

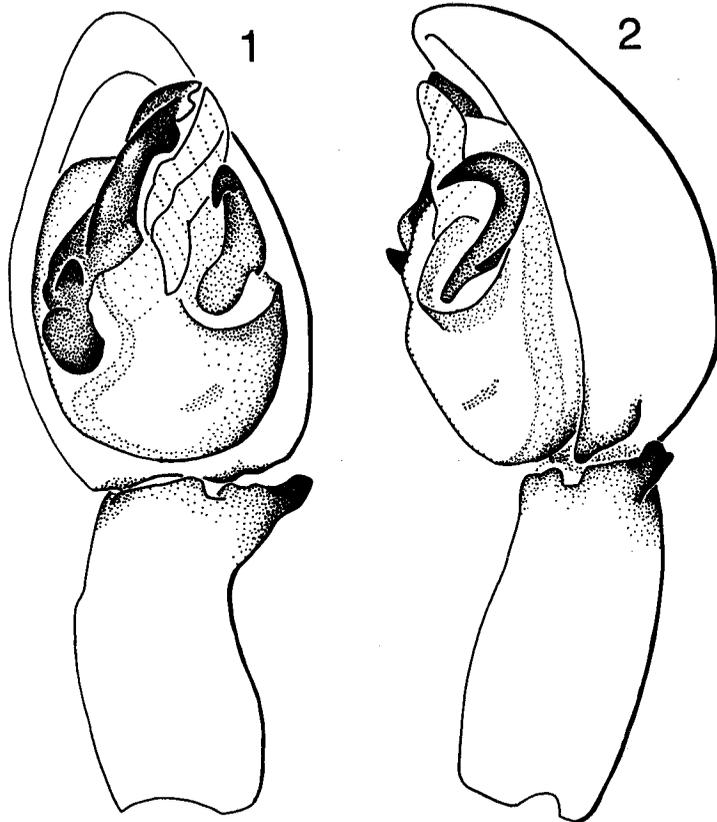
## ON MALES OF CALIFORNIAN *TALANITES* (ARANEAE, GNAPHOSIDAE)

Shortly after the revision of the North American species of *Talanites* (Platnick & Shadab 1976, as *Rachodrassus*), we discovered two additional species in California. These were recently described by Platnick & Ovtsharenko (1991), as *T. moodyae* and *ubicki*, on the basis of females. Here we report the newly discovered males.

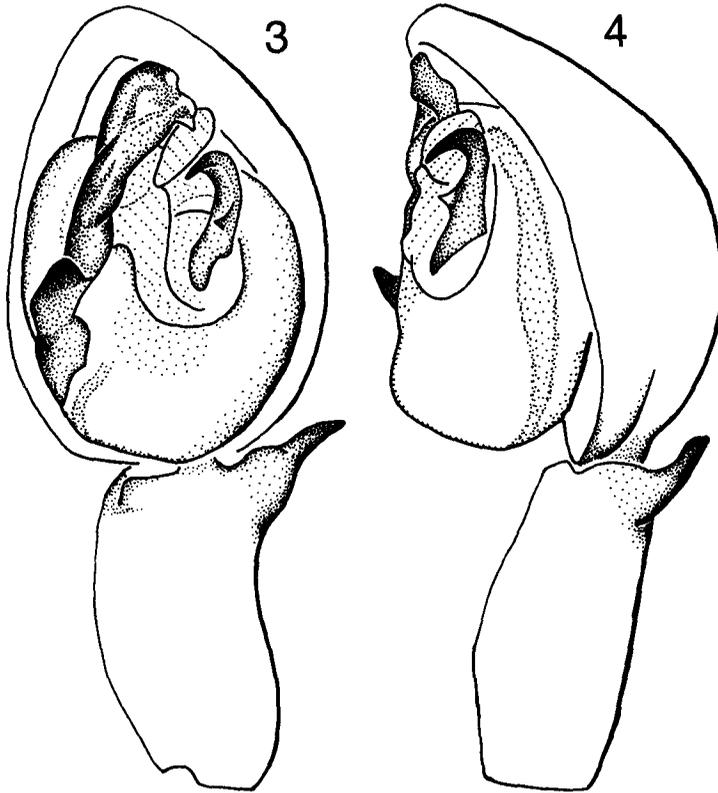
One noteworthy observation on these specimens is the presence of a ventroapically projecting process at the base of the embolus (Figs. 2, 4). This process is not recorded for the species described in the above papers, and we were unable to observe it in specimens of *T. echinus* (Chamberlin) or *exlineae* (Platnick & Shadab). The Californian *Talanites* have already been shown to be somatically distinct in having unusually small eyes (Platnick & Ovtsharenko

1991). Perhaps these character states are derived. However, given that the Californian fauna is rife with relictual arachnids, plesiomorphy cannot be completely ruled out. In fact, the two species have a typically relictual distribution pattern and, despite an intense collecting effort by the authors, are known from only a few localities. (Given the rarity of the species, we list below all of their known localities.) The *Talanites* species from the eastern United States and Mexico, in contrast, are each much more widely distributed, showing a combined range from San Luis Potosí and Texas to Florida, north to Arkansas and Virginia.

Following the format in the above papers we describe here the males of the two species. The unique male specimens have been deposited at the California Academy of Sciences (CAS), other



Figures 1–2.—*Talanites moodyae* Platnick & Ovtsharenko. 1, Left male palp, ventral view. 2, Same, retrolateral view. (setae omitted)



Figures 3–4.—*Talanites ubicki* Platnick & Ovtsharenko. 3, Left male palp, ventral view. 4, Same, retrolateral view. (setae omitted)

specimens are in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and D. Ubick (CDU). We thank Charles E. Griswold of the California Academy of Sciences and Norman I. Platnick of the American Museum of Natural History for reading and commenting upon an earlier draft of this paper. Special thanks go to Joy Boutin and Bill Tyson for helping collect specimens of *Talanites*; Joy Boutin also assisted in rearing the males of *T. ubicki*. We thank the California Department of Food and Agriculture for helping defray the publication costs. All measurements are in mm.

*Talanites moodyae* Platnick & Ovtsharenko  
Figs. 1,2

*Talanites moodyae* Platnick & Ovtsharenko 1991: 119, figs. 15, 16 (female holotype in AMNH, not examined).

**Diagnosis.**—Males are distinguished from all other North American *Talanites* by the combined presence of a ventroapically directed pro-

cess on the embolar base, a small second point on the median apophysis, and reduced eyes.

**Description.**—*Male*: Total length 7.1. Carapace length 3.4; width 2.7. Femur II length 2.6. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.08, ALE 0.09, PME 0.05 × 0.07, PLE 0.06 × 0.08, AME-AME 0.07, AME-ALE 0.08, PME-PME 0.15, PME-PLE 0.15, ALE-PLE 0.08, MOQ length 0.22, front width 0.21, back width 0.26. Leg spination: femora: I, IIP0-1-2, d1-1-1, r1-1-1; IIIp0-1-1, d1-1-1, r1-1-1; IVp1-1-1, d1-1-1, r1-1-1; tibiae: Ip1-1-1, v2-2-2, r1-1-2; IIP1-1-1, v2-2-2, r2-1-1; metatarsi: IIIp2-2-2, v2-2-2, r1-1-1. Palpal tibial apophysis flattened, directed retrolaterally; embolus distally pointed with ventroapically directed basal process; median apophysis with small, basal second point.

*Female*: Described by Platnick & Ovtsharenko (1991).

**Material examined.**—USA. California: Fresno County: Granite Hill, 1.5 mi NE Navelencia, 1 February 1994 (W. H. Tyson, CDFA), 1 juvenile. E slope Smith Mountain, 4 mi E Reedley,

grassland, under granite, 29 March 1991 (D. Ubick, CDU), 5 juveniles. 19 January 1994 (W. H. Tyson, CDFA), 2 females. *Tulare County*: S slope Smith Mountain, under serpentine, 19–21 January 1994 (W. H. Tyson, CDFA), 5 females, 19 juveniles. Bacon Hill, 5 February 1992 (M. J. Moody, CAS), 1 male. Twin Buttes, 2 December 1993 (W. H. Tyson, CDFA), 1 juvenile. Venice Hills, 12 March 1991, under rocks (W. H. Tyson, CDFA), 1 juvenile. Rocky Hill, E of Exeter on Hwy 130, grassland, under serpentine, 26 January 1991 (D. Ubick, CDU), 1 penultimate female.

**Notes.**—Three penultimate males were placed in a 10 × 8.5 cm plastic jar containing soil to a depth of 3 cm. The soil was maintained moist and a piece of cardboard was placed to provide cover. The spiders were fed termites; two of the spiders died, the third matured by 3 June 1992.

*Talanites ubicki* Platnick & Ovtsharenko  
Figs. 3, 4

*Talanites ubicki* Platnick & Ovtsharenko 1991: 120, figs. 3, 4 (female holotype in AMNH, not examined).

**Diagnosis.**—Males are distinguished from all other North American *Talanites* by the combined presence of a ventroapically directed process on the embolar base, a large second point on the median apophysis, and reduced eyes.

**Description.**—*Male*: Total length 4.6. Carapace length 2.1; width 1.7. Femur II length 1.6. Eye sizes and interdistances: AME 0.05, ALE 0.09, PME 0.05 × 0.07, PLE 0.05 × 0.08, AME-AME 0.05, AME-ALE 0.04, PME-PME 0.08, PME-PLE 0.08, ALE-PLE 0.04, MOQ length 0.17, front width 0.15, back width 0.21. Leg spination: femora: Ip0-1-2, d1-1-1, r0-1-0; IIP0-1-1, d1-1-1, r0-1-0; III,IVp1-1-1, d1-1-1, r0-1-1; tibiae: I, IIP1-1-1, v2-2-2, r1-1-1; metatarsi: IIIp1-1-1, v2-2-2, r1-1-1. Palpal tibial apophysis pointed, directed retrodorsally; embolus distally broad with ventroapically directed basal process; median apophysis with large second point.

*Female*: Described by Platnick & Ovtsharenko (1991).

**Material examined.**—USA. California: *Marin County*: Novato, San Marin Drive, 18 April 1992 (D. Ubick & J. Boutin, CAS), 1 male. December to March 1982–1992 (D. Ubick, CDU), females and juveniles.

**Notes.**—The male specimen was one of four penultimate males collected at the type locality, a serpentine grassland on the SW slope of Burdell Mtn. just north of Simmons Lane, Novato. (The correct spelling of the type locality is Novato, not “Novata” as given by Platnick & Ovtsharenko 1991.) The *Talanites* were found under large serpentine floats at the edge of a seepage where the soil conditions were moist. In the lab, the spiders were placed in terraria on moist serpentine soil clumps. A variety of insect prey was introduced during the captivity. The spiders were reluctant feeders but were observed feeding on embiids, termites, and *Drosophila*. Of the four spiders, two died without molting, one died during molting in late May, and one molted successfully on 30 May 1992.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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