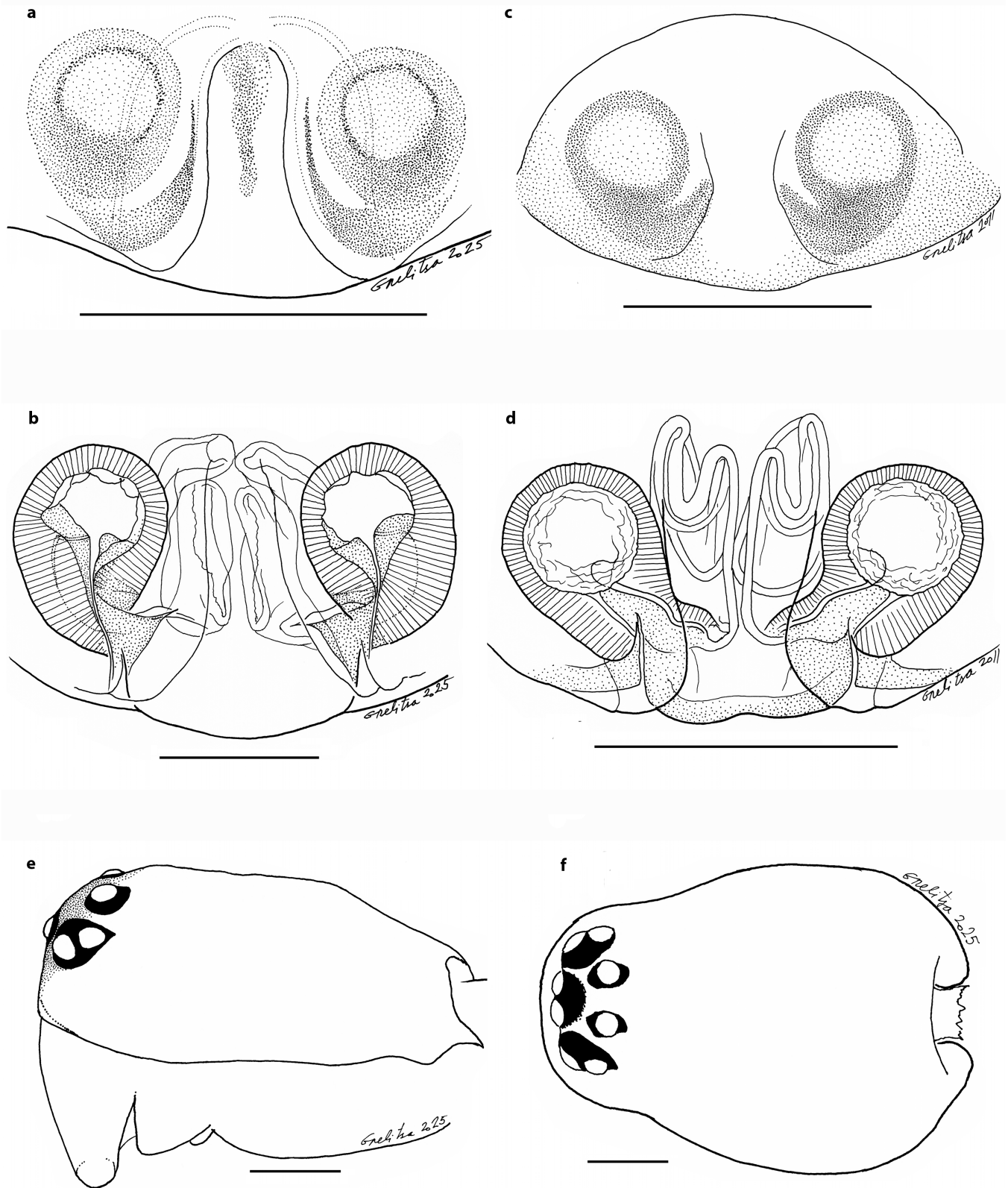


Fig. 4: *Panamomops inconspicuus*, female. **a.**, **c.** epigyne, ventrally; **b.**, **d.** vulva, ventrally; **e.** carapace laterally, **f.** carapace dorsally. Scale bars = 0.1 mm

xerothermic grass communities (11% specimens, 2% records), and areas of xerophilous shrubs (9% specimens, 6% records). The most abundant samples were collected from April to June (16%, 14%, 19% specimens respectively).

In Ukraine, *P. inconspicuus* was recorded only from the north-eastern part of the country. I captured 90% of the spe-

cimens in a single place on bare soil on a grass meadow at the edge of a deciduous forest (*Fraxinus*, *Quercus*, *Acer*, *Tilia*, *Pinus* sparsely). Adults appeared in May (5 individuals), October (10), and November (26), although solitary adults were also encountered in June. Each November sample from above mentioned meadow contains adult specimens of *P. inconspicuus*.

Tab. 3: Summary of *Panamomops inconspicuus* microhabitats from the literature

Habitat	Cited by
Warm and xerothermic (steppe or meadow) places on limestones or sand, xerothermic grass communities, true forb-bunchgrass, and bunchgrass steppes (perennial calcareous grasslands and basic steppes)	Bauchhenß (1992), Blick (1991), Buchar & Růžička (2002), Czech Arachnological Society (2025), Hermann (1998), Kielhorn & Blick (2024), Kreuels (1998), Kreuels et al. (2019), Milasowszky & Hepner (2019), Miller & Valešová (1964), Moritz (1973), Seyfulina (2017), Wunderlich (1972).
Grassland contaminated by heavy metals	Kreuels (2000).
Mountain hayfield	Blasbichler et al. (2023), Thaler (1993).
Heathland, scrub and tundra	Leipold (1995).
Grasslands and lands dominated by forbs, mosses and lichens	Meyer & Grämer (2016).
Pastures	Blick et al. (2025), Czech Arachnological Society (2025).
Places overgrown with dry-tolerant bushes	Czech Arachnological Society (2025).
Places overgrown with blueberries	Czech Arachnological Society (2025).
Woodland belts	Ponomarev (2008).
Riverside flood land <i>Salix</i> Forest	Ponomarev (2008).
Place with <i>Quercus petraea</i>	Déjean (2019).
Coniferous stands	Czech Arachnological Society (2025), Milasowszky & Zulka (2016).
Forest edges	Czech Arachnological Society (2025), Unruh et al. (2020).

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Conflicts of Interest. The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

Use of AI-based technologies. No generative AI and AI-assisted technologies were used in the writing process.

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