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The first record of *Levymanus gershomi* in Saudi Arabia (Araneae, Palpimanidae)

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Abstract

Levymanus gershomi Zonstein & Marusik, 2013 of family Palpimanidae is recorded from Al-Baha, Saudi Arabia. It is the first record of this species outside its type locality.

Keywords: Spiders, Palpimanidae, *Levymanus gershomi*, Al-Baha, Saudi Arabia.

Introduction

Family Palpimanidae Thorell, 1870 was recorded from Saudi Arabia few months ago for the first time (El-Hennawy, 2014). The available material was only one unidentified female specimen. Now, the identification of that specimen is possible with the help of the work of Zonstein & Marusik (2013) to say that it is *Levymanus gershomi* Zonstein & Marusik, 2013. Thus, this female specimen is the first one of this species outside its type locality [the vicinity of Qetura (Ktura), Arava Valley (29°58'N, 35°03'E)]. The distribution of the species is extended about 1300 km south-eastwards (Fig. 1).

Al-Baha Province is situated in the south-western part of Saudi Arabia between the Holy Makkah and Asir Regions. It is the smallest province in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia (about 10362 km²), situated between longitudes 41°/42° E and latitudes 19°/20° N. Due to its location, Al-Baha's climate is moderate in summer and cold in winter. It has about 53 forests. It is characterized by natural tree cover and agricultural plateaus. The region is divided by huge and steep rocky mountains into two main sectors, a lowland coastal plain at the west, known as "Tihama", and a mountainous area with an elevation of 1500 to 2450 m above sea level at the east, known as "Al-Sarat or Al-Sarah" which form a part of Al-Sarawat Mountains range (El-Hawagry *et al.*, 2013).

A preliminary study carried out on the insect fauna of Al-Baha Province, south-western part of Saudi Arabia recorded 582 species and subspecies belonging to 129 families and representing 17 orders. The insect faunal composition in Al-Baha Province has an Afrotropical flavour, with the Afrotropical elements predominant, and a closer

affiliation to the Afrotropical region than to the Palearctic region or the Eremic zone (El-Hawagry *et al.*, 2013).



Fig. 1. Map of the Arabian Peninsula showing the distribution of *Levymanus gershomi*.
* = type locality in Arava Valley. * = new record locality: Raghadan, Al-Baha.

Eight orders of class Arachnida were recorded from Saudi Arabia: Araneae, Scorpiones, Pseudoscorpiones, Solifugae, Opiliones, Palpigradi, Amblypygi, and Acari. Among the 25 families, 69 genera, and 77 species of spiders (Araneae) recorded from Saudi Arabia, only 16 genera and 8 species were identified from Al-Baha; belonging to 15 families (El-Hennawy, 2014).

List of spiders, Order Araneae, recorded from Al-Baha (leg. El-Hawagry 2011-2012)

- Family Agelenidae: *Agelena* sp.? Gebel El-Baher.
 Family Araneidae: *Larinia* ? sp. Gebel El-Baher, Al-Mekhwa.
 Family Corinnidae: ? Dhee Ain.
 Family Gnaphosidae: *Micaria* sp. Dhee Ain,
 Pterotricha dalmasi Fage, 1929 Ghabet Shohba, Raghadan *.
 Family Linyphiidae: ? Al-Mekhwa.
 Family Lycosidae: *Arctosa* ? sp. Dhee Ain.
 Family Miturgidae: *Cheiracanthium molle* L. Koch, 1875 Gebel El-Baher.
 Family Oxyopidae: *Oxyopes* sp. Al-Mekhwa.
 Family Palpimanidae: ? Raghadan *.
 Family Philodromidae: *Thanatus* sp. Raghadan *, Ghabet Shohba, Al-Mekhwa.
 Tibellus vossioni Simon, 1884 Gebel El-Baher, Ghabet Shohba.
 Family Pholcidae: ? Dhee Ain.
 Family Salticidae: *Heliophanus saudis* Prószyński, 1989 W. Turabet Zahran.
 Thyene imperialis (Rossi, 1846) Al-Mekhwa.



Figs. 3-10. *Levymanus gershomi* Zonstein & Marusik, 2013 ♀. 3-5. Habitus. 3. Dorsal view. 4. Ventral view. 5. Lateral view. 6. Cephalothorax, dorsal view (→ fovea). 7-8. Legs I & II, lateral view. 9. Epigastral scutum and epigynum, ventral view. 10. Abdomen tip, ventral view, showing encircled spinnerets.

Description: Female (Figs. 3-5): TL 4.4; Cephalothorax: carapace, sternum and labium crimson red. Chelicerae, pedipalps, coxa and femur I light reddish orange, other segments of leg I and entire legs II–IV yellow. Carapace with corrugated cuticle, diamond-oval in shape, narrowed anteriorly and posteriorly. Cephalic part slightly raised behind eye area, inclining in the thoracic part (Fig. 5). Thoracic fovea short and bipartite, with two separate sulci located side by side (Fig. 6). CL 2.0, CW 1.0, anterior margin 0.5; Pedicel L 0.44; Sternum L 1.04, W 0.8; Labium triangular L 0.22, W 0.3. Eyes: anterior medians (AME) largest, about three times larger than the other subequal six eyes. ALE and PLE contiguous. PME widely spaced from each other, as well as from AMEs and from PLEs. Eye measurements (diameters and inter-distances): AME 0.10, ALE 0.03, PME 0.04, PLE 0.03, AM-AM 0.16, AM-AL 0.07, PM-PM 0.14, PM-PL 0.12, AM-PM 0.07. Legs: long and slender, leg formula I-IV-II-III (Table 1). Leg I femur swollen, longer than other segments; patella longer than tibia. Patella, tibia, and metatarsus with weakly developed prolateral scopula of long hair brush (Fig. 7). Legs II-IV with metasomal scopula (Fig. 8). Leg tarsi slightly curved, without scopulae. Claw tufts weakly developed. Leg tarsi with two narrow dentate claws.

Table 1: Legs measurements (mm)

Leg	I	II	III	IV
Femur	1.40	1.00	0.84	1.20
Patella	1.10	0.63	0.50	0.56
Tibia	0.82	0.63	0.70	0.90
Metatarsus	0.54	0.62	0.58	1.10
Tarsus	0.54	0.52	0.36	0.48
Total length	4.40	3.40	2.98	4.24

Abdomen: dirty white without dorsal pattern; L 2.4, W 2.15. Epigastral scutum and epigynum (Fig. 9). Spinnerets are strongly reduced, encircled by a sclerotised ring (Fig. 10).

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