

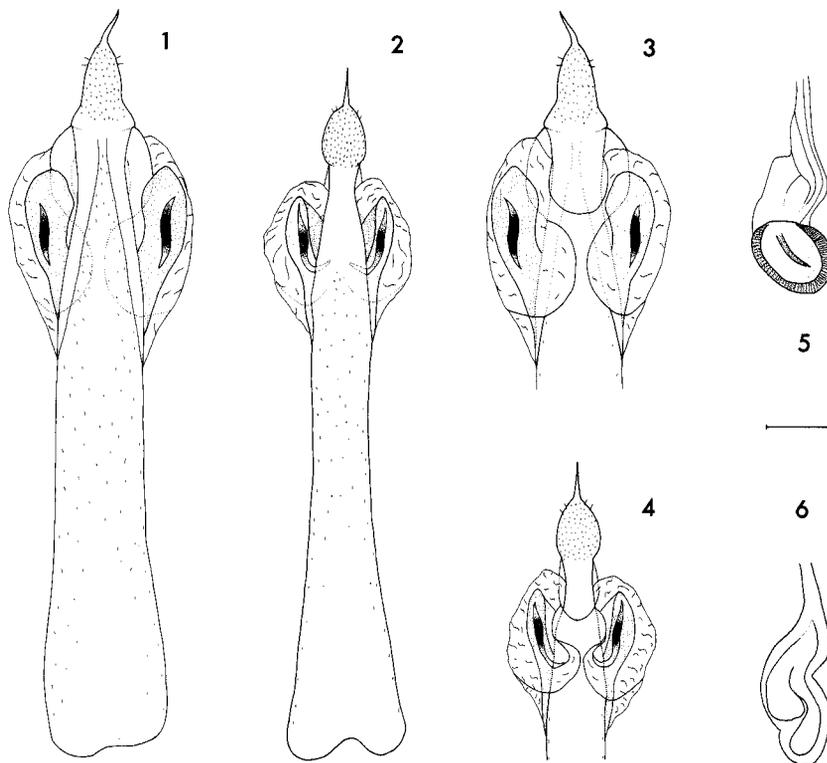
**COMMENTS ON SOME *LEIOBUNUM* SPECIES OF THE U.S.A.
(OPILIONES; PALPATORES, LEIOBUNIDAE)**

Since the revision of the genus *Leibunum* by Davis (1934), ten new species have been described from the United States. Goodnight and Goodnight (1943, 1945) described *L. oregonense*, *L. trimaculatum*, and *L. gordonii*; Roewer (1952, 1957) described *L. cavernarum*, *L. davisii*, *L. zimmermani*, and *L. supracheliceralis*; Edgar (1962) described *L. lineatum*; and McGhee (1977) described *L. brachiolium* and *L. holtae*. Two of these species have been placed in synonymy by McGhee (1977) and Shear (1980). The remaining eight species are predominantly eastern in distribution; only *L. oregonense* and *L. supracheliceralis* are known from the western half of the United States. The latter two are now known to be synonyms of previously described species.

Examination of the holotype of *L. oregonense* reveals it is conspecific with *L. paessleri* Roewer, 1910. *Leibunum paessleri* is a relatively common species found from central California along the coastal states to central Alaska. The holotype of *L. oregonense* was collected at Rain Rock, Lane Co., Oregon by Borys Malkin and is housed at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). The two male paratypes (reported as male and female) of *L. oregonense* were also examined. Both were found to be *L. depressum* Davis, 1934. I have also examined the male holotype of *L. depressum* (coll. AMNH) and find it slightly smaller and darker in color than either of the *L. oregonense* paratypes, but no other differences could be found. The paratypes of *L. oregonense* were reported to have been collected at Carr Canyon, California, but labels with the specimens indicate otherwise: "Carr Cyn, Huachuca Mts. Ariz VIII-9-40 (E. S. Ross)". The paratypes are in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. *Leibunum depressum* is known, thus far, only from Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

Throughout most of the range of *L. depressum*, *L. townsendi* Banks will be encountered. Both species are very similar, particularly males, and are often hard to separate on the basis of external characters. In his key, Davis clearly separated these two based on the white leg bands present in *L. townsendi*. However, most *L. townsendi* from western New Mexico and Arizona have leg bands which are indistinct or absent. The median longitudinal keel on the penis shaft of *L. depressum* is now known to be present in several other species, including *L. townsendi*. My examinations reveal only two external characters that might separate these two species when leg bands are absent. Generally *L. townsendi* will have a white ring around the eyes, and the coxae will be smooth except for the marginal rows of denticles. The area around the eyes of *L. depressum* is always dark, and the coxae are covered with low rounded tubercles plus the marginal rows of denticles. The best method to separate *L. townsendi* from *L. depressum* is examination of the genitalia. The distal end of the penis shaft and the proximal portion of the glans are extremely wide (Figs. 1, 3) in *L. townsendi*. In *L. depressum* the glans and shaft are compressed at their junctions (Figs. 2, 4). The seminal receptacles of *L. townsendi* and *L. depressum* are quite dissimilar (Figs. 5, 6).

The male holotype and two male paratypes of *L. supracheliceralis* were reported to have been collected in "Texas" and are in the collection of the Senckenberg Natur-Museum. Examination of this series reveals that all are *L. flavum* Banks, 1894. The enormous suprachelicerall lamellae illustrated by Roewer (1957: Fig. 15) are exaggerated. The type specimens appear quite normal for *L. flavum*. As *L. flavum* is presently known only from the eastern portion of Texas, Roewer's specimens probably are from that region.



Figs. 1-6.—Male and female genitalia: 1-2, Dorsal aspect of penes: 1, *L. townsendi*; 2, *L. depressum*; 3-4, Ventral aspect of distal end of penes: 3, *L. townsendi*; 4, *L. depressum*; 5-6, Seminal receptacle: 5, *L. townsendi*; 6, *L. depressum*. Scale line = 0.22 for penes, 0.05mm for seminal receptacles.

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