

A NEW *RHINOCHERNES* FROM ECUADOR
(PSEUDOSCORPIONIDA, CHERNETIDAE)

Among the pseudoscorpions collected by N. P. Ashmole in and around Los Tayos Caves, Ecuador, is a specimen which deserves to be described at this time. A female, it apparently represents the genus *Rhinochernes* Beier (1954), which has hitherto been known only from males of a single species from Peru.

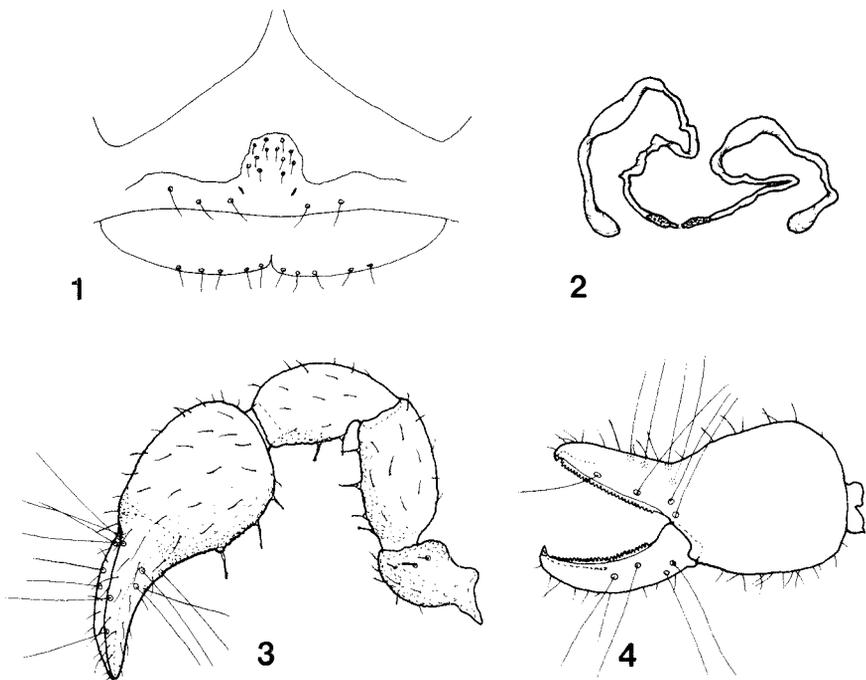
Rhinochernes ashmolei, new species

Figs. 1-4

Material.—Holotype female (WM 4694.01001) taken from vegetation near Los Tayos Caves, Cordillera el Condor, Ecuador ($3^{\circ}04'S$, $78^{\circ}15'W$) on 22 July 1976 (N. P. Ashmole). The specimen is in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville.

Diagnosis.—Generally similar to *Rhinochernes granulatus* Beier but smaller and with less attenuated appendages; palpal femur 0.43 mm long, 1/w ratio 2.05, and chela 0.84 mm long, 1/w ratio 2.3.

Description of female (male unknown).—Color generally light brown. Carapace a little longer than broad, with 2 distinct transverse furrows and a small but distinct median elevation near posterior edge; surface granulate; 2 smooth eyespots; about 36 stout,



Figs. 1-4.—*Rhinochernes ashmolei*, new species: 1, genital opercula of female; 2, spermathecae; 3, dorsal view of right palp; 4, lateral view of left chela.

terminally denticulate setae, with 4 at anterior and 7 at posterior margin. Tergites 1-10 and sternites 4-10 divided; surface of tergites granulate, of sternites smooth; pleural membranes longitudinally rugose and papillose. Tergal chaetotaxy 9:12:12:11:12:11:12:12:12:8:8:2; sternal chaetotaxy 17:(2)10(2):(1)6(1):12:15:17:13:11:TITT1T:2; tergal setae, stout, terminally denticulate, sternal setae mostly acuminate, Genital opercula as shown in Fig. 1; spermathecae consisting of 2 long, irregularly expanded tubules (Fig. 2).

Chelicera 2/5 as long as carapace; hand with 5 setae, *sb* laterally denticulate, *b* and *es* acuminate; flagellum of 3 long, slender setae, the distal one serrate; galea large, with 3 branched rami; serrula exterior with 17 blades.

Palp rather heavy (Fig. 3); femur 2.05, tibia 1.9, and chela (without pedicel) 2.3 times as long as broad; hand (without pedicel) 1.1 times as long as deep; movable finger 0.96 as long as hand. All surfaces granulate; setae short, stout, terminally denticulate; many set in raised areoles, especially on medial sides of femur, tibia and chela. Fixed chelal finger with 29 and movable finger with 33 well developed, cusped marginal teeth; each finger with 1 internal and 7 or 8 external accessory teeth. Each finger with a venom duct, but that of fixed finger much reduced. Trichobothria on chela as shown in Fig. 4; those of fixed situated as in *R. granulatus*, but on movable finger *st* much closer to *t* than to *sb*.

Legs relatively slender; leg IV with entire femur 3.1, tibia 3.6, and tarsus 4.5 times as long as deep. Tarsus of leg IV with a long tactile seta just distal of middle.

Measurements (mm).—Body length 2.0. Carapace length 0.635. Chelicera 0.26 by 0.13. Palpal trochanter 0.32 by 0.19; femur 0.43 by 0.21; tibia 0.44 by 0.23; chela (without pedicel) 0.84 by 0.37; hand (without pedicel) 0.45 by 0.41; pedicel about 0.07 long; movable finger 0.43 long. Leg IV: entire femur 0.50 by 0.16; tibia 0.37 by 0.10; tarsus 0.34 by 0.07.

Etymology.—The species is named for N. Philip Ashmole who collected the specimen.

Remarks.—Except for size and proportions, this form is rather similar to *R. granulatus*. However, it must be noted that it differs in two details from the description given by Beier. On the movable chelal finger trichobothrium *st* lies very close to *t* rather than “in der Mitte zwischen *sb* and *t*” (p. 7); and the tactile seta on the tarsus of leg IV is situated near the middle of the segment rather than “halbwegs zwischen der Mitte und dem Ende des Gliedes” (p. 9). Also, it should be pointed out that the carapace has a distinct median eminence near the posterior margin reminiscent of that (“keel”) to be seen in most species of *Parachernes* (see Muchmore and Alteri 1974). It seems best for now to place the species in *Rhinochernes*, and try to resolve the differences later when more material becomes available.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Ashmole for sending the specimens and to C. H. Alteri for preparing the illustrations.

LITERATURE CITED

- Beier, M. 1954. Pseudoscorpionidea. Beitr. Fauna Perus, 4:1-12.
 Muchmore, W. B. and C. H. Alteri. 1974. The genus *Parachernes* (Pseudoscorpionida, Chernetidae) in the United States, with descriptions of new species. Trans. Amer. Entomol. Soc., 99:477-506.

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