

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISCHROPSALIDAE
SIMON (PHALANGIDA) FROM MEXICO

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The tribe Dyspnoi Hansen and Soerensen (Phalangida : Palpatores) has been represented on the mainland of Mexico by but one described species, *Trilasma bolivari* Goodnight and Goodnight (Troguilidae Simon). The families Ischropsalidae Simon and Nemastomatidae Simon have not been recorded. All three of these families are represented in the fauna of the United States ; so it did not seem unreasonable to expect the discovery of forms from Mexico. With the finding of this representative of the family Ischropsalidae, only the Nemastomatidae remain unknown from Mexico.

This specimen was collected by Dr. Charles H. Seevers of the Central Y.M.C.A. College of Chicago, Illinois. The holotype is deposited in the collection of the Chicago Museum of Natural History.

This new species is dedicated to Dr. Alexander Petrunkevitch in whose honor it is named.

Suborder PALPATORES THORELL

TRIBE DYSPNOI HANSEN AND SOERENSEN

Ischropsalidae Simon

Ruaxphilos gen. nov.

Chelicerae shorter than the body, inner claws bearing very numerous fine teeth. Palpus longer than body ; tarsus shorter than tibia. Both tibia and tarsus with numerous fine hairs. Remaining segments of palpus with scattered hairs. Maxillary lobes of second coxae lacking. Coxae without lateral teeth, covered with fine hairs. Femora of all legs with a single false articulation at the proximal portion ; metatarsus of leg I with a false articulation. Tarsal segments : 3-2-3-2. Tarsal claws simple. Eye tubercle clearly removed from the anterior margin of the cephalothorax,

with a small spine. Second thoracic segment free. Last thoracic segment and all dorsal segments with paired low tubercles. Stink glands at lateral portion of cephalothorax, opening not clear.

Genotype : *Ruaxphilos petrunkevitchou*, new species.

Ruaxphilos is most closely related to *Tomicomerus Pavesi* from which it differs markedly by having a small spine on the eye tubercle.

Ruaxphilos petrunkevitchou sp. nov.

Figures 1 and 2

Total length of body, 1.36 mm. Cephalothorax, 0.56 mm. Width of body at widest portion, 0.48 mm.

| | Length of Legs | | | |
|------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | I | II | III | IV |
| Trochanter | 0.16 mm. | 0.24 mm. | 0.16 mm. | 0.20 mm. |
| Femur | 0.44 | 0.96 | 0.48 | 0.68 |
| Patella | 0.20 | 0.28 | 0.20 | 0.32 |
| Tibia | 0.32 | 0.48 | 0.28 | 0.48 |
| Metatarsus | 0.40 | 1.04 | 0.44 | 1.24 |
| Tarsus | 0.44 | 0.68 | 0.40 | 0.88 |
| Total | 1.96 mm. | 3.68 mm. | 1.96 mm. | 3.80 mm. |

Dorsum smooth, cephalothorax slightly wider than abdomen. Eye tubercle slightly separated from the anterior margin of the cephalothorax, large at the base, terminating in a projection at the apex. Cephalothorax with patches of very fine granulations posterior to the eye tubercle. Posterior portion of cephalothorax and each abdominal segment with a median pair of low tubercles. The tubercles of the cephalothorax lower than those of the abdomen. The first two pairs of tubercles of the abdomen and those of the cephalothorax closer together than the remaining abdominal tubercles. These first three pairs are connected by a raised area. Venter, coxae, and anal operculum with scattered spine-like hairs, spiracles visible. First to third abdominal segments joined, fourth to seventh free, eighth and ninth joined. Coxae without rows of teeth, free. Second maxillary lobe lacking.

Legs : trochanters, femora, patellae, and tibiae smooth, with scat-

tered spine-like hairs. Metatarsi and tarsi with more numerous large hairs and with a thick covering of very small hairs. Femora divided into a short proximal portion and a longer distal portion. Metatarsus of leg I with a false articulation. Tarsal segments : 3-2-3-2. Middle tarsal segment of legs I and III very small. Tarsal claws smooth and simple.

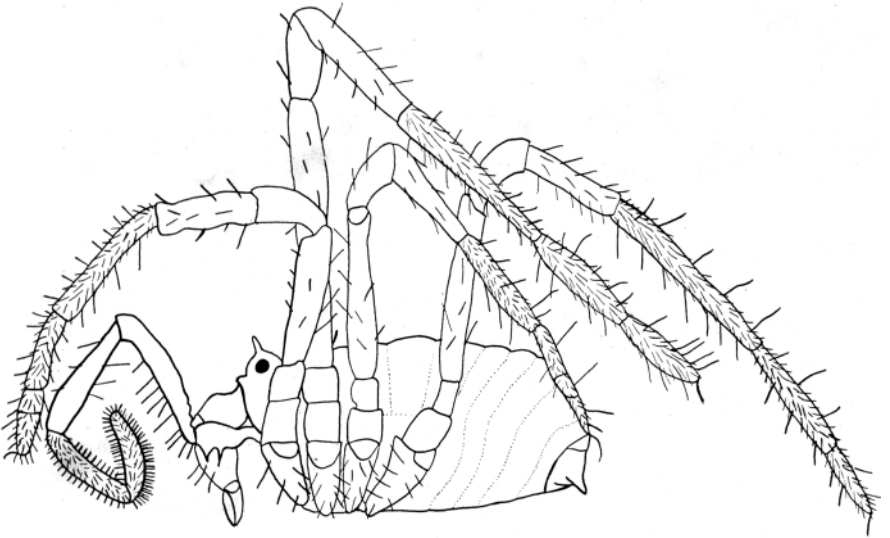
Palpus : trochanter 0.20 mm. long, femur 0.48, patella 0.40, tibia 0.36, and tarsus 0.20. Total length, 1.64 mm. Trochanter femur, and patella smooth, with scattered spine-like hairs, which are more numerous on the ventral margin. Trochanter with two small ventral projections which are tipped by spine-like hairs. Tibia and tarsus with more numerous spine-like hairs. Tarsal claw lacking.

Chelicera : with scattered spine-like hairs. Second segment with a small proximal protuberance. Tarsal claws curved slightly towards the median line. Cheliceral claws bearing fine, very numerous teeth on the median immovable claw.

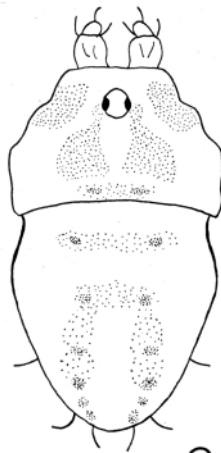
Entire animal, including appendages, yellowish brown, light. Median patches and cephalothorax slightly darker. Eyes ringed with black. Spine-like hairs dark brown.

Type locality : Holotype from Las Vigas, Vera Cruz, Mexico, June 13, 1941 (C. H. Seevers).

Habitat : By personal communication, Dr. Seevers reported the following data concerning the area in which this animal was found. The area was covered by a moderately dense pine forest with a thick growth of shrubs. The elevation was between 5000 and 6000 feet. The terrain was extremely rough as it had been covered in the past by cinders and ash of volcanic origin. The phalangid was taken either from beneath the bark of a dead tree or from the soil at its base, and it was collected by means of an aspirator.



1



2

FIGURE 1. *Ruaxphilos petrunkevitchou* sp. nov. Lateral view of holotype.
FIGURE 2. Idem. Dorsal view of holotype.